

CONTINUUM OF CARE MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

June 18, 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.

Motion to approve minutes: John Quirk, PJ Brooks

Old Business

- 1,518 Total **Households**; 4,183 **Individuals** (Literally Homeless, At Risk, DV, Vet)
- 682 **Households** Literally Homeless; 1,614 **Individuals**
- 836 **Households** At Risk; 2,568 **Individuals**
- **Veterans:20** (possibly 18 due to data update)
- Referrals sent to providers in May: 42 (including ELC, Griffin Lofts and Jersey Commons)
- 220 Total CE Assessments taken last month. (May)
- 94 Total CE Assessments taken to date so far for this month (June)

New Business

- State/House o Session – TPZ17 o 2025-2026 Funding RFP (see attached)
- **TPZ17 will be replaced with LPO42 –**
- Brand new contracts- all contracts w/HCPD will expire June 30th
 - 6/17/25 Release date
 - Applicants must be CoC members for at least **1 full year**
 - 7/2/25 Submission Deadline 3:00pm – **Submit 1 original and 3 copies (1 can be electronic) to HCPD office**
 - Some typos in the RFP noted
 - 7/8/25 HCPD Threshold Review
 - 7/8/25-7/14/25 CoC Project Committee Review & Scoring
- 7/8/25 Meeting with Scoring Committee
 - 7/16/25 Notice of Project selection will be emailed to individual completing/submitting RFP 7/9/25
 - If awarded, the contract will be effective 7/1/25

State Funding Breakdown:

Program Last Year This Year Change Clients to Serve

CoC	\$1.9M	\$1.3M	-\$600K	–
Challenge	\$748K	\$666K	-\$82K	275 (up from 72)
Staffing	Decreased	–	-\$4K	–
ESG	\$189K	\$201K	+\$12K	83 (up from 24)
ESG Rush	\$138K	\$273K	+\$135K	113 (up from 18)
TANF	\$34K	\$31K	-\$3K	–

- **Total reduction:** \$613K overall for Polk County
- All pending items are **on Governor's desk for approval**
 - **HUD** – Big Beautiful Bill – Update
 - **2025 budget approved;** good news for continuity
 - A **lawsuit (King County v. Turner)** was filed on May 2nd regarding reduction of a previously approved **two-year NOFO** to one year
 - <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/70062174/martin-luther-king-jr-county-v-turner-in-his-official-capacity-as/>
 - Potential for a **new NOFO** on short notice; COC may have **<30 days** to prepare
 - **CoC Build Grant** – Applications Due June 26th 8:00pm (esnaps)
 - **HIC/PIT** June 13th Submitted to HUD - Spreadsheet will be uploaded to HCPC website until HUD releases official report (Any discrepancies reach out to Katrina)

Emergency & Transitional Shelter Capacity (Point-in-Time Count Data)

Reported by Katrina:

- **Emergency Shelters:**
 - *Salvation Army of West Polk:* 52% capacity
 - *Talbot House Emergency:* 115% capacity (over capacity)
 - *Lighthouse Ministries Men's Rescue Mission:* 70%
 - *George Harris Shelter Projects:* ~70–80%
 - *Talbot House Veteran Beds:* 100%

- **Transitional Housing:**

- *Talbot House Transitional: 97%*
- *Salvation Army Transitional: 65%*
- *Lake Wales Care Center: 93%*
- *Wilson House: 92%*
- *Lighthouse Ministries Family Life Center: 60%*
- *Talbot House STEP: 57%*
- *Recovery, Safe Haven: 100%*
- *Heart for Winter Haven (Man's House): 17%*
- *One More Child: 80%*
- *The Way Center: 42%*

- **Upcoming Training** – July 17th 9:00 – 10:30 Catapult

- Trauma-Informed Care
- How to access Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment
- **Venue:** Catapult (no on-site parking!)
- Attendees must park at nearby public lots or on-street (e.g. Joinery, LPD area, parking garage)
- RSVP – Jessica@polkhomeless.org

Open Floor - Next meeting: 7/18/25 (Zoom)

Griffin Loft Update

From Sandra (Carrfour Supportive Housing):

- 14 more households to be moved in for 100% occupancy
- Grand opening to be announced soon
- Site tours available via Jose or Sandra

Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Summit

Key Points:

- **Event:** Regional Summit (instead of 2-day statewide conference)
- **Tampa Summit Date:** July 9
- **Topic:** Disaster Preparedness & Post-Disaster Resilience
- **Cost:** ~\$150
- **Future Regional Summits:**

- Broward (Behavioral Health & Supportive Housing)
- Jacksonville (Policy Issues)

Concerns Over Federal Funding Changes

Discussion between Bridget & Sandra:

- **Issue:** Potential elimination or transformation of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- **Details:**
 - HUD might **restructure PSH under ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant)** programs, which are **time-limited**
 - Would reduce long-term housing support to **shorter-term interventions** (e.g. Rapid Rehousing)
 - This shift may **effectively eliminate PSH as we know it**, though not explicitly stated as a "cut"

Call to Action:

- Members are encouraged to submit testimony to state/federal leaders
- Advocacy emphasized as education, not lobbying
- Concerns over federal plans to cut CoC, CDBG, and HOME funding in favor of state-run rental assistance programs

<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/subcommittees/transportation-housing-and-urban-development-and-related-agencies>

<https://ciceroinstitute.org/research/consolidating-continuum-of-care-program-at-us-dept-of-hud/>

<https://endhomelessness.org/resources/sharable-graphics/rural-and-suburban-permanent-supportive-housing-most-at-risk-in-fy26-budget-proposal/>

Grant Funding Changes & Housing Programs

- **Giffe' Question:**
 - Asked whether grants for supportive housing were being renamed (to LPO42) or folded into something else (e.g., ESG funds).

Sandra Response:

- Currently, **HUD grant structures (e.g., for PSH - Permanent Supportive Housing)** remain active.

- Any proposed transitions (like moving ESG funds into block grants) **haven't passed yet**, so 2026 might be the earliest changes take effect.
- The **application doesn't clearly address PSH**, which is consistent with past ESG fund behavior.
- She offers to continue the conversation offline for more clarity.

Hope House Introduction

Tara Johnson gives an overview:

- **Hope House** is a **12-month residential maternity program** for **first-time expectant mothers aged 18–26** who are **pregnant (up to 30 weeks)** and often homeless or at-risk.
- Services include:
 - **Therapy** (1-on-1 and group)
 - **BrightCourse-based programming**: parenting, financial literacy, career readiness, etc.
 - Currently has **4 moms and 3 babies**, with capacity for **6 moms**.

Case Conferencing: Stay tuned after the meeting

Motion from the Floor Adjournment: PJ Brooks; John Quirk

Attendance: Ofc. Bailey Lakeland PD; Giffe Gill ACTS; Captain Bowman PCSO; PJ Brooks; John Quirk SVDP; Taylor Thomas; Julyries Perez Positively U; Bobby MCSC; Rachel Rose Gospel; Jason Saffels CFBHN; Tara Johnson Hope House; Andrea Anderson Polk for Recovery; Rhonda Coleman BayCare Center for Behavioral Health; Sarah Burton The Way; Rory Tornga Polk for Recovery, Jose Chavarria Carrfour, Kelly Garrett VOA of FL; Kera Beard VOA; Maureen McIntire BayCare Center for Behavioral Health; Nicole Redmond Lake Wales Care Center; Rebecca Green The Salvation Army; Shawna Butler Heartland for Children; LaTasha Cohen CFBHN; Lana Nolan CC; Johnna Martinez GiveWell; Deborah Cozzetti Talbot House; Jessica Henderson HCPC; Kathy Golden HCPC; Luke Simmons HCPC; Alycn Odum HCPC; Nessie Braun HCPC; Bridget Engleman HCPC; Paiton Beckner HCPC; Katrina HCPC; Sandra Newson Carrfour; Lesly Yanez MCSC; Belinda Davila Talbot House; Michael Carrano The Cosmo Project; Joe Vazquez Lighthouse Ministries

