

Board of Directors Meeting (HCPC)  
328 West Highlands Drive  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Our Mission:

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

June 13, 2018

Meeting started at 3:07pm

Meeting Adjourned 3:39pm

Board Members Present: Mike Brown, Annie Gibson, Al Kirkland  
Laura Lee Gwinn, Executive Director, also attended the meeting.

Call to order was done by Annie Gibson

- May's minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Annie Gibson to accept minutes as written. Minutes accepted as written.

#### **Old Business**

- PSH Development - A steering committee was formed from the supportive housing technical assistance event. The committee met for the first time. There were a lot of stakeholders present. The Lakeland and Bartow PHAs attended. The committee discussed an upcoming grant. The Lakeland Housing Authority is already working with a consultant on that process. The committee also discussed how to participate in using these vouchers. Laura Lee will follow-up with Idalia Gonzalez from the Lakeland Public Housing Authority.
- CoC Governance Board Update – Laura Lee explained the situation as it stands now. HUD is strongly encouraging CoCs to separate their governance boards from that of the lead agencies. A steering committee was formed to help recruit individuals for the new CoC governance board. That committee is made up of very well connected individuals, and they recently had a meeting to discuss progress with recruitment. Ideally, there should be a slate of candidates to vote on at the July CoC meeting. While it's doubtful all positions will be filled, there are some excellent candidates already on board, including Officer Todd Bailey from Lakeland PD (Law Enforcement), Jana Balicki from ACTS (Supportive Housing), and Rusty Music from Women's Care Center of Bartow (Emergency Shelter). Additionally, there are requirements for appointed members to represent the city, the chamber of commerce, etc.

#### **New Business**

- Mayor Mutz's Task Force – The task force is up and running. The new mayor is very invested and enthusiastic. The task force has met once already and has meetings scheduled through the end of the year. The meeting was very successful and included a variety of participants including representatives from The Ledger, faith-based organizations, local business leaders, and law enforcement. Susan Pourciau from Florida Housing Coalition did a presentation from the data her team has collected during their contract with the city, and she highlighted her recommendations for future action if Lakeland is serious about working on homelessness. Mayor Mutz was very receptive to

these recommendations, including increasing HCPC's capacity to serve, hiring outreach workers as city employees, and providing additional funds for supportive housing and rapid rehousing.

Annie Gibson spoke about funds already in existence that could be utilized that way and expressed a need for more communication from the mayor.

The mayor has already invested in branding and PR for this project, now called Hope Lakeland. It will be modelled after a similar project in Orlando. The task force is meeting again next week.

- Challenge Grant 2018-2019 Updates – Laura Lee brought everyone up to speed on the current state of the grant. It seems to change daily whether or not the grant is officially dead. Polk County has three different projects that are run with Challenge funds. DCF is trying to find alternative funding, but this money will likely have greater restrictions than Challenge.

Recently, there has been a flurry of activity from various interested parties, particularly large metro areas like Miami and Daytona. There may still be hope, but even it is with the governor at this point.

- New Hire – HCPC has a new Veterans' Specialist, Lisa Van Pelt. This position is paid for by St. Vincent de Paul. She will be working toward ending veteran homelessness in Polk County. She is very sharp and has a lot of passion for veterans. She's proving to be an excellent fit thusfar. This also means the Veteran By-Name List (BNL) is back on track. Lisa will also be working on reassembling the veteran action team.
- Job Vacancies - Last year, HUD approved our project to hire staff for our Coordinated Entry sites, so we do not have to rely on our providers. HCPC will hire a manager for the CE process as well as additional full and part time coordinated entry staff who will work under that manager. Once Laura Lee receives the contract from HUD, she can begin the hiring process. She also spoke about what a big difference it has made in both quantity and quality having a member of HCPC's staff (Sandy Hurst) doing assessments just two days a week at Talbot House.
- Insurance for HCPC Staff – The board discussed the possibility of offering insurance for HCPC staff. As the coalition grows, it may be worth considering at least basic coverage to make sure we don't lose good people. Al Kirkland brought up speaking with an agent, possibly even the agent who does our business insurance. If they are not able to assist, they may be able to make recommendations in our best interest.

### **Committee Chair Update**

- Strategic Planning (open)
- Membership and Public Relations- (open)
- Financial Resources (open)
- Program and Advocacy – Cedric Cox (Not in attendance)
- Capacity Building (open)

A motion was made by Mike Brown to adjourn meeting. This was seconded by Annie Gibson.

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by

Sunday Wetzel  
Administrative Coordinator, HCPC