



**Joint Funders' Council and Providers' Council Meeting Minutes**

**July 26, 2024, 1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Habitat for Humanity and Virtual**

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<b>Providers' Council Attendees</b>			
Vice Chair April Lott	Chair Kevin Marrone	Lt. Zach Haisch	Michael Jalazo
Dolores Raffa	Micki Thompson	Ashley Lowery	Judith Warren
Michael Raposa (virtual)	Yvonne Morales	Di'Andre McKay (virtual)	Andy Coble
Shirlene Manuel-Lightsy (virtual)	Gabe Parra (virtual)	Ann Marie Winter	
<b>Funders' Council Attendees</b>			
Chuck Lane	Elise Minkoff	Joe Riddle	Jeanine Evoli
Celeste Fernandez (virtual)	Lynn Farr (virtual)	Arrow Woodard	Camille Henry (virtual)
<b>Guest Attendees</b>			
CoC Chair Kathleen Beckman	Sara Madden	Shawnese Reed	April White
Steve Blank (virtual)	Meridy Semones (virtual)		
<b>HLA Attendees</b>			
Daisy Corea, MPA	Victoria Kelly	Sezen Boylan	Cindy Kazawitch (virtual)
Megan Robinson	Cheri Holzbacher		

**Welcome** (presented by Providers' Council Chair Kevin Marrone)

- Providers' Council Chair Kevin Marrone called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.

**In Memoriam: GW Rolle and Zak White** (presented by Providers' Council Vice Chair April Lott)

- Councilmembers acknowledge the loss of CoC members GW Rolle and Zak White, having moments of silence and sharing stories. GW's service is Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg. Councilmembers wishing to contribute to GW's obituary should contact Victoria Kelly. Zak White's service was held Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Vice Chair April Lott and Lt. Zach Haisch state the importance of ensuring service providers have mental health support, as several providers have died by suicide in 2024. CoC Chair Kathleen Beckman asks if Mental Health First Aid training is possible.
- The importance of smooth collaboration between providers and funders is discussed, noting that this causes pressure amongst nonprofit leaders. Michael Jalazo notes that the CoC Providers' Council and Funders' Council have done well standardizing requirements for grantees. Arrow Woodard says that funders are working to adapt but sometimes have difficulty finding trainings,

HUD regulations, etc. Vice Chair April Lott thanks CoC funders who have worked to smooth out frustrations for providers, acknowledging that more work must be done to coordinate with HUD Representatives. Vice Chair Lott hopes HLA can assist with this HUD Rep. coordination.

- Arrow Woodard encourages providers to call funders with questions as they come up to ensure nobody is stuck. Arrow Woodard also notes that funders may be grant funded.
- Dolores Raffa discusses suicide training that is offered by the Personal Enrichment for Mental Health Services (PEMHS), stating that it may be possible to bring this training to providers. This interactive training is a couple of hours long. Micki Thompson states that 211 Tampa Bay Cares also offers this service and has four trainers on staff, inviting CoC members to contact Ms. Thompson to participate in this training. Additionally, 988 material is available. Ms. Thompson states this information is important to share with team members, not just clients; texting and online chat is available.
- Daisy Corea states that the VA offers suicide prevention training, as well.
- Ashley Lowery suggests suicide awareness training for leadership. Arrow Woodard suggests Leadership Pinellas may want to add this component. Council members agree that this is an important, necessary training opportunity.

**Consent Agenda** (presented by Providers' Council Chair Kevin Marrone)

- The Consent Agenda includes minutes and attendance from the May 2024 joint meeting.
- April Lott motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; Michael Jalazo seconded; motion carried.*

**Funders' Council Leadership: Chair** (presented by Daisy Corea, HLA CEO)

- Chuck Lane with the City of Clearwater has served as Interim Chair but must step down as he is leaving the City of Clearwater. Providers' Council Chair Kevin Marrone thanks Chuck Lane for his leadership within the CoC and City of Clearwater.
  - Chuck Lane states that his last day will be August 16<sup>th</sup> and that Dania Perez and Gabe Parra will fill in until interim and permanent replacements are identified.
  - CoC Chair Kathleen Beckman and council members thank Mr. Lane for his service, noting that he will be greatly missed.
- Elise Minkoff with Pinellas County Housing Authority has volunteered to serve in this role. Mrs. Minkoff notes that she chaired JWB and previously sat on the Funders' Council. Mrs. Minkoff notes that she prefers to lead organized meetings and is looking forward to reaching out to council members.
- The Funders' Council Chair is responsible for leading two Funders' Council meetings and co-leading the four joint annual meetings. Additionally, the Funders' Council Chair holds a seat on the CoC Board of Directors and CoC Executive Committee.

*Arrow Woodard motions to approve Elise Minkoff's nomination for Funders' Council Chair; Chuck Lane seconds; motion carries.*

**Funders' Council Leadership: Vice Chair** (presented by Funders' Council Chair Elise Minkoff)

- Funders' Council Chair Elise Minkoff requests nominations for Funders' Council Vice Chair. Arrow Woodard suggests Yvonne Morales from the VA. Chuck Lane suggests Karen Yatchum. Joe Riddle

notes that Pinellas County attorneys noted this would be a conflict of interest. No nominations are received, and the agenda item is tabled until the next meeting.

**Funders' Council Designee** (presented by Funders' Council Chair Elise Minkoff)

- Jennifer Artiaga has submitted an application to represent Karen Yatchum from Pinellas County Human Services as a permanent designee

*Chuck Lane motioned to approve Jennifer Artiaga's Funders' Council application; Jeanine Evoli seconds; motion carries.*

**Future Joint Meeting Planning** (presented by Providers' Council Chair Kevin Marrone)

- Future joint CoC Providers' Council and Funders' Council meetings will be Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>. HLA will send a scheduling poll for final independent meetings in November or December.

*Arrow Woodard motions to approve; April Lott seconds; motion carried.*

**CoC Anti-Camping Law and Task Force Update** (presented by Daisy Corea, HLA CEO)

- The CoC Task Force has met multiple times and will meet again on August 7<sup>th</sup> to work on action items. This meeting will include data from the shelter questionnaire sent to providers, shelter costs, and opportunities to convert donated portable classrooms into emergency shelters.
- Providers' Council Vice Chair April Lott asks if Pinellas Hope is involved in these discussions. Daisy Corea answers affirmatively.
- Judith Warren with St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) states that SVdP is open 24-hours. Ms. Warren clarifies there is no unused space. Ashley Lowery states that the Homeless Empowerment Program does not have vacant space available.
- Dolores Raffa asks if any shelter providers have space for 18 trailers. CoC Chair Kathleen Beckman indicates through conversations with Joe Pondolfino, Pinellas Hope does not have space to use these as shelter.
- Chair Beckman states that code requirements may be an impediment. Michael Jalazo states that People Empowering and restoring Communities (PERC) may have space but would have to go through zoning.
- Providers' Council Chair Kevin Marrone states that he has been working with a pastor at the Pinellas Park United Methodist Church on utilizing 4.5 acres of land to build housing. Providers' Council Chair Marrone has invited church leadership to participate in CoC Task Force meetings.
- Arrow Woodard asks if adding space will focus on priority populations, such as ADA accessible space.
- Daisy Corea asks the group if they are familiar with Pastor Bill, formerly of Florida Dream Center, as he expressed interest in participating in Task Force meetings and organizing the faith-based community around this issue.
- CoC Chair Kathleen Beckman discusses an article in the Tampa Bay Times regarding the Pinellas County Sheriff's response to the anti-camping law. Chair Beckman worked with the HLA Vice Chair, attorney Aaron Swift, on a response that was submitted today. Chair Beckman states this is not related to Lt. Haisch and his work.

**CoC Priority Populations** (presented by Providers' Council Chair, Kevin Marrone)

- CoC Priority Populations are re-presented to council members. This was approved during the May 2<sup>nd</sup> joint meeting but has not been approved by the CoC Board. Some confusion came out of document formatting, so the list is presented to council members once more. Providers' Council Chair Marrone states that Veterans are included specifically and in subpopulations.
- 2024 CoC Priority Populations include households with the following:
  - Vulnerabilities and / or risk factors:
    - Life threatening health conditions and accessibility conditions
    - Severe and persistent mental illness or substance use disorder
    - Domestic violence within the past 3 years
    - Risk of harm and exploitation
    - Length of time homeless
  - Priority Populations:
    - Disproportionately represented minority groups
    - Veteran re-entry status within the past 3 years with the following additional population priorities
    - Families with minor children
    - Older adults (62+)
    - Chronically homeless households
    - Youth (18-24)
  - Interventions:
    - Prevention and Rapid Rehousing interventions
- Though this is not an action item during the joint meeting, this document will go to the CoC Board for approval on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Yvonne Morales states that Veteran status is very specific and limiting.
- Michael Raposa expresses concern over the specificity, requesting this just say "Veterans." Mr. Raposa ran through the compliance team at SSVF, and this is too specific to maintain approximately \$250,000 in system funding.
- Providers' Council Vice Chair April Lott states this list may be changed by the CoC Board.
- Providers' Council Chair Marrone and Vice Chair Lott note that the CoC Priority Populations list is primarily used for local funding. Michael Raposa states that CoC Priority Populations are used more widely than local funding requests.
  - Mr. Raposa expects this Priority Population to cut assistance by 90%.
- Daisy Corea states the SVdP funding funds Veteran Coordinated Entry, By Name List, Built for Zero coordination, and a Veteran Outreach Worker. Providers' Council Vice Chair April Lott clarifies with HLA CEO Daisy Corea that this loss would fundamentally change what the HLA can do.
- Providers' Council Chair Marrone notes that older Priority Population lists included every population.
- Providers' Council Vice Chair Lott recommends that the CoC Board vote to remove "re-entry status within the past 3 years with the following additional population entries" from the Priority Population List to ensure system function is maintained.

*April Lott motions to remove "re-entry status within the past 3 years with the following additional population entries," stating just "Veterans;" Elise Minkoff seconds.*

- Michael Raposa states that this is system-wide funding, not a gift to the HLA. Mr. Raposa notes the significance of maintaining system-wide funding.

- Providers' Council Vice Chair Lott notes that this list was discussed in various meetings and that this information – that this verbiage was too limiting – was not intended to remove system-wide funding from the HLA. Vice Chair Lott notes that Veteran services were represented in these planning meetings. Mr. Raposa apologizes if the St. Vincent de Paul team was not present and requests a common call for collaboration and civility amongst the CoC.

*The motion carried.*

### **Public Comment** (Group)

- Arrow Woodard states 4 of the 5 CDBG jurisdictions are starting their 5-year plans. Ms. Woodard asks if there is a priority public facility type project, that may be something to consider as part of the City of Largo's next project. Ms. Woodard asks if there is need for expansion projects. Providers' Council Vice Chair April Lott asks if a letter provided by the CoC would be appropriate. Ms. Woodard states that data and the Priority Populations List – including data to support it – would be beneficial. Vice Chair Lott clarifies if Ms. Woodard means if there is an opportunity for expansion that might be a project that should be submitted for consideration. Arrow says it wouldn't be in the 5-year plan, but it would require more coordination for a unified application.
  - Chuck Lane states that a lot of public outreach needed. Joe Riddle states there will be minimum of 3 public hearings for the 5-year plan needs/priorities. Mr. Riddle suggests a collaborative meeting with Funders/Providers and their planning consultants may be beneficial.
  - Providers' Council Vice Chair April Lott notes that the letter discussed in previous meetings would be beneficial to ensure consistent information provided to municipal and county government. Arrow Woodard states that something to support why the CoC's Priority Populations are the priorities would be beneficial.
- Daisy Corea introduces Megan Robinson, CoC Planning Specialist who will help coordinate committee and council meetings, and Cheri Holzbacher, Director of Performance and Quality Improvement.
- Daisy Corea shares a Notice of Funding Opportunity that came through the governments.gov website for permanent supportive housing (PSH) beds. This is \$175 million nationwide that must go through the CoC; funds will be allotted to 25 projects. Mrs. Corea says that if there is an appetite for rehabbing permanent supportive housing, HLA can assist. The application is due in November.
- Victoria Kelly shares Trauma Informed Care training, which begins July 31<sup>st</sup>. It is a free 5-part virtual series. All CoC members are invited to attend.
- Council members are invited to join the Point in Time County Report, which will be presented on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9am during the CoC Board of Directors meeting. Providers' Council Vice Chair April Lott notes that this number is critical related to the anti-camping law.
  - Dolores Raffa asks how many people can fit into the portable classrooms.
  - Vice Chair Lott states that safe parking opportunities have also been discussed. Vice Chair Lott notes that providers and funders must be focused on numbers. Vice Chair Lott also says that some people are already being told they cannot sleep in certain areas, stating that safe parking with access to resources must be part of the conversation.
  - Sara Madden wonders what other CoCs have done around safe parking and portables, suggesting reviewing their policies. Daisy Corea is unfamiliar with this but states that HLA

has been contacted about a service called the Dignity Bus. Council members would like additional information about the Dignity Bus. Vice Chair April Lott request the Dignity Bus link be emailed following meeting.

- The HUD NOFO has not yet dropped, but HLA will share a timeline as soon as the notice is sent by HUD.
- Providers' Council Chair Kevin Marrone invites council members to the Whispering Pines Apartments Permanent Supportive Housing for families on August 9 at 9:30am. This will be fully occupied next week.

**Closing and Adjournment** (presented by Providers' Council Chair Kevin Marrone)

- Providers' Council Chair Kevin Marrone adjourned the meeting at 3:44pm.
- The next meeting is Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.