

ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HHSAC)
MEETING MINUTES
January 2nd, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tara Haley, Chair; Howard Hitzel, Vice Chair; Deanna Jones; Leslie Barstow; Kathleen Patneau

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shannon Nazworth; Chip Cover

STAFF PRESENT: Tracy Dillon, Manager, Social Services; Katrina Tanner, HHS Contract Coordinator; Juliette Maronel, HHS Administrative Coordinator

VISITORS: Marion Blohm

Virtual- Anita, Daniels, Tara Wildes, Nangy Pulsfus, Brian Robinson, Chynequa King, Judy Dembowski, Kristine King, Nancy Russo, Schyler Siefker, Paige Stanton

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Tara Haley called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Quorum was present.

MINUTES: Tara Haley opened the floor for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Kathleen Patneau motioned to approve the December 5th General Council Meeting minutes and December 19th Executive Meeting minutes. Howard Hitzel seconded the motion; the minutes are approved unanimously by the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER ARNOLD: Commissioner Arnold was unable to attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Continuum of Care (CoC) Update from Anita Daniel:

- a. Anita stated the funding request for FY 24-25 Challenge Unsheltered Grant Funds were reviewed, scored, ranked and prioritized by the CoC Board of Directors. The awards are as follows:
 - i. Home Again \$182,250 to offset building construction deficit for Hope for All United Services Center and Transitional Housing Component.
 - ii. St. Francis House \$94,980.11 for Emergency Shelters Port in the Storm and the Housing Crisis Center for additional housing-focused case managers and direct care staff.
 - iii. UF Health St. Johns \$17,668.50 for a part-time Youth Mental Health professional for Port in the Storm.
- b. Anita mentioned the annual HUD required Point-in-Time (PIT) count has been rescheduled to Tuesday, January 28th and if anyone wants to volunteer let Anita know.

NEW BUSINESS: Update on the expansion of the co-responder team:

- a. Director Wildes, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office:
 - i. Corporal Adam Hertz has been chosen to fill the full-time position and starts this week. Leslie Waler, co-responder/clinician from EPIC, and Corporal Adam Hertz will now be able to engage in meetings and network which they weren't able to do before being full-time.
 - ii. The data for the last couple of months show the numbers are gradually increasing each week showing positive trends. The team is receiving more referrals from the on-duty patrols, so Director Wildes and the team expect the numbers to continue to increase.

- iii. They've been working on establishing internal case management software that will allow EPIC and SJSO to share information appropriately and efficiently; Additionally, the system allows statistic reports, and this will show where the biggest impacts are.
 - iv. Lastly, baker acts have decreased significantly in the past couple months, but Nangy may be able to expand further on this subject.
- b. Nangy Pulsfus, Chief Executive Officer, EPIC:
 - i. Nangy agrees they have seen significant decline in baker acts that are occurring outside of the co-response team. There's been a significant decline especially in the juvenile baker acts. For a while, at least 50% of baker acts were under the age of 20.
 - ii. Nangy agreed the software package between EPIC and SJSO will be a very helpful tool.

Health & Human Services/County Administration Update -Tracy Dillon, Manager, Social Services OBO Shawna Novak, Director, Health & Human Services

- The County's Strategic Plan was approved at the last meeting.
- HHS has submitted the RFP for HHS's strategic plan, and they will have more updates to come on that.
- Tracy mentioned they have been a Florida Access Partner for 15 years and over the last year it's been extremely difficult working through DCF's changes in process' and systems. The social services staff were unable to help clients much during this time, but all the staff recently gained access to their new system.

Funded Agency Updates:

Early Learning Coalition (ELC): No representative present.

Betty Griffin Center (BGC): No representative present.

Council on Aging (COA): Brian Robinson reported they were able to secure a grant through the Delores Barr Weaver Foundation which supplied the remaining amount they needed to phase 1 for the Shelter and Shade Project, expecting to break ground in the first quarter of the year. Next, they are in the process of renovating the senior center at the Marine Street location, so they are having to relocate the seniors and the staff to other parts of the building. Lastly, over the past year all the programs have maintained attendance or grown.

Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition (ESHC): Marion Blohm reported right before Christmas, they prepared two homes and moved two families moved in; This included a full furnished home, Christmas decorations, Christmas dinner, and Christmas presents. Marion mentioned they are getting another home ready in the next couple weeks.

Good Samaritan/Wildflower Clinic: Chynequa King reported the clinic is currently fully staffed. They are applying for a grant called The Frame Program, which will help recruit new doctors coming out of Med school to volunteer at the clinic. The clinic will become a certified agency so this grant will pay for the professionals/med school graduates who participate with the clinic direct payments to their student loans. The requirements for this are the professionals must do 25 hours a year so they're hoping for more volunteers in the clinic to keep up with the county's growth. Additionally, the clinic may have to adopt a new model and allow the volunteer dentist to see clients in their own offices so it's easier and more comfortable. This will hopefully help with the dental wait list and accommodate their limited clinic space. Lastly, the 30th anniversary celebration of the clinic is January 23rd at the Magnolia Room/Fountain of Youth and invitations have been sent.

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS): Schyler Siefker reported in the month of December they were able to divert 86% of the kids assessed as baker acts with the mobile crisis team, supplied gifts for 160 caregivers and their children in our community, and provided 40 families with meals. The zoning was approved for the building for the independent living village for youth aging out of foster care, they just purchased the outpatient clinic, so the design portion is underway, and the CAT Team is fully staffed and meeting their outcomes. SAYS lost their Family Peer employee/position in the Coaches Program and are unable to rehire right now because the position was funded through the ARPA funds. They will continue to look for funds to get that

position up and running. Lastly, they hired a new care coordinator starting 1/7/25 to work with the families involved with DCF or at risk of becoming involved with DCF.

St. Francis House (SFH): Judy Dembowski mentioned from the CoC awards mentioned earlier in this meeting, SFH can engage in a collaborative application with UF Health to hire a mental health professional to be imbedded within the Port the Storm Program. This person will be a constant staff member to help support the children by doing group sessions, individual sessions, identify crisis and pre-crisis, assist in coping skills, etc. SFH permanently housed 82 people in the last quarter of the year. ESHC was able to take two families right out of the shelter right before Christmas as mentioned earlier.

Epic Behavioral Healthcare: Nangy didn't have any additional items since the new business portion above, but Kristine mentioned they have been conducting tours through the EPIC Recovery Center which helps their stakeholders keep abreast of their current practices.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

SMA Healthcare: Nancy Russo reported the marketing specialist they hired for all SJC is fully onboarded and can start working on making sure the community is aware of the collective resources and assist in stigma reduction. She plans to attend as many meetings throughout the month as she can that references the opioid response or any other meetings to connect the community to what we do. If there are any specific events or meetings email Nancy.

UF Health St. Johns: Paige Stanton mentioned the PIT is January 28th and they will have the breakfast at the library like years past. The Hospital is moving closer to launching EPIC as their new EHR system This is planned to begin in May. The new system will integrate into their other current systems, whereas their previous RHR did not. They received additional funding for their mobile mammography, so they continue to work on that mobile model. UF in Gainesville already has mobile mammography so they are working closely with them. Next, Paige mentioned on the CareConnect website, there is a pre-screen tool that may help people see If they're eligible for DCF benefits. This is about 8 questions and does not apply for the benefits, just strictly checks your eligibility. Lastly, the hospital participated in the Firefighters for families this year and It was overall a success.

Department of Health: No representative present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Meeting: Thursday, January 16th, at 3:30 p.m., in the Muscovy conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084 and via Microsoft Teams.

General Meeting: Thursday, February 6th at 4pm in the Kingfisher conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084 and via Microsoft Teams.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 4:31 pm