

ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HHSAC)
MEETING MINUTES
November 7th, 2024

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chip Cover.

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

VISITORS: Dawn Bell, Schyler Siefker, Marion Blohm, Bradley Thompson, Shane Lockwood, Kristine King.

Virtual- Suzanne Clulow, Chynequa King, Brian Robinson, Tiffany Mariotti, Anita Daniel, Tara Wildes, Paige Stanton, Charlie Hunt, Nangela (Nangy) Pulsfus

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Tara Haley called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Quorum was present.

MINUTES: Tara Haley opened the floor for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Howard Hitzel motioned to approve the August 1st General Council Meeting minutes and August 15th Executive Meeting minutes. Kathleen Patneau seconded the motion; minutes approved unanimously by the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

- a. NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) from HUD application was submitted and for the first time, the application included a domestic violence bonus project that was submitted by Betty Griffin. Anticipating results of the awards in the spring of 2025.
- b. The DCF office on Homelessness is providing the CoC a Challenge Unsheltered Grant of \$327,766.35 funded through specific appropriation 351 of the 2024 General Appropriation Act (House Bill 1365: Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping) which became law on October 1st, 2024.
 - i. This funding is intended to support operations, staffing, and specialized services primarily relating to mental health and substance abuse treatment services (mental health, substance abuse treatment, emergency transitional shelters, non-congregate shelters, and certified encampments for homeless individuals and families). The grant will need to be used by June 30th, 2025, so the implementation of this program will need to be expedited.
- a. PIT (Point In Time) will be conducted on Thursday, January 23rd 2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

1.) EPIC- Second Wind Village from Kristine King:

- a. Receiving funding from the state of just under 3 million. Currently under contract with a land parcel.
- b. The first phase consists of 4 homes- 1 for women, 2 for men, and 1 for women/children.
- c. Target population will be homeless, substance abuse disorder, drug court, veterans court, detox/residential, etc.
- d. Minimum stay is 6 months, and maximum stay will be 1 year, but it can vary case by case.

- e. There will be requirements such as being outpatient, participating in community recovery meetings, having a job, etc.
 - f. **Shawna** mentioned St. Johns County has pledged match funds to the state appropriation with board approval in the amount of \$600,000 utilizing Opioid Settlement. It's noted that the County is lacking with sober living facilities so Second Wind Villages will help meet that need.
- 2.) **SAYS- Children's Outpatient Treatment Center from Schyler Siefker:**
- a. Between the community providing match funds and St. Johns County pledging match funds of \$400,000 the funding for the project is covered. Therefore, SAYS was able to put down a deposit on a building which will keep their entire team centrally located near the St. Augustine Airport.

Health & Human Services/ County Administration Update -Shawna Novak, Director:

- There will be 2 new county commissioners sworn in at the next BCC meeting on November 19th. Anne Taylor will replace Henry Dean and Clay Murphy will replace Roy Alaimo. Currently Commissioner Sarah Arnold is our BCC liaison for HHSAC but at the November 19th meeting they will select a new Chair and Vice Chair which may affect who our liaison is.
- Joy Andrews has issued a memo updating some of the county board structure. Notes relating to HHS:
 - Jesse Dunn will be transitioning from Office and Management Budget Director to Deputy County Administrator.
 - Sarah Taylor will be transitioning back into Assistant County Administrator.
 - Jack Mitchell (CRA Coordinator) and the CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) will transition from the Housing and Community Services Department to the Economic Development department.
- November is National Adoption Month
 - The public is welcome to attend the adoption of 6 children at the Court House Annex November 22nd at 10am.

Funded Agency Updates:

Early Learning Coalition (ELC): Dawn Bell reported the state gave childcare providers a rate increase but didn't stop it with the money to replace the rates, therefore it was more costly per child and now can't see the same number of children. This has caused their waitlist to grow and cannot take any kids right now. They are hoping to start re-enrolling children within the next 6-8 weeks.

Betty Griffin Center (BGC): Tiffany Mariotti (Residential Director) reported in the month of October 326 survivors were served by BGC (247 adult and 79 children, 95 of these were served in the residential facility). Hurricane Milton forced the evacuation of about 70 people from the shelter and the transitional housing.

Council on Aging (COA): Brian Robinson reported for the past two years that they have been trying to raise 1.2 million dollars for phase one of the Shelter and Shade project for their main location where a senior center is located (180 Marine Street). Currently it's difficult for the senior citizens to get into the building once they're dropped off by the bus because of a 15-foot uncovered gradual slope. This project plan is to raise the elevation of the walkway so it's flat, add a cover over the walkway to protect from the rain and sun, and add other outdoor elements like landscaping. The Delores R. Weaver Legacy Funds for Northeast Florida has granted the COA the remaining \$545,000 reaching their project goal of 1.2 million. The projected completion date is June 2025.

Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition (ESHG): Marion Blohm reported a new family moving into one of the houses Monday, resulting in a total of 17 families on campus. They have an open house scheduled November 19th between 10am-2pm if anyone wants to meet the director and see what they do. Marion thanked social services for providing two large baskets of supplies for families last week.

Good Samaritan/Wildflower Clinic: Chynequa King reported a good turnout at their last fundraiser event last month, the clinic is currently offering flu shots, and next month Chynequa plans to report some data from the onsite lab.

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS): Schuyler Siefker reported LSF alerted them that the expansion dollars from DCF did not follow through so SAYS is adjusting what they can to accommodate that loss. They are increasing fundraising, adding an event in February, and cutting back on anything that doesn't affect services or quality of care. The client and parent/guardian satisfaction survey results are all showing very satisfied. Lastly, next month Schuyler plans to bring the end of year reporting to share.

St. Francis House (SFH): No representative in attendance.

Epic Behavioral Healthcare: Nangy reported an approved strategic plan from the Public Safety Coordinating Council. In the summer of 2023 Epic applied for CCBHC grant and was not awarded, however, the Florida Behavioral Health Association (FLBHA) applied on Epic's behalf for a sprinkling of funds and Epic was awarded funds of \$500,000. This will help begin to implement CCBHC behavior which is integrated healthcare.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

SMA Healthcare: Nancy Russo reported a great first meeting with Epic, SJC Jail, the Judges, Court Administration, and UF about how to start the implementation for those individuals with persistent mental illness who need court ordered care. The final interview is next week to hire a marketing individual to begin to provide a media campaign to help with stigma reduction for opioid use and mental health treatment and try our best to make sure everyone knows all the resources available.

UF Health St. Johns: Paige Stanton reported still having negotiations with insurance but there is a new proposal between the hospital and United Healthcare, so they are hopeful on a conclusion. Next, they were recently able to obtain additional funding through the UF Health St. Johns Foundation to outfit the bus with mobile mammography. This process has a lot of requirements, such as accreditation, specific equipment, and radiologist so there will be a more concrete timeline once they have more information. Lastly, Paige has been working closely with SJC Sherriffs office and Epic to expand their co-responder's program, resulting in contribute in adding a role Leslie is the co-responder, which will be a co-responder care coordinator. This role will work with Leslie to follow up with the individuals that intercept with law enforcement. Provide long-term care coordination with individuals who need it. Role is being approved currently and will provide by UF Health Johns and work hand and hand with epic to expand that program.

Department of Health: Shane Lockwood noted during the Hurricane season, they provided two special needs shelters. The state staff stayed 6 nights and helped 35 people. Shane thanked Shawna, noting she was a big part of how well the shelter functioned successfully. Next, the WIC department had 515 clients 2 years ago and they currently have over 2,400 clients. Shane has been working with Shawna and the Library to help reach more clients. The department sent one of their nutrition educators into the community starting in Hastings and was very successful, so they created this role to be full-time.

Public Safety: Tara Wildes reported they are very close to having a full-time co-responder. Tara mentioned looking forward to hearing everyone's report on the collaboration on re-entry. Shawna thanked Tara for helping to gather all the different agencies together to revisit and implement the Silver Alert process. Previously there was an assisted living facility that acted as a liaison for respite. That facility changed ownership a few years ago, leaving this process in limbo. The Greens have stepped up to act as this respite provider. The hospital staff were very instrumental in this process assisting with the paperwork logistics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Executive Meeting: Thursday, November 21st, 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, December 5th at 4pm in the Kingfisher conference room, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084 and via Microsoft Teams.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 4:37pm.