

Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Inc. – Coordinated Access System Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes: May 11, 2020

Location: via Go To Meeting

Presiding: Melissa Simmes

Agenda Item		Discussion & Actions Taken	Follow-up Action
I.	Welcome and Introductions	The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Melissa. Paula Holtsclaw announced all who had logged in to the meeting. Everyone was welcomed.	
II.	Minutes	It was agreed to hold the March 9 minutes to the next meeting as the attendees either hadn't been in attendance at that meeting or hadn't had time to review the minutes.	
III.	Old Business	<p>Referral Cards Paula Holtsclaw presented the Referral Cards.</p> <p>CAS Evaluation Update Tomi Steinruck reported the lockboxes have been purchased. Suggestions were requested for what the labeling should say. Suggestions provided were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for your feedback. • Your feedback is very important to us. • Your comments will be kept confidential. • How are we doing? <p>Lockbox keys will be held by Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, and MFHC staff will go around to pick up surveys on a regular basis. Lockboxes will be placed at all points of the Coordinated Access process – where assessments are being completed, where rapid rehousing, homeless prevention and permanent supportive housing programs are conducted. Terry Gainous requested that MFHC contact Sunshine Arnold at CASA to discuss placement of the lockbox.</p> <p>Tomi also reported that we are being in getting surveys out to participants and that makes it hard to evaluate the program. She also reviewed the survey and purpose for those on the call who were new.</p> <p>Barbara Wheeler asked if the committee thought having the survey available in a tablet format would be helpful. It was agreed that was a good idea. A suggestion was made to add a magnet to the back of the tablet and it could stick to the lockbox.</p> <p>CAS Weekly Calls Tomi reported the calls are going well, but that attendance has been hit or miss, so she reminded all to please attend if time allows.</p>	<i>Tomi Steinruck will email survey to all parties.</i>
IV.	New Business	COVID-19 Vulnerable Persons List	

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		<p>Coordinated Access priorities should reflect the current needs of the community. They are not meant to be set in stone. Based on the COVID-19 pandemic, our need has changed a bit on who would have the highest priority for CAS referral for rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing. The Center for Disease Control has identified a number of health conditions that increase the vulnerability to COVID-19. These conditions include but are not limited to cancer, HIV/AIDS, COPD, those with diminished lung capacity, etc.</p> <p>Those highest on the COVID-19 vulnerable list and who have already been referred have been placed in motels to reduce exposure to the until appropriate housing is found.</p> <p>Motion: A motion was made to adopt priorities based on the Centers for Disease Control’s guidelines to make those most vulnerable as the highest priorities for referral with the understanding that VI-SPDAT/SPDAT scores will be taken into consideration as well.</p> <p>Motion by: Melissa Simmes Seconded by: Jessica Miller</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Approved: Unanimously</p> <p>Barbara Venditto stated she is concerned that we would be making medical decisions to determine who is the most vulnerable. Barbara Wheeler reported that participant wishes do come into play as well, and the weekly CAS call will help make the decisions on who is referred for non-congregate shelter and referral for housing placement. The participant’s entire situation is looked at including access to sanitation, medical care, etc. HUD continues to stress the importance of non-congregate shelter and following up with moving them to housing.</p>	
V.	Other Business & Announcements	Melissa Simmes reported that Advent Hospital Waterman was testing for COVID-19 in Sumter County for the last two weeks, however test results were taking between 7-10 days. Joanne Knight reported that Come As You Are Ministry will continue to be closed on Thursdays until volunteers come back.	
VI.	Next Meeting	The next meeting will be Monday, June 10, 2019, 10:00 a.m., at Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, 104 E Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450	
VII.	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned by consensus at approximately 11:00.	

Respectfully submitted by: Paula Holtsclaw

Melissa Simmes, Chair _____