

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
(HHSAC)
MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Daly, Chair; William Cover

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tara Haley, Vice Chair; Shannon Nazworth; Vasco Valov; Eric Colon; Tina D'Allesandro

STAFF PRESENT: Shawna Novak, HHS Director; Angie Cowling, HHS Staff Support

BCC LIASON: Jeb S. Smith, County Commissioner - sent regrets
Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator - sent regrets

VISITORS: Anita Miller Sackman; Deborah Redding; Chris Mastoridis; Brittany Coronado; Sharon Gesek; Marissa Vetter; Paige Stanton; Noreen Nickola-Williams; Chelsea Reppin; Ellen Walden; Joyce Maher; Emma Hayes; James Norman; Judith Dembowski; Patti Greenough

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Quorum was not present.

MINUTES – July, 2019 Meeting: Could not be approved without quorum.

REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER JEB SMITH: Commissioner Smith was unable to attend and sent his regrets.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Homeless Workgroup Update:

- 1. Continuum of Care (CoC) Update:** Brittany Coronado reported the collaborative group, Built for Zero, is planning to assist the St. Johns County CoC. Ms. Coronado reported this national effort supports participants in developing real time data on homelessness, optimizing local housing resources, and tracking progress against monthly goals. Ms. Coronado said many communities in the region, including Jacksonville, are working with Built for Zero. Ms. Coronado said the first meeting with this group will be in October.

Ms. Coronado also reported the Notice of Funding Availability has dropped and applications are being accepted for projects. Ms. Coronado said there is the potential for an \$80,000 increase in funding this year in the form of bonuses. Ms. Coronado said this month is the start of the DCF contract cycle and she stated there was a slight increase in award money.

2. HMIS Lead Agency Support/Point in Time Update (PIT Count): Ms. Coronado said the Point in Time cycle will begin again in September and the next meeting of the HMIS Data Committee will be September 6, 2019. Ms. Coronado said she does not anticipate great changes in the process, or the technology, for year 2020.

b. Independent Agency Funding Process: Charles Daly stated the Advisory Council approved County-recommended funding amounts for the upcoming fiscal year, based on the applications received during the recent request for proposals. Mr. Daly stated a letter to the County Commissioners has been prepared for his signature, which will formally recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the specific amounts of proposed funding to each awardee. Angie Cowling stated she has been contacting agencies that were not awarded 100% of their request for funding, and providing them with revised budgets and a request to respond to proposal, with acquiescence or with proposed changes to those revisions. Ms. Cowling said that upon submission of the signed letter to the County Commission Office, she will notify all other applicants and advise them of what the next steps in the process will be. Mr. Daly asked if award amounts might change based on budget revisions. Ms. Cowling specified there will be no change in award amount but a funded agency could propose a change to line items within the budget, provided it was included in the application and it is an expense the County allows.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Applications – HHSAC Vacancies (Cover, Haley & Valov): Mr. Daly stated William Cover and Tara Haley both have terms that are expiring. Mr. Daly said both Mr. Cover and Ms. Haley have submitted applications and have asked the Board of County Commissioners to make exception and allow them to serve another term. Mr. Daly stated the third vacancy is Vasco Valov's seat, as he has regrettably resigned. Mr. Daly said there was a review of applications received to date and the Council would like to request that candidates attend the next general meeting of the HHSAC. Ms. Cowling said she would ask that Mary Garcia contact applicants and offer them the opportunity to attend a general meeting and to introduce themselves, if they wish, and share the reason they would like to serve on the HHSAC.

b. Flagler Health + Care Connect: Mr. John Eaton introduced himself as Administrator of Community Health Improvement at Flagler Health + and he introduced Ms. Paige Stanton, who stated she is the Youth Behavioral Health

Coordinator, also at Flagler Health +. Ms. Stanton began by saying Care Connect is the hub of the network of available community resources and explained their goal is to achieve better health outcomes for St. Johns County through increased coordination and access to resources. Ms. Stanton reviewed a PowerPoint and discussed the refinements that have been made to resource navigation. Ms. Stanton said Care Connect's goal is to break down barriers so individuals can easily access the many resources in the community and allow Care Connect to find the best resource fit for the particular client. Ms. Stanton went on to say increased communication and coordination with the many community resource providers is essential. Ms. Stanton proceeded to review the referral process, step by step, via PowerPoint slides. Ms. Stanton clarified what clients, as well as providers, can expect through this system. Ms. Stanton stated there are three Community Health Associates who are able to navigate clients until their needs are met. Ms. Stanton said they also have an internal social worker on staff that can handle more complex cases and that individual is able to go into the field, if a home visit is required. Ms. Stanton was asked about individuals with serious mental health disorders and she stated the social worker is equipped to deal with such cases and stated there are Behavioral Health Care Coordinators on staff at the hospital that are also able to handle such cases and go into the field, if needed. Ms. Stanton asked that providers communicate the referral process to clients so that they know to expect to hear from Care Connect within two to five business days and so that they have a general idea of how the referral process will work. Ms. Stanton also stated the best point of entry to the system is the application filled out online, since they are currently experiencing a very high volume of phone calls.

Ms. Stanton also reviewed the B.R.A.V.E Program, which addresses the need for increasing access to mental health care, which was identified as a strategic priority area in the most recent Community Health Assessment. Ms. Stanton went on to say the program focuses on youth mental health by addressing affordability, access, advocacy, awareness and engagement. Ms. Stanton said Flagler Health + Care Connect, in partnership with the St. Johns County School District, is endeavoring to meet the behavioral health needs of adolescents and assist students and families to break down any barriers and improve mental health outcomes. Ms. Stanton said they are planning a direct partnership with Children's Home Society and Epic and they will be able to utilize the system to receive referrals, which will then be tracked. Ms. Stanton went on to review national statistics relating to mental health and stated the suicide rate has increased by more than 30% since 1999. Further, she stated the 2016 suicide rate in St. Johns County was 2.1% higher than the Florida average and 3.2% higher than the U.S. average. Finally, Ms. Stanton shared the Crisis Text Line, a free, 24/7 support line, connecting people in crisis to trained counselors within 5 minutes. Ms. Stanton stated partnering with Crisis Text Line allows St. Johns County to have its own unique keyword, allowing utilization of data points to target mental health trends in St. Johns County. Discussion ensued with regard to protocol should an individual indicate immediate suicidal intent. Mr. Eaton said much emphasis is being placed on prevention and stated less than 1% of texts were of this type. Both Ms. Stanton

and Mr. Eaton said the Crisis Line is by no means a long term solution but more a complement to resources like outpatient counseling.

REPORT FROM JOY ANDREWS, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Andrews was unable to attend and sent her regrets.

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

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Homeless Advocacy Council: No report.

SMA Healthcare: No representative attended this meeting.

Florida Department of Health St. Johns: Noreen Nickola-Williams reported “back to school” immunizations went very smoothly. Ms. Nickola-Williams stated the Health Leadership Council will reconvene on September 19 for the visioning portion of the Triennial Community Health Assessment process. Ms. Nickola-Williams concluded by reporting the number of hepatitis A cases has increased tremendously in Florida and the Department of Health has been working with their partners to do outreach to the most at-risk groups, as well as employees of providers that interact with those groups.

Flagler Hospital: No additional report.

Health & Human Services Department: Shawna Novak reported the State allocated approximately \$8 million for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for child welfare clients experiencing opiate addiction. Ms. Novak said the money has been spread across 67 counties and St. Johns should receive approximately \$66,000. Ms. Novak stated she is working with LSF and Epic to determine how best to use those funds to assist opiate addicted child welfare clients.

Faith Based Community: No representative attended this meeting.

Public Safety: No representative attended this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Meeting: Thursday, September 5, 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, September 19, 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 4:47 p.m.