

CONTINUUM OF CARE MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

October 15, 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 – Stephen Powers; Andrea Anderson

Old Business

- 1,468 Total **Households**; 3,856 **Individuals** (*Literally Homeless, At Risk, DV, Vet*)
- 569 **Households Literally Homeless**; 1,176 **Individuals**
- 886 **Households At Risk**; 2,658 **Individuals**
- 11 **Households Fleeing DV**; 22 **Individuals**
- **Veterans:**
- Referrals sent to providers in September: 38 (including ELC, Griffin Lofts and Jersey Commons)
- 191 Total CE Assessments taken last month. (September)
- 55 Total CE Assessments taken to date so far for this month (October)

Staffing: One staff member out; seeking part-time Coordinated Entry Assistant (\$17/hr, 32–35 hrs/week). Qualifications: customer service, background check, positive attitude, lived experience preferred.

New Business

PIT Count 2026

- Scheduled for **January 29, 2026** (last Thursday of January).
- Two volunteer shifts available.
- Donations requested for hygiene items (travel-size soaps, toothbrushes, etc.) and snacks.
- Volunteer survey to be sent out soon; share widely.

Challenge Grant Reallocation Funds

- Some state funds reallocated from agencies unable to spend their allocations.
- Bridget submitted requests on behalf of local agencies due to high need in Polk

County.

- County funding cut by **\$666,000** this year.
- Agencies asked to keep funding requests ready for rapid turnaround when opportunities arise.

HMIS highlights - required documentation

- Agencies reminded to:
- Enter **unit inspections, services provided, and client goals** into HMIS.
- Include documentation of assistance timelines and discharge letters.
- Notify clients and landlords in advance of assistance ending (preferably 3 months).
- Upload **leases** for housed clients.
- Goal: improve coordination between clients, case managers, and landlords to prevent returns to homelessness.

Funding & Government Shutdown

- **HUD shut down** since October 1, 2025.
- Polk County advised subrecipients **not to submit invoices** for flood funding.
- Referrals and funding rollover efforts affected.
- Agencies encouraged to maintain operations as normally as possible; current quarter's drawdowns completed.

- **Upcoming Conferences**

- Florida Conference on Ending Homelessness, Oct 21-23, Orlando

Open Floor - Next meeting: 11/19/25 (Zoom)

- **Giffe' Gill** asked if HCPC would offer training on documentation standards for goals and notes in HMIS.
- **Bridget Engleman** confirmed training can be arranged via **Katrina**, available on Zoom or in person.
- Training will include **Katrina and Jessica**, as Jessica and Brenn will begin monitoring in November.
- Agencies will receive leniency and time to correct documentation issues before monitoring reports.
- **Taylor Thomas** asked if uploading a service plan (reviewed every 3 months) meets goal documentation requirements.
- Bridget confirmed this is acceptable if goals are clearly stated and updates are documented.
- Bridget raised concerns about **Florida trespassing laws**—in some cases, trespass on government (CRA) property can be a **felony**.
- **Officer Bailey (LPD)** confirmed signs are being updated to indicate felony trespassing on **City of Lakeland CRA properties**.
- Only posted areas are enforceable; he'll provide more information later.
- Discussion followed about applicability:
 - Applies primarily to **government or CRA-owned** properties.
 - Can extend to **private properties** if owners authorize enforcement.
 - Construction sites are also felony zones.
- Participants requested detailed information to inform **unhoused clients** about felony-risk areas.

- **Jose** requested a **community safety meeting** for residents at **Griffin Lofts**.
 - **Officer Bailey** agreed to visit Friday to meet residents and discuss safety.
 - Bridget encouraged agencies to contact **Katrina** if they want **on-site coordinated entry**.
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- **Case Conferencing: Stay tuned after the meeting**

Motion from the Floor Adjournment - Sarah Buton; Mike Cosmo

Attendance

Bridget Engleman; Luke Simmons; Jessica Henderson; Cathy Golden; Nessie Braun; Paiton Beckner; Bren Sanders; Katrina Panzica; Chris Dyer, Heartland for Children; Belinda Davila, Talbot House; Stephen Powers, Tri-County Human Services; Giffe' Gill, ACTS; Kelly Carter, Polk County; Jennifer Cooper - Polk County HND; Taylor Thomas CASL; ofc. Bailey, LPD; Johnna Martinez, GiveWell Comm Foundation; Mike Carrano - The Cosmo Project; Julyries K. Perez - Positively U, Inc.; June Robinson, Polk for Recovery; Donna Evanecky PCSO; Andrea Anderson Polk for recovery; Marybeth Moore/BoCC; Maureen McIntire, BayCare, Winter Haven Hospital Center for Behavioral Health; Marie Smoker-Housing and Neighborhood Development of Polk County; Lori Ingraham OMC; Daphene Roberts OMC; Brad Beatty, Heart for Winter Haven; Jose Chavarria, Carrfour supportive housing; Sarah Burton - WAY Center, Haines City; P.J. Brooks, CASL; Joe Vazquez, Lighthouse Ministries; Heather Riner, Women's Resource Center; Terri Cram, Acts; John Quirk & Derek Howell - SVDP CARES; Rose Maghraoui, Carrfour Supportive Housing; Mike Smith City of Lakeland; Simone Evans Peace River Center; Martha Murphy Catholic Charities;