

**Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Inc.  
Veterans' Committee**

**Meeting Minutes:** October 8, 2020

**Location:** Virtual Meeting with a call in option

**Presiding:** B.E. Thompson, Interim Chair

**Staff:** Barbara Wheeler, Paula Holtsclaw

Agenda Items	Discussions & Actions Taken	Follow Up
<b>Call to Order</b>	Meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m.	
<b>Roll Call</b>	Paula conducted a roll call of committee members and guests were invited to announce their attendance.	
<b>Review of Benchmarks</b>	<p>Paula presented the results of the Benchmarks tool for the period of time between 6.15.20 and 9.15.20. This tool looks back over the last 90 days of data and calculates whether or not the CoC has met the benchmarks as set forth by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). These benchmarks must all be met in order to apply to be a community that can say they have ended veteran homelessness.</p> <p><b>Benchmark A</b> – Have you ended chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans in your community? Paula reported that we have 4 veterans who meet the definition of either chronic or long-term homeless, so we have not met this benchmark. There are exemptions to being counted and they include: the number of veterans who have been offered but not yet accepted a permanent housing (PH) intervention, and the last offer was within 14 days of the end of the 90 day lookback period; the number of veterans who have been offered a PH intervention but have chosen to enter service-intensive transitional housing to address clinical need; the number of veterans who have accepted a PH intervention offer, but not yet entered PH and the first acceptance of a PH intervention offer occurred during the 90-day look-back period.</p> <p>Discussion was held on the number of chronic or long-term homeless, and whether or not they were being offered permanent housing options. Some information was available via SVDP Cares staff Lorenzo Lockett who reported that they were aware of all 4 who are a part of this benchmark. A more complete report will be made available to the committee on any veterans in this category during future meetings.</p> <p><b>Benchmark B</b> – Do veterans have quick access to permanent housing? Out of the number of veterans who moved into PH during the 90-day look-back period, the average time from date of identification to</p>	

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	<p>date of PH move-in is less than or equal to 90 days. Our average time was 404 days, so we have not met this benchmark.</p> <p>Discussion: SSVF representative Lorenzo Lockett indicated that they are working with nearly all of the veterans on the list, however there are many barriers to housing including credit and criminal history, evictions, and just simply availability of affordable housing. Risk mitigation provided by the CoC is an option used in other CoCs according to one member. The moratorium on evictions is also a barrier. B.E. asked if we could have a comparison at each meeting, and also to look at data from the beginning of the year prior to COVID pandemic.</p> <p><b>Benchmark C</b> – Does the community have sufficient permanent housing capacity? This benchmark looks at the total number of veterans moving in to permanent housing is greater than the number of newly identified homeless Veterans. During the 90-day look-back period, 22 veterans were identified, however only 8 veterans are recorded as moving into PH, so we have not met this benchmark.</p> <p>Discussion: If more housing opportunities were available, housing would happen quicker, and then solving Benchmark B would also help Benchmark C. SVDP CARES was asked if there was a trend for why this group of newly identified Veterans had become homeless. COVID-19 has been a factor for some of these veterans. Lorenzo added that MFHC's Outreach team is doing a great job.</p> <p><b>Benchmark D</b> – Is the community committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances? In this benchmark the total number of veterans entering service-intensive transitional housing must be significantly lower than the total number of homeless veterans. We meet this goal.</p> <p>Discussion: Just a clarification from one of the VA representatives that if a veteran goes to a service-intensive transitional program outside of the CoC, then the veteran should be removed from our By Name List.</p> <p>Barbara Wheeler thanked everyone for helping us collect and maintain all the data necessary to producing the results.</p>	
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<b>Inflow &amp; Outflow of Veterans</b>	Paula presented the Inflow (number of newly identified homeless veterans in the last month) & Outflow (number of veterans who became permanently housed in the last month) numbers. B.E. asked that the information be broken down monthly to compare.	
<b>.Next Steps</b>	Barbara indicated that she believed we are able to submit by individual county if that is something that is desired. Paula will follow up with Joe Savage of USICH. SVDP Cares indicated they have hired additional case managers recently as they are continuing to serve more Veterans each month. The Orlando VA was asked to check on the status of the VASH vouchers that will be going to Lake County from Orlando Public Housing Authority. Paula was asked to have the status of Citrus & Hernando VASH vouchers available at each meeting – number of vouchers in total and number open.	
Next Meeting	The meetings are scheduled monthly going forward on the second Thursday at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting dates are November 12, 2020 and December 10, 2020.	
.Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:26 p.m.	

Prepared by: Paula Holtsclaw

B.E. Thompson, Interim Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Inc.  
Veterans' Committee**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Members - Organization, Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Members - Organization, Name</b>
X	B.E. Thompson, Interim Chair	X	St. Vincent de Paul Cares - Greg Williams & Lorenzo Lockett
X	Orlando VAMC, Judith Rivera	X	Brian Conard, Community Advocate
X	James A Haley VAMC, Nicole Cineas	X	FDOH Sumter, Theresa Madison
X	Malcolm Randall VAMC, Charmin Alston		
	VSO Citrus, Philip Watson		
X	VSO Hernando, Tony Graham		
	VSO Lake, Anthony Padilla		
	VSO Sumter, Kim Rummell		

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