



## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 12, 2023**  
**11:00 am-12:30 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Chair Jeanné Freeman, Johnna Coleman, Jim McShane, Holly Bernardo, Mandy Bianchi, Horace Thompson, Commissioner Rick Minor, Frank Norris, Gwen Virostek, Taylor Biro, Vicki Butler, Brenda Williams, Emily Mitchem, Chuck White, Shington Lamy

**Meeting Attendees:** Sarah Grindle-Rollins, Lona Ford, Eric Layton, Broderick Seabrooks, Jeff Kane, Sara Ramkissoon, Rev. Brad Clayton, Marie Vandenberg, Barry Walker, Gene Jager, Danni Hickey, Bret Oglesby, Amber Tynan, Justin Barfield, Jackie Fortmann, Rob Renzi, Lovena Basquin, Jodi Wilkof, Tracie Simmons, Melissa Radey, Dr. Kimball Thomas, Katherine Del Signore, Abigail Sanders, Robyn Wainner, Anita Morrell, Paul Pacchioli, Ashlee Barbel

### **Board Meeting**

**1. Call to Order** – Jeanne Freeman, Board Chair

**Johnna Coleman, ED, BBCoC**, welcomed everyone to the first 2023 board meeting. Johnna explained several key Discussion Items that she would be explaining in depth to everyone and reported that there has been an increase in unsheltered homelessness and a decrease in the amount of dollars to assist those experiencing homelessness and those that are needing homeless prevention to remain within their residence. Johnna also reported that we would schedule a Needs Assessment and Planning Committee Meeting for a discussion on solutions to the problems we have faced as a community.

**Jeanné Freeman, Board Chair**, called the meeting to order at 11:04am.

**2. Consent Agenda**

- a. October 13, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes
- b. Committee Meeting Minutes since October 2022
- c. 2022/23 Budget and CoC Financial Report October 2022- December 2022
- d. CoC Staff Report

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda was made by Jim McShane and seconded by Vicki Butler. None opposed. All members were in favor of the motion and motion carried and passed unanimously.**

**3. Discussion Items**

- a. Point In Time Count 2023 Updates – **Johnna Coleman**
  - 2023 Point in Time will be held January 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> from 6am – 9pm surveying our unsheltered. Outer counties will be held Thursday and Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. Counties to be surveyed are Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Franklin, and Taylor.
  - We did not get as much participation this year with donations, therefore, we will not give out gift cards to our survey participants but will distribute goodie bags. Businesses were not in a stable financial position to-date as in previous years. Johnna explained that the funds collected will be used to cover the cost of goodie bags and items to go into them.
  - We will use the same tools as last year to survey, and thanks to the City of Tallahassee for the very efficient application tool that we are utilizing.
  - We are asking everyone to follow our Facebook page for additional information and we encourage staff members to participate and asking managers to allow time for those who are interested in participating.
  - Training will be held Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1200 Church, 1200 W. Tharpe Street at 2:00pm. Johnna explained that Eric Layton, CoC Data and Training Director, will send out a virtual training to those who will not be able to attend the in-person training if the volunteer has previously participated in PIT.
  - We have had an influx in volunteers within the last two weeks. So far, we have signed up 45 volunteers.

b. Emergency Shelter for Cold Nights Updates – **Johnna Coleman**

- There was a larger timeframe for cold night shelter this year with the shelter opening during the Christmas holidays due to very cold temperatures.
- Received several emails regarding workflow for cold night shelter from agencies and each will receive a separate email regarding questions that were asked.
- We have cold nights approaching and everything is going well with providing shelter during that time.
- Street Outreach teams have made preparation for sending out notifications for cold night shelter and we will discuss in our Needs Assessment and Planning Committee meeting means of earlier planning for cold night shelter. Johnna explained that she is looking forward to receiving feedback from emergency shelters and community partners on making the process more efficient.
- Have spoken with Vicki Butler (CESC) on options for clients with animals because they are not allowed in the Kearney Center unless they are certified service dogs and clients don't want to leave them behind and this causes a barrier to assist the client with shelter.
- We haven't received notice from Emergency Management regarding cold night shelter for the weekend, although we are expecting a notice tomorrow, and Sunday - Monday are predicted to be the coldest nights.

c. Homeless Service Provision- Decreased Program Funding – **Johnna Coleman**

- The Federal Government has launched an initiative with USICH as a partner to address homelessness on the national level.
- Attended a webinar earlier this week and they are getting prepared to have a discussion on partnering with the City, County and State regarding initiatives that will provide affordable housing, workforce and unsheltered homelessness, rapid rehousing, homeless prevention, and street outreach.
- Clients are entering the system at a faster pace than exiting and it has caused a drastic clog in our system.
- All slides from this webinar will be posted on the CoC's website and future webinars will be forwarded to agencies.
- DCF is reviewing recaptured dollars from ESG that other CoC's weren't able to utilize and waiting to hear from them on how the funds will be distributed. Johnna will forward the information to everyone as soon as she is informed.
- The City and County are aware that resources are limited, and Lona Ford, CoC Finance Director, and Johnna will schedule a meeting with providers next month to discuss experienced challenges and receive updates on spending.

Jim McShane asked if we had an advocacy plan to present to the newly elected officials, considering there is approximately one month before legislature begins. Jim explained that he has sat with the new senator and advised that others should visit our local team of legislators and discuss means of assistance.

Johnna stated that we have worked with Florida Housing Coalition regarding new requests for this year and she will forward the information after this meeting.

Johnna explained to the Board that Taylor Biro asked questions about decreased ARPA dollars that agencies did not receive along with their allotted dollars. Johnna stated that the information was provided during our April 2022 Board Meeting that the CoC has access to approximately \$150,000 for Street Outreach and Permanent Supportive Housing and agencies which received ARPA funding are aware that the funding is being held until they near the ending of their allotted funding already allocated to them. Johnna explained that this subject will be on the Agenda of our next partner call for more clarification, if needed.

d. Committee Reports

i. Coordinated Entry Committee – **Johnna Coleman**

- Johnna reported that Tranesia Walker is out today due to a death in her family, and the minutes from the Coordinated Entry Committee meeting is attached with the Agenda.

ii. HMIS Committee – **Eric Layton**

- Relaunched our new BBCoC website in October ([www.bigbendcoc.org](http://www.bigbendcoc.org)). It was created as a web-based portal for the CoC to be able to share community events (featured on the website), and clients will have the ability to relate to the CoC through the website for available resources.
- Data Dashboards have been updated and we can feature some of the work that our agencies are doing, as well as client demographics.

- Eric asked everyone to take a look at the new website and let him know if there are any questions or concerns.
- iii. Needs Assessment and Planning Committee – **Johnna Coleman**
  - Due to COVID we had to cease our meetings, although, we will begin to schedule consistent meetings again in March and continue throughout the year.
  - Later in the year we will consider conducting a needs assessment for the community and gather data to update the Homelessness Assistance Plan to reflect our updated needs.
- iv. Project Review and Performance Committee – **Johnna Coleman**
  - There has not been any new funding streams and the committee have not met.
- v. Executive Committee – **Jeanné Freeman**
  - **No Report**
- vi. Ad-hoc Racial Equity Work Group- Racial Equity Survey – **Johnna Coleman and Taylor Biro**
  - Finalized Racial Equity Survey and it is ready to be distributed.
  - Taylor reported that the committee is open for new members for additional support and after survey is distributed the committee will determine the next steps and goals to move forward.

## 2. Rural County Updates

- a. **Gadsden – Johnna Coleman**
  - Alma Venisee, Investing in our Youth, has limited rapid rehousing funding for Gadsden County clients only.
  - Sarah Hinson, Outreach-Veteran’s Administration, will be the lead coordinator in Gadsden County for the 2023 Point in Time Count.
- b. **Wakulla – Jim McShane**
  - Met with Commissioner Messer-Smith, along with Johnna, and there are individuals experiencing homelessness in a camp behind Career Source in Crawfordville. There is not a shelter in the county and nowhere to house those that are homeless. Everyone has to be transported to the Kearney Center, and those who have jobs in Wakulla County have issues getting to work from Leon County.
- c. **Franklin – No Report**
- d. **Liberty – No Report**
- e. **Jefferson – No Report**
- f. **Madison – No Report**
- g. **Taylor – Vicki Butler**
  - Emergency Management team from Taylor County called her prior to our last cold night shelter and informed her that they had eleven individuals experiencing homelessness sleeping outdoors and she does not know who the contact person would be to talk with regarding the issue.

Jeanné stated that she will continue to email representatives from the rural counties that have not attended meetings and try to get participation from each county.

## 3. Public Comment/Announcements

- ❖ **Justin Barfield, CCYS** – Accepting applications and hiring for several positions within their agency.
- ❖ **Jim McShane, Career Source** – Has vacancy in their HR Department to operate the Executive Center.
- ❖ **Jeanné Freeman, Neighborhood Medical Center** – The Center recently received funding from Congressman Al Lawson (\$1.6 million) and Senator Lorraine Ausley (\$750,000). The funding will assist to open a Maternal and Pediatric Health Center in Havana next year, and we have a new Neighborhood Medical Center opening next month on South Monroe Street in the previous Hancock Bank building.
- ❖ **Commissioner Rick Minor** – Inquired regarding receiving updated data from 2022 and also the 2023 PIT count broken down by year on the data dashboard. Eric explained that there is about five years of data on the dashboard and the data community snapshot allows filtering agency, date range and also by the year. Eric also stated that the recent data for 2022 going into 2023 will be updated monthly moving forward. Johnna explained that 2023 PIT data will be available the beginning of April, although the community will receive this data prior to that timeframe. Preliminary data is available the week of PIT on our Facebook page. Commissioner Minor requested a presentation with the County Commissioners as soon as PIT data is available to determine upcoming needs in the community.
- ❖ **Holly Bernardo, Big Bend Homeless Coalition (BBHC)** announced that the agency has been working towards a shift and will become Family Promise of the Big Bend, and March 9, 2023, will be their signature event of rebranding and utilizing the new logo for the agency. Holly explained that this will give them an opportunity to work with partners on a national level and apply for funding in a different way.

- ❖ **Barry Walker, Warrior's Restoration** – We have been working with two Representatives, along with Florida Dept. of Veteran's Affairs regarding a housing solution for female veterans and families. Our agency has also requested funding, and it appears hopeful receiving it.
- ❖ **Mandy Bianchi, Ability 1<sup>st</sup>** – Ability 1<sup>st</sup> is one of the featured charities on the Target App and asked everyone to cast their votes for them.
- ❖ **Vicki Butler, CESC** – Day Services at the Kearney Center will reopen Tuesday after the holiday and will be reaching out to everyone to assist in helping them to serve as many clients as possible.
- ❖ **Tim Mosley, The Less Fortunate Still Matter Foundation** – Would like to get into the network to assist the organizations to grow. Mr. Mosley explained that his foundation has been working with the Kearney Center for approximately twelve years throughout the week delivering needed supplies and need more access to the various needs in the community because they serve up to seven different counties outside of Leon and would like to be added to the email list for various meetings, etc.  
Contact information for Mr. Mosley ([thelessfortunatestillmatters@gmail.com](mailto:thelessfortunatestillmatters@gmail.com)) 850-509-0251.

Jeanné thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication and explained that the CoC is very easy to access if anyone needs to contact Johnna or her team.

#### **4. Adjournment of Meeting**

Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:47am by Jeanné Freeman, Board Chair and wished everyone a Happy New Year!