

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
(HHSAC)
MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Daly, Chair; Tara Haley, Vice Chair; William Cover; Shannon Nazworth

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vasco Valov; Eric Colon; Tina D'Allesandro

STAFF PRESENT: Shawna Novak, HHS Director; Tracy Dillon, Social Services Manager; Angie Cowling, HHS Staff Support; Mary Garcia, HHS Staff Support

BCC LIASON: Jeb S. Smith, County Commissioner

VISITORS: Joyce Mahr; Jorge Bertran; Lauren Husband; Sharon Gesek; Judith Dembowski; Debi Redding; Ellen Walden; Lauren Carpenter; Larry Lake; Marissa Vetter; Lisa Franklin; Dawn Bell; Patti Greenough; Sandi Jackson; Paige Hartwell; Emma Hayes

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

MINUTES – June, 2019 Meeting: Chip Cover **motioned** to approve the minutes. Tara Haley seconded the motion; minutes were **approved unanimously** by the Council.

REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER JEB SMITH: As follow up to his report at last month's meeting regarding St. Johns Welfare Federation, Commissioner Smith stated the Board of County Commissioners approved the bond amendments recommended by the Industrial Development Authority, and explained this was the necessary next step in liquidating the Buckingham Smith asset. Commissioner Smith did caution this must be ruled upon by the Minnesota court system, as well, and that is scheduled to take place on July 31, 2019. Commissioner Smith stated County Commissioners have approved a maximum millage rate structure and this includes a shift from the General Fund to the Transportation Trust Fund of approximately .15 mills, to bolster infrastructural needs. Commissioner Smith also shared that the Property Appraiser has revealed a 9.9% increase in gross taxable value instead of an 8.9% increase, as projected by OMB. Commissioner Smith went on to provide some figures from the Administrative Recommended Budget, in particular those that relate to aid for private organizations. Commissioner Smith stated this amount was \$1,843,752 in 2018; he stated the adoptive budget for 2019 is \$2,254,363; and \$2,399,450 for 2020's recommended budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Homeless Workgroup Update:

1. Continuum of Care (CoC) Update: No representative was in attendance.

2. HMIS Lead Agency Support/Point in Time Update (PIT Count): No representative was in attendance.

b. Independent Agency Funding Process: Prior to Ms. Angela Cowling announcing scores for the FY20 independent agency funding program, time was offered for public comment and there were none. Ms. Cowling proceeded and stated applications were due through the eCivis portal on June 7, 2019, and nineteen applications were received. Ms. Cowling went on to say eight of the applications were in the Healthcare category; one in Aging; three in Employment Opportunities; and seven in Affordable Housing and Homelessness. Ms. Cowling stated the total amount of funding requested is approximately \$2,746,000. Ms. Cowling said each member of the scoring committee scored all nineteen applications through the eCivis Portal and the committee consisted of three Advisory Council members; the County's Social Services Manager; and a United Way representative. At this point, Ms. Cowling read each total score, by category, presented alphabetically by agency name. Ms. Cowling stated there would be no ranking or funding options presented at this meeting and said that information would be provided at the August 1, 2019 executive meeting of the Advisory Council.

When Ms. Cowling was finished reviewing scores, Shawna Novak informed the Advisory Council that she met with Joy Andrews prior to this meeting, to review application scores. Ms. Novak passed along Ms. Andrews apologies for being unable to attend today's meeting and said Ms. Andrews requested input from the Advisory Council as to their thoughts with regard to funding recommendations. Chip Cover said he was somewhat disappointed in the quality of the applications received, especially considering the grant writing trainings the Advisory Council has offered over the past several years. Mr. Cover said that while there were some very good ideas presented, the way that some of the concepts were communicated was very poor. Mr. Cover said that while not all of the applications were written poorly, the majority of them had spelling and/or grammatical errors, as well as other oversights that should have been caught during the proofreading process. Mr. Cover suggested agencies look at the comments from scorers and discern why they scored poorly as, he said, submissions such as these would most likely not even be considered for higher level funding, such as the federal government or philanthropic organizations. Mr. Cover said he would recommend funding from the top down in each category and when the money is expended, any project below that line should not be funded. Charles Daly agreed that this method should be used and he said he noticed that the extent to which outcomes were achieved was

not well addressed, overall, on the applications. Mr. Daly said he found this odd since the agency quarterly reports provide a fairly good distinction between outputs and outcomes. Tara Haley agreed with Mr. Daly and said she noticed percentages were not utilized and there was a lack of focus on time bound goals. Ms. Haley said there were many tools that were available with the new system, in addition to the guidance that Angie Cowling offered. Ms. Haley felt these resources were not utilized, in many cases. Ms. Haley said she also agreed with Chip Cover in that the applications were not up to the standards that were expected going into this funding cycle. Shannon Nazworth said she was surprised to see how low scoring way across the board and she agreed that funding should be distributed from the top score down, until the money is expended. Ms. Nazworth asked if the decision had been made with regard to the funding amount for each category and Ms. Novak said that is yet to be determined and the final approval will not be granted until October, upon adoption of the County budget. Angie Cowling stated she and Ms. Novak will endeavor to have funding options to present to the Advisory Council at the August 1 executive meeting. Ms. Cowling said the Council would be asked to make a funding recommendation at that time, with the amounts pending final approval of the County budget. Ms. Cowling said a letter will be prepared for the HHSAC Chair to sign and it will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at their October 1, 2019 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Flagler Health Plus – John Eaton:** Mr. Eaton was unable to attend and there was not sufficient time to find another presenter. Mr. Eaton's presentation will be rescheduled for the August 15 HHSAC meeting.

REPORT FROM JOY ANDREWS, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Joy Andrews was unable to attend.

FUNDED AGENCY UPDATES: No updates due to funding period blackout.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Homeless Advocacy Council: Ellen Walden reported the Homeless Advocacy Council recently held a car wash and were able to earn approximately \$347.00, to be used for incidentals at Home Again. Ms. Walden stated they have partnered with the Presbyterian Youth Ministry and participated in an activity with the youth last month and plan to get together again next month for a game day. Ms. Walden said Homeless Advocacy Council members have expressed concern regarding the heat index and the health of some of those staying in the camps, particularly the elderly and those with existing health issues. Ms. Walden said Home Again and other local agencies were approached by a reporter from The St. Augustine Record, questioning why there are no heat shelters during these particularly warm days.

SMA Healthcare: Sandi Jackson stated there was nothing new to report this month.

Florida Department of Health St. Johns: Paige Myers-Hartwell reported the State of Florida's new Surgeon General, Dr. Scott Rivkees, has been formally appointed and seated. Ms. Myers-Hartwell also gave a reminder regarding hurricane season and the importance of preparedness.

Flagler Hospital: No representation at this meeting.

Health & Human Services Department: Shawna Novak reported the signed CoC unified contract will go before the Board of County Commissioners at their Tuesday, August 6 meeting and, upon approval, will provide funding for homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing.

Faith Based Community: No representation at this meeting.

Public Safety: No representation at this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Meeting: Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Building, Kingfisher Conference Room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

Regular Meeting: Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Building, Kingfisher Conference Room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.