

Minutes

Recorded at the meeting of the Central Florida Continuum of Care Board of Directors held on Friday, April 26, 2019.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Tim McKinney at 8:36 a.m.

The following persons were in attendance:

Tim McKinney, *Vice Chair*
Mike Griffin, *Secretary*
Carrie Longsworth, *Proxy for Olivette Carter*
Lonnie Bell
Desiree Matthews
Lisa Portelli
Kimberlee Riley

PHONE
David Barnett, *Proxy for Celestia McCloud*
Amy Elwood
Linda Landman Gonzalez

Andrew Thomas
Shannon Young

GUESTS
Matthew Kennedy

STAFF
Martha Are
Brian Postlewait
Greg Mellowe
Paula Atkinson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Michael Griffin moved to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on March 29, 2019 which was seconded by Director Kimberly Riley. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Point-in-Time Count

Executive Director Martha Are reported that the regional numbers went down by 43 persons, from 2,053 to 2,010. She noted that this is a testament to the system of care working. This count was one of the best coordinated counts in a long time. We had more sites visited and had a better handle on volunteer deployment, yet still showed a reduction in the unsheltered count. The data being presented today will be posted to our website, sent out via press release and submitted to HUD.

Riley commented that she hopes the story will centered on the work of the CoC. Are added that the story should show appreciation to the CoC but acknowledge that there still remains a lot to be done. Riley then asked about the Youth count. Deputy Director Brian Postlewait noted that there was a change in the approach between that year and last. This year we had youth focus groups to identify locations with unaccompanied youth and had employed youth enumerators. Postlewait acknowledged that there is still room to improve the methodology for the youth count but felt there was significant improvement when compared to the previous year.

Based on the trends, we have seen a steady decrease since implementing Housing First. Given our housing market, this is extremely good news.

Director Michael Griffin moved to approve submitting the 2019 Point In Time Count data to HUD. Director Lisa Portelli seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Medicaid Waiver Update

Are reported that staff continues to explore implications of the Medicaid Waiver approved the Centers for Medicaid Services (US –DHHS). Based on a phone call with the correlating Florida division, AHCA, it was indicated that AHCA does not intend to be strongly involved with the policy; instead they will leave it to the MMA's discretion. Acknowledging that there are a lot of factors not being considered, we have invited all MMA representatives that we know to a discussion on May 8th; we will look at what they plan to offer and how it will integrate with our system. It is hoped that we will be able to align this Waiver to support our region's work with the chronically homeless population. We recognized that AHCA's position has resulted in them being unaware of all the factors involved in a Coordinated Entry System. AHCA has, however, asked for our scope of work for case managers and about the methodology used for measuring project outcomes, which has been shared.

Portelli asked if their definition of literally homeless will qualify persons served within our system. Are responded that this will be up to the plans. She added that we recognize that we will have to be assertive with the MMAs developing plans that will integrate with our system.

McKinney asked about how we are identifying MMA representatives. Are stated that there about seven working in the region. Some of the contacts are through organizations we interact with. McKinney recommended that we involve Community Health Centers.

2-1-1/Intake Call Center

Are updated the board on the shift in operation with 2-1-1. She noted that the representatives at 2-1-1 are no longer conducting assessments. Instead they are populating a callback sheet for our in-house intake specialists. Not all calls are initiated through 2-1-1; some are initiated through other sources. Since this change has been implemented, Are reported that we have been able to significantly reduce the callback time. Since we started, between March 4 through to April 10, we had 125 veteran calls and 201 non-veteran calls. 284 of those calls were from 2-1-1 and 138 calls were returned the same day. This is significant as it was reported previously that some would wait weeks for a callback and our longest wait period is 4 days.

Director Desiree Matthews asked how we prioritize callbacks. Are responded that they work through the list as populated. McKinney asked if this change is saving us money. Are stated that we are using the same amount of money.

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

- A. Postlewait asked the Board to recall that HUD has asked that we pay special attention to including persons with lived experience within our (and partner agencies') governance structure. As such, we created an opportunity to support persons with lived experience by providing an introduction to nonprofit boards on June 13th. Postlewait invited members of the board to extend this invitation to persons whom they believe will benefit from this opportunity.

- B. Postlewait continued that we will also be convening a meeting with CEO/ED's of agencies and organizations within the CoC to discuss broaching the Racial Equity conversation at their respective organizations and also starting the conversation on the highly anticipated NoFA.
- C. Lastly, we are starting a conversation on the complicated issues concerning persons being discharged from institutions and into homeless living situations, beginning with hospitals. AdventHealth will be hosting this conversation with us. The goal is to come up with community-wide standards for discharging persons experiencing homelessness, especially as it relates to discharge to homeless shelters.

Postlewait noted that all of these meetings are also relevant to the NoFA process and potentially increasing our submission's score. McKinney commented that the discharge planning discussion is a good conversation to have. Griffin remarked that it is hard for hospitals, considering the limitations and penalties associated with the length of time persons are held for and re-admission. This results in funds being expended to temporarily house persons in hotels.

Postlewait added that Portelli and Are met with Justices at Orange County Corrections to figure out ways to mitigate challenges faced by individuals when released.

Riley questioned whether this conversation includes shelters discharging, and whether Pathways to Care has been invited to participate in this discharge planning conversation. Postlewait shared that he has reached out, but would welcome any assistance with making a stronger contact with them.

Director Andrew Thomas shared that law enforcement in Seminole County has been tracking homeless individuals and perceived homeless individuals. He inquired about whether we have seen these numbers and how do they compare with ours. Are responded that she has submitted a request to be added to the distribution list. Carrie Longworth stated that she will submit a request for Are to be added to the distribution list, as well.

Longworth commented that there currently is someone in the jail facility with Aspire/Seminole County who has been using diversion practices. Are commented that Seminole County does not have the same level of street outreach as they previously did. Longworth responded that this was due to limitations with funding. Thomas questioned how we are interfacing with our data. Postlewait committed to follow-up with Thomas.

McKinney commended the community on their hard work towards improving our system of care.

Update on Organizational Opportunities/Governance Structure

- A. Director Mike Griffin would like the Board's thoughts on some options for Governance structure in relation to CFCH and the CoC Board. This will be brought back to the smaller group that is addressing transition issues.

At the last meeting it was reported that Mike Griffin, Bob Brown and David Swanson were to meet with the jurisdictional representatives on the CFCH Board. This has not happened as planned because of scheduling constraints. Griffin did meet with Seminole County and there have been meetings with Orange and Kissimmee. We are still attempting to schedule meetings with Osceola County and the City of Sanford.

So far these meetings have stressed the need for one source of information and data on the issue of homelessness within the community. There needs to be clarity on what the numbers are, what the strategy should be, what the issues are to be addressed. Another issue is that the elected representatives want to have more connection to the work of this organization. They want better understanding of how they can influence the policies to benefit the work of the system. The current structure is that data comes to elected officials, some of whom have stated that they do not understand or have confidence in what is being presented or what to do with it. The new structure should improve communication and result in better staff relationships. The jurisdictions have stated that are willing to continue providing support to the commission/new governance structure.

Director Desiree Matthews affirmed the comments made by Griffin, noting that unifying the message is anticipated to help with the region's ask for support within the business community. Griffin commented that Matthew's presence in that meeting helped. David Barnett asked about the Osceola meeting be scheduled. Griffin noted that there is a challenge with finding a time that would work with as many persons as possible.

Director Amy Elwood asked if school board could be included in regional meetings. Griffin noted that they have not been at this point in the conversation but agreed it is important to engage them in the future. (School representatives are invited, and sometimes participate, in the regularly monthly CoC membership meetings.) Director Elwood noted that after the recent legislation passed after Parkland, there has been some funding made available for homeless services; there may be room for supporting other planning conversations.

B. Draft Materials on Governance Structure

Executive Director Are presented on the latest governance structure materials being developed by the exploratory committee. The structure would include a consolidation of the CoC Board and the CFCH Board into a High Level Decision Making Group, several CoC Committees, and HSN as the contracted Lead Agency. Director Griffin commented that he believes we should maintain the Commission's brand since it is well known within the community. He added that there will be an attorney engaged to look at the consolidation and how it impact bylaws and assets. (see ppt.)

The staffing of HSN would be adjusted to include a communications and development function, unless the Board determines it is better to outsource those functions.

The Board acknowledged the importance of identifying the non-jurisdictional financial supporters of CFCH to request continued support from them as well.

A.O.B.

The CoC Board of Directors will meet next on May 31st.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.