

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
(HHSAC)
MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Daly, Chair; Tara Haley, Vice Chair; Shannon Nazworth; Vasco Valov

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chip Cover; Eric Colon; Tina D’Allesandro

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

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

VISITORS: Thomas Nielson; Chris Mastrodis; Mary Hepler; Catherin Taylor; Lisa Burns; Brittany Coronado; Anita Miller Sackman; Joyce Mahr; Sharon Gesek; Patti Greenough; Jim Norman; Sandra Jackson; Emma Hayes; Paige Hartwell; Joan Whitty; Schuyler Siefker

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Quorum was present.

MINUTES – August, 2019 Meeting (no September meeting): Shannon Nazworth motioned to approve the minutes. Vasco Valov seconded the motion; minutes were approved unanimously by the Council.

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 eighteen members will be attending the “Built for Zero” conference in Denver, Colorado.
- 2. HMIS Lead Agency Support/Point in Time Update (PIT Count):** Ms. Coronado said the Point in Time Count will occur on January 23, 2020, and she said the data committee has begun to meet more frequently

in preparation for the event. Ms. Coronado said the data committee will advise the community if they believe they will need more volunteers for the count.

- b. **Independent Agency Funding Process:** Angie Cowling advised the County has signed all contracts and they have been sent to the funded agencies for them to execute.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS) – Mobile Crisis Response Team:** Emma Hayes from SAYS explained the team is made up of six individuals and she said there are three team members on call daily, one on call at night, and one on call on weekends. Ms. Hayes explained this is a 24 hour per day, 7 day per week response team and they operate through a hotline. Ms. Hayes stated the team's targeted case manager follows up on every assessment that is done, other than Baker Acts, group home children or children in the Community Action Treatment program, which are handled by their clinician. Ms. Hayes explained the purpose of the Team is to evaluate youth exhibiting mental health symptoms, ensure safety and determine whether or not a Baker Act is needed. Ms. Hayes said the Team serves youth ages 5 years old to 25 years old and she stated their purpose is to evaluate, assess risk and focus primarily on safety. Ms. Hayes said they do try to link to resources but that is dependent upon the safety assessment. Ms. Hayes said they respond to a call within 60 minutes, at the most, and they engage not only the youth in crisis, but the whole family. Ms. Hayes said if a Baker Act is necessary, based on the assessment done by the licensed clinician, then law enforcement is engaged in order to transport to Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU). Ms. Hayes said an important piece of what this team does is provide after-care services, with on-site counseling put into place immediately for 72 hours after assessment. Ms. Hayes explained there are three access points to their service and they are law enforcement, the school system and community agencies, such as hospitals. Schuyler Siefker clarified that calls to 911 that are appropriate for their team are passed on to them by law enforcement. Mr. Norman asked where most calls come from and Ms. Hayes explained that most calls come from the schools and went on to say there were 46 assessments done last month that had originated from the school system. Ms. Hayes also mentioned there have been more calls from the north area of the County, to date. Tara Haley asked the age bracket of the majority of the calls and Ms. Hayes stated that, in the last quarter, fifty of their assessments were on children ages 13 to 17, twenty-seven on ages 6 to 12, and five on those 18 years and older. Ms. Hayes said they have completed approximately 1,400 assessments as of September 30, 2019 and successfully diverted nearly 1,158 children from inpatient care. Ms. Hayes estimated this to be a savings of approximately \$4.5 million for the community.
- b. **HHSAC Candidate Introductions (3 minute limit):** Charles Daly suggested this item be tabled until the next meeting, since very few candidates were able to attend

this meeting. Mr. Daly did invite the candidates in attendance to please proceed with introducing themselves and he advised a final decision on recommendations would be made at the next Advisory Council general meeting. Tara Haley, Vice Chair, introduced herself, as she would like to serve another term. Guests Thomas Neilson and Joseph Thomasino also submitted applications to serve on the Advisory Council and both gentlemen attended the meeting and introduced themselves, providing their background and the experience and strengths they believe they can bring to the Council.

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

FUNDED AGENCY UPDATES:

Betty Griffin Center (BGC): Joyce Mahr thanked Shawna Novak, the members of the Advisory Council and the County for the increase in funding and said it is helping Betty Griffin Center tremendously. Ms. Mahr reported the shelter continues to be full and she stated there were only five days during the last quarter that they were not over capacity. Ms. Mahr said their board is continuing to look at different growth strategies at this time. Ms. Mahr went on to say their grant was renewed for their “Batterer Accountability” specialist and she said that the program works hand in hand with the child welfare system. Ms. Mahr said BGC has also been working with St. Johns State College on their “Bystander” program, through which students and faculty are educated on how to be bystanders and intervene safely if they see something that is inappropriate, or if they observe someone that may be in danger.

Early Learning Coalition: No update.

Epic Behavioral Healthcare: Patti Greenough thanked County staff for the seamless contracting process this year. Ms. Greenough reported Epic has opened its MARS Clinic and she explained that stands for “medically assisted recovery services” and she said this program wraps services around individuals that are receiving medication for opioid or alcohol addiction. Ms. Greenough said the program uses Vivitrol and Burprenorphine and there is a physician, a nurse, and counselors that staff this program. Ms. Greenough said she estimates there are 16 people in this program currently. Ms. Greenough said a family nurse practitioner was just hired on at the recovery center in order to start integrating primary care services. Ms. Greenough said they are making another legislative request to expand beds and explained they don’t have enough residential treatment beds for women at the recovery center, so they will request \$750,000 for a 30 day intensive program for women. Ms. Greenough went on to say they’ve opened their second sober living home for men. Finally, Ms. Greenough stated there are 13 participants in their new jail transition program (JET) for the first quarter and they are ultimately able to accommodate 45-50 people. The program assists those with mental health and substance abuse issues to transition from jail back into the community.

St. Francis House: No representative attended the meeting.

St. Johns Housing Partnership (SJHP): Lisa Burns reported the Partnership received the President's Award from the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid at their annual breakfast for the Partnership's work in foreclosure prevention. Ms. Burns said the Partnership intends to show the three minute video that was presented at the award ceremony, at the next HHSAC meeting.

Council on Aging (COA): Sharon Gesek reported the COA is looking to expand their presence in the Fruit Cove/Julington Creek and Nocatee areas and will provide updates as they put a plan into place. Ms. Gesek said the number of meals provided at their meal sites is continuing to grow and it has not slowed down with the departure of snow birds, as they had hoped it might. Ms. Gesek also spoke about the prescription assistance plan COA has in conjunction with Flagler Hospital and said the program has saved approximately \$1.8 million for St. Johns County residents to date.

Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition (ESHC): Joan Whitty reported ESHC has converted another transitional home into a permanent home, bringing the total number of permanent homes to eleven.

Good Samaritan/Wildflower Clinic: Chris Mastoridis reported they are working with Flagler Health Plus and the Department of Health to provide a combination of flu and hepatitis A vaccinations. Mr. Mastoridis said their focus is primarily the hospitality industry, since most of those individuals don't have insurance and cannot afford to be out of work four or five days due to illness. Mr. Mastoridis said they are encouraging individuals and employers to look to Wildflower as their primary care center for those that are uninsured. Mr. Mastoridis reported they are recruiting more dentists and physicians, as their goal is to be able to offer dental and general healthcare appointments, Monday through Friday. Mr. Mastoridis said there is a hygienist on staff 30 hours per week to provide preventative dental care and there is a quarterly, week-long mobile dental care unit being dispatched in different locations around the County. Mr. Mastoridis said they served more than 100 patients during last quarter's mobile clinic.

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS): No update.

St. Johns Welfare Federation: Jim Norman reported hurricane Dorian caused a mandatory evacuation of their center, which was quite costly. Mr. Norman said their residents had to be moved to three different facilities in the greater Orlando area for a period of three nights. Mr. Norman said all residents were safe and there were no negative effects of the evacuation, other than the cost.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Homeless Advocacy Council: No representative attended this meeting.

SMA Healthcare: Sandi Jackson reported there is a real shortage of child psychologists and nurse-practitioners certified in child psychology in the area, so when SMA receives

referrals, it is difficult to get children seen in a timely fashion, especially to be evaluated for medication. Ms. Jackson said SMA has hired a psychiatric advanced registered nurse-practitioner to see children three days per week in St. Johns County and two days per week in Putnam County. Ms. Jackson said she would be sending invitations to agencies and providers that may wish to meet the new nurse-practitioner, before she becomes too busy seeing clients. Finally, Ms. Jackson reported their mental health drop-in center will be holding a Friends, Family and Community Day on October 30th, from 3pm-7pm.

Florida Department of Health St. Johns: Paige Hartwell reported the Department of Health is currently concentrating on vaccinations for Hepatitis A and have been doing outreach in the community, including providing vaccinations in the Health & Human Services building lobby. Ms. Hartwell stated Hepatitis A is a fecal/oral transmission and cannot be destroyed with alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Ms. Hartwell said it is a two series vaccine but the individual is 93% protected after the first vaccine.

Flagler Hospital: No update.

Health & Human Services Department: Shawna Novak thanked SMA Healthcare, Epic, St. Augustine Youth Services, Betty Griffin Center, St. Francis House and Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition for responding to the shelter during hurricane Dorian. Ms. Novak said the County is working on an after action plan and she will be reaching out to agency staff members that manned the shelter to ask their opinions on the positives and negatives and seeking input on those things that may be improved insofar as communication and other concerns. Ms. Novak stated she has requested a five year strategic plan for the County's Health & Human Services Department and there is currently a black-out period in effect. Ms. Novak stated this plan will evaluate all four divisions of the Health & Human Services Department, independent agency funding, and will also take into consideration staffing, physical space and fiscal matters. Ms. Novak also mentioned next month is Adoption Month and she said the Family Integrity Program has some events planned, such as an adoption appreciation dinner on November 1st, at the Solomon Calhoun Center, as well as an Adoption Proclamation by the Board of County Commissioners on November 5th. Ms. Novak said there will also be an adoption day on November 8th, when ten children will get their "forever families".

Faith Based Community: No representative attended this meeting.

Public Safety: No representative attended this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Meeting: Thursday, November 7, 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, November 21, 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 5:03 p.m.

DRAFT