

**Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Inc., FL-520 Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Sumter Counties CoC Ending Homelessness Stakeholder Meeting****Meeting Minutes:** September 22, 2023 **Location:** Florida Department of Health, 415 E Noble Ave, Bushnell, FL 33513 and virtually via GoToWebinar**Presiding:** Melissa Simmes

Agenda Items		Discussion & Actions Taken	Follow-up
1.	Call to Order	Melissa Simmes called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.	
2.	Roll Call	Barbara Wheeler announced the in-person and virtual attendees.	
3.	Approval of Minutes	<p>Minutes from the August 25, 2023 CoC Membership meeting were presented.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June meeting.  <b>Motion by:</b> Shay Razaire <b>Seconded by:</b> Paul Tarnowski  <b>Discussion:</b> None  <b>Approved:</b> Unanimously in person and via poll</p>	
4.	Standing Committee Reports	<p><b>Coordinated Access (CAS) &amp; Mid Florida Information Network (MFIN)</b>  Paul Tarnowski reported on the August CAS-MFIN meeting. CAS Calls are going well, however the Committee meeting needs more attendance.</p> <p><b>Performance Update</b>  Jared Tanner reported the September meeting will take place next week on September 28. Paula Holtsclaw reviewed the Performance &amp; By Name List slides. Jared reported that he would be making a motion at the Governing Board meeting to allow SVDP Cares to add Homeless Prevention retroactively to July 1, 2023 to their Challenge Grant that is currently Rapid Rehousing only.</p>	
5.	MFHC Lead Agency Update	<p>HUD CoC Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Process  Barbara reported that during the Governing Board meeting the Collaborative Application and Project Applications will be presented for approval. There were five people who participated in the Review, Scoring and Tiering Process. Four of these were new to the process. Paul Tarnowski participated and complimented MFHC on the preparation for the process.</p> <p>DCF Onboarding was rescheduled due to the hurricane, and will be taking place on September 27, 2023. One update, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), is something we need to be working on before the effective date of March 2024 arrives. This is a requirement by HUD.</p> <p>Barbara reviewed the amount of funding available via the HUD NOFO process, as well as the applications that are being submitted to HUD for funding. One of the renewals was split between Tier 1 and Tier 2, but we are hopeful that the collaborative application will score high enough to fund the Tier 2 projects. MFHC has submitted a bonus project for HMIS, and The Salvation Army Lake &amp; Sumter submitted a RRH project for the first time. The total that is being proposed for submission for funding is \$837,734.</p>	

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		<p>Hernando County Day of Hope is scheduled for September 23, 2023, from 10am - 2pm. A variety of services will be available on site at People Helping People, as well as making appointments for services in the future. MFHC staff will be on hand to collect data and complete homeless assessments as needed.</p> <p>Hunger &amp; Homelessness Awareness Week is coming up in November. Proclamations will be sent to all four County BOCC meetings, and we encourage all agencies to be a part of the process by having their agency name included in the language on those proclamations. Send an email to Norma Smith at <a href="mailto:finance_asst@midflhc.org">finance_asst@midflhc.org</a> if you would like to be included.</p> <p>The Stranger's Tale - a one-act opera to benefit the Mid Florida Homeless Coalition will take place at the First United Methodist Church of Mount Dora on October 21, 2023 at 2pm. The opera is a story of faith and hope examining modern homelessness through music and drama.</p> <p>Retirement of Executive Director - Melissa announced that with Barbara Wheeler retiring at the end of the year, Barbara Venditto will be coming on board as the new Executive Director, and will be starting in October to work with Barbara for a few months before her retirement.</p>	
6.	Membership Input	<p>Lesha Buchbinder with Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Lake County provided information on a new funding allocation available for homeless persons. There is money for not only child care for children, but six months of salaries while attending courses in early learning. Lake County currently has 13 children receiving funding through ELC, and this funding will provide assistance to cover the differential fees they are currently paying. The Early Learning Coalition will be sending flyers out to the various ELC providers to give them information about what is out there.</p> <p>Lisa Melendez, Sumter County Schools, provided information on what Families in Transition (FIT) is and what they do. They work with children who are homeless under their guidelines which include doubled-up, living in hotels, and of course literally homeless. The numbers are up this year by 30% in Sumter County (now at 155). Lisa feels that this increase is more about identifying those who meet the criteria rather than there being an actual increase. They help with the documentation for school, as well as some day to day needs.</p>	

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6.	Membership Input	<p>Barbara Wheeler stated that one of the things MFHC is tasked to do is sharing information about resources to all of the agencies in the CoC. Any family experiencing homelessness where there are school-aged children should be connected to that County's FIT program. Lake County Schools has over 600 students coded homeless at this point in the school year.</p> <p>Tomi Steinruck, SVPD Cares, provided information on Veterans, and funding that is available via the VA. Eligibility has increased for income to up to 80% AMI for funding assistance. Motel assistance is available for those experiencing homelessness but is limited to one stay and up to 60 days of assistance over a two-year period. Deposits are only allowed to be paid one time in a two-year period. There are some additional allowable expenses like landlord and veteran incentives which can help with some of those incidental expenses. The number of months of assistance is based on their income percentage of AMI - the higher the income the fewer the months in 3 month increments.</p> <p>Positive Pathways Network - DCF is expanding the tuition waiver program to include homeless youth who are in highschool or recently graduated who wish to attend college can apply for a waiver of tuition who are homeless. In addition, the Pell Grant application will be open for next year on December 1.</p>	
7.	Next Meeting Date	<p>The next CoC Ending Homelessness Membership meeting will be October 27, 2023. We need a new location for the October meeting, as our meeting room host will be putting in new equipment on our October meeting date. The Pinellas Plaza Library in Wildwood appears to be available on that date. There will likely be no meeting in November, and we will look to have our Annual Meeting in early December. Please look for information to arrive via email and our website. Staff at MFHC all have new emails, so look for those new email addresses ending in @midflhc.org.</p>	
8.	Adjourn	<p>The meeting was adjourned by consensus at approximately 10:05 a.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted by: Paula Holtsclaw

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Attendance		Attendance	
X	Advent Health Waterman, Melissa Simmes	X	Martin, Rebecca
X	By the Book Inverness, Dawn Robinson		Mid Florida Community Services, Jessica Fangio
	CareerSource Pasco Hernando, Tracie Entler	X	Morris Realtors, Kim Levensohn
	CASA - Sunshine Arnold	X	Nature Coast Early Learning Coalition, Sandra Woodard
X	Century 21 Alliance Realty, Jared Tanner		Office of the Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, Stephen Teaster
	Citrus Lending, Megan Ennis		Operation PAR, Keri Hill, Morgan Heylman, Dawn Jackson
X	Dawn Center, Barbara Venditto		Pinellas County Urban League, Warren Thomas
	Daystar Life Center, AnnMarie Anzalone-Briercheck	X	Razaire, Shay-Anne
	Department of Children & Families, Barbara Williams		Real Life Christian Church, Timothy McCormack
	Floral City Outreach, Laura Romero	x	Salvation Army of Hrenando (The) April Davis
x	Early Learning Coalition of Lake, Ilesha		Salvation Army of Citrus County (The), Angie Howland
	Forward Paths, Denise Burry		Salvation Army of Lake & Sumter Counties (The), Jeanne Johnson
	Hernando County Health & Human Services, Veda Ramirez		Shalanda's House, Kimberely Smith
	Honor Center-VA, Atoria Robinson		Society of St. Vincent de Paul-St. Timothy, Peggy Ray
X	House of Hope, Linda Mobley		St. Vincent de Paul Cares, Tomi Steinruck
	Humana, Cara Meeks	x	United Way of Citrus County, George Schmalstig
	SMD, Diana Kingree		
	Lake Community Action Agency, Gloria Boone		
	Lake County Housing, Maria Granado		
X	LifeStream Behavioral Center, B.E. Thompson		
X	LSF, Paul Tarnowski & Lesley Hershey		
	Lulu McGrady Foundation (The), Rev. Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks		
			<b>Staff</b>
		X	Paula Holtsclaw
		X	Kristy Jocelyn

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		X	Amber Tucker
		X	Barbara Wheeler

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