

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.

October 10, 2018

Meeting started at 3:08pm

Meeting Adjourned 3:57pm

Board Members Present: Mike Brown and Annie Gibson
Ron Daniel (Planner) and Laura Lee Gwinn (Executive Director) attended meeting

Call to order was done by Mike Brown

The July minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Annie Gibson to accept minutes as written. This was seconded by Mike Brown. Minutes passed unanimously.

Old Business

- **Challenge Grant**

There was a lot of uncertainty about whether or not the state would have Challenge Grant funding this year. This issue was resolved, and the Challenge Grant has started, albeit somewhat later than usual. DCF had allocated additional ESG funds in case Challenge funds were not released. While ESG funding is harder to use due to tighter restrictions, this additional funding will be very helpful for our county. A total of \$110,592 in Challenge Grant funding was awarded, a reduction of \$47,908 from the previous year. Peace River Center, Talbot House Ministries, and Women's Resource Center will continue to receive Challenge Grant funding for Rapid Re-Housing, as they did last year. That grant started on September 1st.

- **HUD CoC Collaborative Application**

Laura Lee stated that she was very optimistic about the application. It was submitted on time. The Project Selection Committee voted to reallocate funding from House of Israel's Solomon's Project. This money will be used to fund an additional Rapid Re-Housing project through Talbot House Ministries. This new project will be Talbot House's third RRH project and will have a total of \$291,535 from a combination of reallocated and bonus funds.

Annie asked for clarification on these projects and if any projects were TANF-based. Laura Lee explained the scope of Talbot House's projects and advised that Women's Resource Center is currently the only provider with TANF funds, and that project is only for Homelessness Prevention. There is also ESG Prevention funding through the county.

- **Mayor's Task Force**

Florida Housing Coalition gave a presentation with recommendations to Mayor Mutz's Steering Committee on Homelessness. Of those recommendations, four were adopted unanimously by the committee. These four were presented to the City Commission. Unfortunately, the commissioners rejected all four of the recommendations.

After the recommendations were rejected, the committee met again to discuss how to move forward and still accomplish something. At this time, it is unclear exactly where the committee will go, but there are meetings scheduled through the end of the year.

Annie advised that Lakeland's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has a new Community and Economic Development Director, Nicole Travis. CRA has agreed to help the Lakeland Public Housing Authority with a new affordable housing project, which will have 15 total units (5%) dedicated to homeless clients.

Laura Lee met with Ed Jennings, the consultant working with Lakeland PHA on that grant application. Mr. Jennings was meeting with Ms. Travis afterwards and stated he would encourage Ms. Travis to include Laura Lee in future meetings. It's very encouraging to have agencies being proactive in reaching out to HCPC for involvement in these kinds of projects.

Laura Lee also discussed a private citizen, Dr. Hayes, who is interested in developing housing for homeless veterans on property he owns. The property is already zoned for duplexes. Laura Lee put him in touch with St. Vincent de Paul, who have expressed interest in developing Permanent Supportive Housing for veterans.

New Business

- **HCPC Staff Additions and Changes**

HCPC received a HUD grant for a dedicated Coordinated Entry team, and three new intake staff members have been hired. Sandy Hurst, previously the HMIS Support Coordinator, has moved into a new role as Coordinated Entry Supervisor, and Amber Davis has joined the office staff to fill Sandy's old position.

This new Coordinated Entry project allows HCPC to provide wider coverage in both locations and hours offered for clients seeking housing assessments. It also lets HCPC control the message and manage client expectations. It has been very successful so far. In addition to the new paid staff, HCPC has its first intern. Giselle Moncada from Polk State is working as a Coordinated Entry intern through the end of the semester. Depending on how well this goes, HCPC may pursue more internship opportunities in the future.

Mike asked for clarification on the new locations. The new locations include Lake Wales Care Center, Mulberry Community Center, WAY Center, and Church Services Center/Bartow Community Center in addition to the previous sites. Intake now covers a much wider swath of the county. Also, Lisa Van Pelt, HCPC's Veterans' Specialist, is providing targeted Veteran outreach at several American Legion posts in addition to mobile outreach for those unable to travel.

Mike requested business cards with the Coordinated Entry locations. Laura Lee provided flyers and advised that once the sites' days/hours have been made permanent, they can revisit ordering cards to pass out.

- **Health Insurance for HCPC Staff**

At the last board meeting, approval was given to begin looking into providing insurance for HCPC's staff. Laura Lee has been working on that and is close to finishing the process. Hopefully, everyone who needs insurance will be covered by the end of the month. Right now, that looks like it will be approximately 6 or 7 members of staff.

Mike stated this was very encouraging and would be a great draw for future candidates.

- **HUD Error with HMIS Funds**

Every year, HCPC receives HUD funding in eLOCCS and draws down from there. For Fiscal Year 2016, the contract was for \$118,000 in eLOCCS. Laura Lee logged in to check something and saw that there was only \$59,000, so she reached out to Lori Soreno, our desk officer. Ms. Soreno advised that they may have cleared out the other \$59,000 in error. HUD has stated they will work to fix the issue. They were making changes to the prior year's funds and accidentally cleared our half of FY16.

- **New HCPC Website**
After having the same website for over a decade, HCPC's staff has begun working on a new website. This website will focus on ease of use and functionality, as well as having a more updated look. Also, HCPC now has a Facebook page where relevant articles, events, training, etc. are being posted.
- **Expungement Clinic**
Tampa/Hillsborough hosted a free expungement clinic. The board discussed whether or not this is something we would want to pursue. This would be a great opportunity for our county. A lot of clients don't realize expungement is even an option. Tampa/Hillsborough worked with the State Attorney's office and the local government. They may be able to advise our county on how best to proceed. Laura Lee will reach out to them for direction and bring it to the CoC's Governance Board after researching it further.
- **Citrus Connection**
Laura Lee explained the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program. This is an existing program that HCPC will now be participating with. One of the recommendations from Florida Housing Coalition was to provide free or reduced bus passes for clients, and after the recommendations were rejected, Citrus Connection reached out to HCPC to let us know they already had the TD program in place and would like to work with us. Laura Lee and Sandy met with Citrus Connection a few times, and the Coordinated Entry team now has free passes and a process to assist clients getting started with the TD program.
- **Susan Pourciau's Departure from FHC**
Susan has left Florida Housing Coalition. She moved to Washington to serve as Policy Director for the US Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness.
- **Rebuild Florida**
Annie discussed new DEO funding, Rebuild Florida, to assist with those still struggling to recover from Hurricane Irma. People who have been affected by that storm can apply online or in person in Winter Haven. There is an emphasis on serving families, the elderly, or those displaced from Puerto Rico.

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