

CONTINUUM OF CARE MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

July 16, 2025 9:00am

By: Paiton Beckner

Our mission: Teaming up to make homelessness rare, non-recurring, and short-lived.

Roll Call – Please sign in the chat for attendance.

- Members are reminded to sign in via the chat to maintain accurate attendance for funding requirements (75% attendance needed annually to be eligible).

Motion to approve minutes: Cedric Cox; John Quirk

Old Business

- 1,538 Total **Households**; 4,003 **Individuals** (Literally Homeless, At Risk, DV, Vet)
- 668 **Households** Literally Homeless; 1,467 **Individuals**
- 798 **Households** At Risk; 2,352 **Individuals**
- Veterans: 14
- Referrals sent to providers in **June**: 80 (including ELC, Griffin Lofts, and Jersey Commons)
- 188 Total CE Assessments taken last month. (**June**)
- 69 Total CE Assessments taken so far for this month (**July**)

New Business

- State/House
 - 2025-2026 Funding RFP
 - 7/16/25 Notice of Project Selection
 - Challenge Grant: Requested: \$2.7M | Awarded: \$666K
 - ESG: Requested: \$473K | Awarded: \$201K
 - ESG Rush: Requested: \$546K | Awarded: \$273K
 - TANF: 1 applicant | Awarded the full \$31.5K requested
 - High disparity between requested and awarded funds highlights a critical need in the community. Bridget urges everyone to advocate for more funding by engaging with elected officials and inviting them to community events to showcase local efforts.
 - LPO42 – Contracts will be effective **July 1st** and are being finalized
 - TPZ17 – Enrollment/Services must be **exited by 8/15/25**
- HUD – Big Beautiful Bill – Update - PASSED

- Possible removal of CoC and planning under ESG administered by local government.
- Potential elimination of Coordinated Entry and HMIS.
- Advocacy is key: Bridget encouraged writing letters to Congress.
- Kera noted HUD cuts were not in the current bill, but 43% cuts are proposed for 2026.
- Bridget to send out advocacy talking points and sample letters
- CoC Build Grant – Submitted to HUD
- NOFO
 - Expectation to apply again despite FEMA's 2-year funding previously received.
 - Focus areas: **Outreach, Transitional Housing, Faith-based partnerships.**
 - **Register in eSNAPS** if not already registered.
 - Email recipient list for NOFO invites should be up to date.

- PIT Count 2026
 - The count will be held in 2026.
 - Committee will be re-established
 - Possible service expansions: showers, haircuts, laundry, etc
 - Agencies are encouraged to:
 - **Pin encampments**
 - **Volunteer for planning**
 - **Donate self-stable food, hygiene items, etc.**

- Upcoming Training – Trauma Informed Care, July 17th, 9:00 – 10:30, Catapult
- Upcoming Conferences
 - Florida Housing Coalition Aug 25-27 Orlando
 - Florida Conference on Ending Homelessness, Oct 21-23, Orlando

- Monitoring
 - Contract TPZ 17 ended June 30
 - Jessica is still conducting **site visits** (If not visited yet, you're still on the list)

- Open Floor - Next meeting: 8/20/25 (Zoom)
 - Bridget requested help with video/testimonial production to highlight success stories from the homeless pilot program. Taylor Thomas offered to connect Bridget with a contact at Spectrum News for a potential feel-good story.
 - **Hope House** took in a pregnant woman referred by another agency
 - **Gospel Inc.** submitted an application for a COC bonus grant — seeking to expand housing

- **Talbot House** ribbon-cutting: July 31 @ 4 PM (Women’s & Children’s Center – Winter Haven)
- **Peace River** ribbon-cutting: July 19 @ 11:30 AM
- **New Staff Announcements:**
 - Nancy Hurley: Affordable Housing Compliance Manager (replacing Diane Dur)
 - HCPC:
 - Paiton (Admin)
 - Britney Preo (CE)
- **New Housing Navigator** position (funded by CDBG, 1-year term) to be posted soon

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- **Case Conferencing: Stay tuned after the meeting**

Motion from the Floor Adjournment: Cedric Cox; Jason Saffels

Attendance: Bridget Engleman, HCPC; Cathy Golden, HCPC; Katrina, HCPC; Jessica Henderson, HCPC; Luke Simmons, HCPC; Josh Hendry, HCPC; Taylor Thomas, CASL; Marybeth Moore, Polk County; Lesly, MCSC; Derek Howell, SVDP; Cheryl Meade, WRC; Mike Smith, City of Lakeland; Terri Cram, ACTS; Andrea Anderson, Polk for Recovery; Cedric Cox, City of Winter Haven; Jason Saffels, CFBHN; Craig Pickos, Polk for Recovery; Lori, One More Child; Nicole Redmond, Lake Wales Care Center; John Quirk, SVDP; Giffe Gill, ACTS; Deborah Cozzetti, THM; Tara Johnson, Hope House; Kera Beard, Volunteers of America of FL; Nancy Hurley, City of Winter Haven; Captain Jonathan Bowman, PCSO; Rachel Rose, Gospel Inc; Sarah Burton, Women and Youth Center Haines City; Charity McGough, SVDP; Tracy Grey, Heartland for Children; PJ Brooks, CASL; Julyries Perez, Positively U Inc; Bobby R, MCSC; Joe Vazquez, LHM; Michelle Czelusniak, The Wilson House; Rhonda Coleman, Baycare; Brittany Preo, HCPC; Paiton HCPC; Daphene Roberts, One More Child; Donna Evanecky, PCSO; Marie Smoker, Housing and Neighborhood Development Bartow; Mike, COSMO; Maureen McIntire, BayCare, Winter Haven Hospital, Center for Behavioral Health; Nessie, HCPC;