

## CONTINUUM OF CARE MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

March 20, 2024, 9:00am

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

Roll Call – Please sign in the chat for attendance.

Minutes Approved by: Shawna Butler 1<sup>st</sup> and John Quirk 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Old Business

- Coordinated Entry status:
- 672 Total clients (Literally Homeless, At Risk, DV)
- 250 Literally Homeless
- 422 At Risk
- 28 Veterans
- Referrals sent to providers in January: 46
- 66 Total Assessments taken to date for month of March.
- 182 Total Assessments taken last month. (February)

New Business

- **Week 9 of 9** Legislative Update: House Bill 1365 and Senate Bill 1530 have been passed. The Governor has until the 27th to sign or veto the Bill. If he does not sign the Bill by the 27th, the Bill will go into action on October 1st, 2024. The Encampments must have security, water, toilets, and must be open 24 hours a day, 364 days a year. After 365 days, it must be closed and moved to a different location. It will be a drug and alcohol-free encampment. However, there are concerns that these encampments won't be good for the clients.

- **Staffing**- Jessica Henderson joined HCPC as the new Planner. Luke Simmons has also joined HCPC as the New VET Specialist.

-**Challenge**- Bridget will be emailing everyone if she receives any updates on Challenge.

- **Governance Board**- The Governance Board has been undergoing a revamp for a little over a year, and their first meeting is scheduled for next Monday on 03/25/2024.

- **Florence Place-** Bridget informed the group that Florence Place has allocated 11 units for HCPC and that all 11 units have referrals. Kera Beard and Teresa Maio discussed the need for affordable housing in Polk County, while Cedric Cox mentioned the "Lego-like block house," which is built using recycled materials and can withstand a CAT 5 hurricane. The house is being rented out for only \$1,000 a month, including utilities and is called Freedom Housing. Bridget suggested that they reach out to them to see if they can reserve some of their real estate for their clients.

- **HCPC Website-** Website is Currently under Construction, HCPC is revamping their website and things might be missing due to things being added and taken off. Updates on website: New ADA compliance has been added to help with Language translation, is disability friendly example: For individuals with seizures, it changes the coloring of the website to help those triggers from happening, Dyslexic Format where it changes the font and size of the words for the individual to see them better. Search Bar has been added, all reports have been updated on the website up to 2023 that are current, Resource list is added onto the website as well but is still in construction.

- **Open Floor** – Mike Carrano had questions on LPD Trespassing Homeless Individuals. Bridget said she can set a meeting with LPD and Mike to speak about any Questions and concerns to them.

**Next meeting: 4/17/24 (Zoom)**

Motion from the Floor Adjournment- Shawna Butler

**Attendance:** Terri Cram Acts, Kim Long Polk Vision, Giffe' Gill, ACTS, Teresa Maio City of Lakeland, Hazel Dolphy - Dolphy Cares Supportive Housing, Jose Chavarría - Carrfour Supportive Housing, Brad Beatty: Heart for Winter Haven, Maria Maldonado - Talbot House Ministries, Rachel Rose Gospel, Inc, Bee Gallison- H4WH, Svjetlana Nolan - CC Lakeland, Luke Simmons HCPC, Brianna Shrimplin City of Lakeland, Cedric Cox Sr City of Winter Haven, Tabitha Keith, Heart for Winter Haven, Rebecca Green The Salvation Army Lakeland, Myraida Valdes with Better Together, John Quirk III - SVDP CARES, Diana Woodhead, The Salvation Army - East Polk, Chloe Martin, Better Together, Taylor Thomas CASL, Aisha Wright Help of Fort Meade, Jennifer Cooper BoCC HND Manager, Mike Carrano- The Cosmo Project, David Conley, SVDP CARES, Shawna Butler Heartland for Children, Jessica Henderson HCPC, Richard Caron Winter Haven Hospital BayCare Center for Behavioral Health, Cristina Coulson The Salvation Army Lakeland, One More child/ Lori, P.J. Brooks CASL, Nancy Hurley - Polk County Housing and Neighborhood Dev. Office, Kera L Beard- Volunteers of America of Florida, Johnna Martinez GiveWell Community

Foundation, Theresa Taylor St. Vincent DePaul Cares, Cristina Coulson The Salvation Army  
Lakeland, Marybeth Moore, Sarah Burton Women and Youth (WAY) Center, Kevin McGraw  
PCSO.