

# Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Inc., Governing Board & CoC Ending Homelessness Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Minutes: January 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting or Call-in Feature

<b>Officers in Attendance:</b>	— Robert Morin, Commissioner, City of Eustis, Chair	— Melissa Simmes, Advent Health Waterman, Vice Chair
<b>Directors in Attendance:</b>	— Veda Ramirez – Hernando County Health & Human Services	—
	— Stephen Teaster – Office of the Criminal Conflict & Civil Rights Counsel	— Jessica Peters – Hernando County Advocate
	— Steve Smith – Lake County	— Barbara Venditto – Dawn Center
	— Sheri Goodwin – LSF Network	— Paula Anspach – Citrus County
	— Cara Meeks – WellCare	— Shay Razaire – Alan Madden Foundation (GTM)
<b>Staff:</b>	— Barbara Wheeler, Executive Director	— Paula Holtsclaw, HMIS Administrator
<b>Presiding:</b>	Robert Morin	

Agenda Items		Discussion & Actions Taken	Follow-up
I.	Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions	Robert Morin called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 a.m., and Barbara Wheeler introduced all on the call.	
II.	Approval of Minutes	<p>January 24 and February 28, 2020 Governing Board &amp; CoC Ending Homelessness Minutes were reviewed.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> A motion was made to approve the January 24, &amp; February 28, 2020 as presented</p> <p><b>Motion By:</b> Steve Smith                      <b>Seconded By:</b> Stephen Teaster</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Approved:</b> Unanimously</p> <p>Paula Holtsclaw pointed out after the vote had been made that some typographical errors had been reported, and that the presentation from Ian De Jong did not include Host Homes discussion as indicated. Robert Morin indicated to include those as edits in the final document.</p>	
III.	Standing Committee Reports	<p><b>Veteran’s Committee</b></p> <p>In the absence of Stephen Teaster at the time of this report, Barbara Wheeler recapped the meeting with Joe Savage of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) on the benchmarks we need to achieve to declare we’ve ended Veterans Homelessness. There is a new document that is required to be completed, a Master List, before we can determine when we would be ready to apply to declare we’ve ended homelessness. Paula Holtsclaw will be providing information going forward on the inflow and outflow of homeless veterans.</p>	<p><i>Post Veterans benchmarks on website</i></p> <p><i>Veteran inflow / outflow information to be presented at CoC meetings.</i></p>

	<p><b>Coordinated Access System Committee (CAS)</b> Melissa Simmes reported on that lockboxes for the Client Satisfaction Surveys was discussed at the March meeting. The committee reviewed Ian De Jong’s recent presentation and how that affects our referral process.</p> <p>She reported that weekly CAS referral and staffing meetings are still taking place via GoToMeeting. She encouraged everyone to participate in those meetings. The CoC had great volunteer participation in January with making calls to update our By Name List.</p> <p>Robert asked about numbers of people who have been called from the By Name List. If possible he would like to know monthly the numbers of people who are called and report still need assistance, who move off the list because they are housed, or because we can’t find them. Knowing this information would be helpful in attracting volunteers to make calls.</p> <p><b>Performance Committee</b> Sheri Goodwin served as committee chair in the absence of Steve Smith and reported on the meeting. She deferred information on the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) to Barbara Wheeler. Barbara Wheeler reported that the Performance Committee recommends that \$50,500 dollars be reallocated from St. Vincent de Paul of South Pinellas and to reallocate funds as follows: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) - allocate \$25,000 to United Way of Citrus County Rehousing, \$6,500 to Mid Florida Homeless Coalition for case management under Rapid Re-housing (RRH) or Outreach if allowed, and \$10,000 for Emergency Shelter – motels, if allowed. Challenge Grant – allocate \$4,000 to the Dawn Center, \$2,500 to United Way of Citrus County and \$2,500 to Mid Florida Homeless Coalition.</p> <p>It is still the hope that the CoC will be allowed to move funds to different categories to meet some of the needs that arising via COVID-19. The CoC has some people who are very vulnerable for COVID-19 who are experiencing homelessness, and we would like to get them off the street and self-isolated in motels to prevent them from contracting the virus. Shay Razaire inquired about liability if we house someone and they continue to spread the disease. Barbara was unable to answer that question. Melissa Simmes added that it would be difficult to determine who is spreading disease to whom.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> A motion was made to approve the reallocation of \$41,500 Emergency Solutions Grant funding from St. Vincent de Paul of South Pinellas with \$25,000 allocated to United</p>	<p><i>Paula to add info. on numbers moving off the list from calls.</i></p>
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		<p>Way of Citrus County Rehousing, \$6,500 to Mid Florida Homeless Coalition for case management under Rapid Re-housing (RRH) or Outreach if allowed, and \$10,000 for Emergency Shelter – motels, if allowed. In addition, reallocation of \$9,000 Challenge Grant funding with \$4,000 allocated to the Dawn Center, \$2,500 to United Way of Citrus County and \$2,500 to Mid Florida Homeless Coalition.</p> <p><b>Motion By:</b> Sheri Goodwin                      <b>Seconded By:</b> Shay-Anne Razaire <b>Discussion:</b> None <b>Approved:</b> Unanimously</p>	
	MFHC Lead Agency Update	<p><b>HMIS &amp; COVID-19</b></p> <p>Paula Holtsclaw reported that the Department of Housing &amp; Urban Development provided guidance should communities want to use HMIS to assist sharing COVID-19 status of program participants.</p> <p>The guidance suggested collecting personal information including name, date of birth, gender, phone number, email address, and location information, and specific COVID-19 elements could include symptoms the person is experiencing, whether testing was conducted and where and when, test results &amp; date, and what the quarantine or isolation location is and when did that begin and end. They have also suggested using a system-wide HMIS alert for those who have tested positive.</p> <p>Paula reported that the Homeless Management Information System used by the CoC can handle these suggestions, and that the privacy policy in place does allow for sharing this information in the interest of public safety.</p> <p>Barbara Venditto indicated her concern that information in HMIS could lead partners to exclude people who have the virus from receiving services. Shannon Sokolowski agreed, and inquired how collecting the data would make any difference in what we are doing or how things are. The Health Department is asking everyone to assume everyone has the virus when it comes to interaction. She also suggested that it might give a false sense of security if a participant did not have a banner alert. Barbara Wheeler indicated that the MFHC staff had some of the same concerns, but reported that MFHC doesn't make decisions regarding HMIS, the CoC does. She asked for a motion to either use HMIS to collect COVID-19 data, or not to.</p>	

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		<p><b>Motion:</b> A motion was made to not collect COVID-19 specific data. <b>Motion by:</b> Shay-Anne Razaire      <b>Seconded by:</b> Steve Smith <b>Discussion:</b> Robert Morin asked in general if we hear what the numbers of homeless are who have tested positive, that we share that information. He did not feel the motion needed to be amended. <b>Approved:</b> Unanimous</p> <p><b>COVID-19 Response as CoC Lead Agency</b> Barbara reported that the MFHC office had been operating as normal until Wednesday, March 25. The staff are operating from home. Physical outreach is not currently taking place. Our outreach team is still operating via phone to advise people about the COVID-19 outbreak and to find out if they have any needs. We have a flyer to hand out to the homeless to give them direction for safeguarding their health and what to do if they have symptoms.</p> <p>MFHC has been working to determine what organization closed, are open, what services are being provided and their needs. To reduce the amount of emails everyone is receiving, information is being disseminated via the website and Facebook page. Links are being added for up-to-date information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We have been invited to join the Lake EOC call, so we are able to get and give more up-to-date information. Food pantries have reported running low due to stores not having the leftover supplies to donate.</li><li>• There is a concern that due to the closing libraries and many restaurants that those experiencing homelessness have limited locations where the bathrooms are accessible.</li><li>• We have been informed that Federally Qualified Health Centers are supposed to be where people go who do not have a doctor or health insurance.</li><li>• Housing assessments and housing inspections have been suspended at this time due to the need for self-isolation.</li><li>• HUD's guidance for unsheltered population is to leave camps alone and not break them up in order to not increase their exposure. However, we need to make sure they can get food. Open Door, Connections, and People Helping People are open in a limited manner, but are still providing food. Come As You</li></ul>	<p><i>Send flyer to Becky at PHP.</i></p>
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Are Ministry's has invited those who need bathroom, showers and water to come there.

Robert Morin inquired that if all four counties are the same in that we're just leaving those experiencing homelessness where they normally stay. Barbara indicated that across the state it is about the same, and everyone is looking at their lead agency to provide all necessary services to those experiencing homelessness. Steve Smith indicated that there is a person from the health department that is part of the Homeless Council that Barbara could reach out to. He stated that gas stations are open for bathroom use, although there may be some restrictions. Niagra in Minneola may have free bottled water we could get access to. McDonald's often has their doors open to use bathrooms even though the dining room is not open.

Barbara asked that all ideas like this should be emailed to Paula Holtsclaw at [mfhco2@gmail.com](mailto:mfhco2@gmail.com) so we can follow up.

Stephen Teaster inquired about using any of our funds to rent port-a-potties to be placed by some of the more populated encampments. Barbara indicated that she brought up the idea an EOC meeting, but she hasn't received confirmation from HUD that funds can be used for this purpose. Steve Smith indicated waste management companies would be responsible for maintaining them. Barbara Venditto inquired about where they could be located as we would need permission from property owners, and then which camps would get one. Should funds become available, this would all need to be decided in each county.

**COVID-19 Stimulus Plan**

Projections are that Florida Office on Homelessness may receive \$39,288,200.00 compared to the \$5,500,348.00 Florida currently gets for ESG. From what Barbara understands it is for street outreach and emergency shelter. The CoC needs to be thinking about the future needs, best uses of these funds, who is going to be eligible to apply for these dollars, and how we move the funds out quickly. We need to have a plan because the likelihood is that the state will want this rolled out within 30 days. MFHC would like to be able to hire additional staff to work with the PATH team to do outreach and be funded by ESG dollars. Organizations such as The Salvation Army of Lake & Sumter may want to apply for funds to provide motel vouchers.

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		<p>Steve Smith noted that we could apply for outreach dollars to expand what MFHC is currently doing, and if there are other agencies who want to do shelter they can apply.</p> <p>Robert Morin inquired about when a decision needs to be made. Barbara reported that the Stimulus package still has to be approved.</p>	
IV.	Membership Input	<p>Steve Smith commented that with counties and cities closing parks, and restaurants closed, it would be helpful if at least the bathrooms were open. Steve suggested contacting the police chief, city mayor, etc. to consider opening those bathrooms.</p> <p>Sheri Goodwin commented that she will put out a request to her other CoCs to see what they are trying to do with their unsheltered population. None of these other CoCs are doing outreach because of the safety needs of the workers.</p> <p>Robert Morin stated that Eustis is going through a major rehabilitation so the main park is closed down for those reasons, and the only resource is Open Door. Open Door is open for limited services, and limited numbers at any one time. They want to remain open as long as it is safe to do so. Robert suggested that we let each EOC know about what services are open and available for unsheltered homeless.</p> <p>Robert noted that we may have a greater liability if we don't act or don't help. The EOCs need to include MFHC in their conversations.</p>	
VIII.	Next Meeting Date	Next meeting will be held on April 24, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.	
IX.	Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned by consensus at approximately 10:30 a.m.	

Respectfully submitted by: Paula Holtsclaw

Robert Morin, Chair \_\_\_\_\_