



Quarterly Full Board Meeting

July 13th, 2023 – 11:00am-12:30pm

MINUTES

Board Members: Jeanné Freeman, Johnna Coleman, Jim McShane, Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox, Commissioner Rick Minor, Emily Mitchem, Brenda Williams, Commissioner Chuck Hess, Chuck White, Horace Thompson, Dr. Kimball Thomas, Gwynn Virostek, Shington Lamy, Katherine Del Signore, Taylor Biro, Frank Norris

Meeting Attendees: Dr. Lona Ford, Sarah Grindle-Rollins, Eric Layton, Broderick Seabrooks, Jeff Kane, Danni Hickey, Amber Tynan, Jackie Fortmann, Anita Morrell, Freddy Branham, Alma Venisee, Abena Ojetayo, Carol Weissert, Melissa Bourcier, Eleanor Vlick, Abigail Sanders, Cathy Campbell, Liz Rivero, Robyn Wainner, Taketha Branton, Cheval Breggins, Rob Renzi, Matthew Campbell, Bret Oglesby

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

Jeanné called the Board Meeting to order at 11:04am by welcoming everyone.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. April 13th, 2023 Membership and Board Meeting Minutes
- b. April to June 2023 Finance Report
- c. BBCoC Staff Report
- d. Designation of Big Bend CoC as HUD Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead
(Requires a motion to approve BBCoC as Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead)

Motion to approve Consent Agenda was made by Jim McShane and seconded by Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox. None opposed. Motion carried and passed unanimously.

3. Discussion Items

- a. DCF Funding
 - i. BBCoC and Sub-Contact DCF ESG-CV Amended Contract 2023-2024
Proposed Allocations – **Johnna Coleman**
 - We are waiting to receive the Amendment to the 3-year contract and include the new dollars into contracts that was allotted through legislation of this year. We have not received the information yet to move forward, although we are aware of the dollar amount that was awarded, and we have informed each agency of their award.
 - ii. 2022-2023 DCF ESG, TANF, and CHALLENGE Balance Report
 - ESG-CV3 has been awarded and agencies have been notified of their amounts. This information is in the board packet along with the Final Balance Report for the 2022-23 funding.
 - Dr. Lona Ford has zeroed out the contract by working along with each agency and Johnna thanked the agencies for submitting their Invoices in a timely manner.

- DCF ESG and TANF have been mailed and we are waiting for clearance from DCF regarding the Challenge grant, and afterwards checks will be distributed. Questions regarding agency dollar spending, please contact Lona or Johnna at the CoC.
- Lona is working on ESG CV Contracts and Invoice Summaries, which will be distributed to agencies as soon as possible.

b. ARPA Funding

i. 2022-2023 ARPA Spending Update

Johnna Coleman

- ARPA funding for 2022-23 extends through September 2023 and we are working with the City/County for new 2023-24 ARPA awards, which should begin 10/1/23. Agencies will be notified upon finalization.

c. HUD NOFO 2023 CoC Competition Brief- [FULL NOFO](#)

Johnna Reported:

- HUD has prematurely released the funding stream for NOFO, although, they haven't released any dollar amounts.
- The CoC is preparing for NOFO by updating policies, along with scoring tools.
- We will send out a request for project review committee members after the calendar has been sent with dates needed to review.
- Projects did not change this year and there is a bonus opportunity for a DV program, along with new project dollars, reallocation, and renewal projects.
- An update of new changes is included in the board packet, and we have included the link above indicating the location of the FULL NOFO packet.
- The NOFO is a community application, therefore, we will be reaching out to community partners and agencies for assistance in writing the application, and Letters of Support will be required for submission.

d. Committee Reports

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

- The Coordinated Entry and HMIS Committee meetings were both cancelled for the month of May due to a lack of information to update.
- Tranesia Walker, former Coordinated Entry Director, is no longer employed with the CoC, and the position is open for applicants to apply. Johnna thanked the CoC staff for their assistance in helping her with tasks for this position until an applicant is hired.

ii. HMIS Committee – **Eric Layton**

- The Learning Management System (LMS) was launched after three years of work with approximately eleven other CoC's throughout FL and GA towards getting it ready to automate training and assist trainers with other communities to shift from training to Data Quality and Analytics. This can be viewed at www.learnhmis.org.
- The CoC was honored to be selected by the 21st Century Council and FSU College of Education Foundation as the recipient of the Roger Kaufman Exemplary Agency Award for Data Quality and Dashboards.

Johnna Reported:

- The Award was presented to the CoC at the UPHS Conference and Johnna thanked Amber Tynan, Executive Director, and her staff for the presentation of \$1,000 gift to the CoC.
- Johnna gave kudos to Eric for the development of the LMS, utilizing spare and work time to do so. Very proud of Eric!

iii. Needs Assessment and Planning Committee – Johnna Coleman

- Committee met once in April and twice in May.
- Minutes from meetings are completed, although Johnna would like to summarize the outcome of each meeting, and this should be sent out within the next few days.
- Attendees brought to the table several ideas and solutions that we would like to incorporate through funding sources and the Homelessness Assistance Plan.

iv. Racial Equity Committee – Johnna Coleman

- Committee need a chair and will work along with staff to distribute material for each committee that needs a chair to gather information of those that's interested in joining the committees as well as someone volunteering to be the chair of the committee. Johnna explained that the Needs Assessment and Racial Equity committees are already formed, just in need of a chair.

v. Project and Application Review Committee – Johnna Coleman

- Need approximately 3-5 individuals to work on this committee.

4. Partner Updates

a. City of Tallahassee

No Updates

b. Leon County – **Shington Lamy**

5. The County held a Homelessness Workshop in partnership with the CoC and our homeless providers in May. Several actions were presented to the Board to build on efforts to reduce homelessness in Leon County:

- Establishing a Community Engagement position at the CoC office to engage and educate the community regarding homelessness.
- Continued funding for Street Outreach Teams, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), training and technical support to build capacity within agencies of our homeless providers in partnership with the City and funds that were provided to the CoC through ARPA funding. Shington explained that the County is trying to get the Contract in force within the next few weeks.
- The Board expressed their continued support to the Sheriff HOST Deputies who work closely with unsheltered homelessness in the community.
- Allocated \$500 to expand Day Services in emergency shelters to reduce homelessness and contracts should be forthcoming within the next few weeks.
- The Board adopted a campaign to reduce panhandling by installing signs within the medians that have high frequency panhandling to bring focus on our communities giving towards our agencies instead of the panhandler. Shington explained that every person in the median is not homeless and an alternative to our community that would like to give a donation could instead donate to the CoC, also educate themselves on the various resources that we offer to address homelessness.

- Working on bringing an ordinance to the Board to make it unlawful to hold a sign in the median for campaigning, fundraising, etc. due to unsafe conditions standing in the median and we will bring information back to the County Commission in the Fall. Shington explained that this ordinance would not apply to persons on sidewalks, only in the median.
 - Bringing options to the County Commission in November as part of a workshop on Human Services and CHSP for establishing a long-term dedicated Line-Item funding for emergency shelters. Working closely with Johnna as well as the City and providers to look at recommendations.
- c. Gadsden County
No Updates
 - d. Wakulla
No Updates
 - e. Franklin
No Updates
 - f. Taylor
No Updates
 - g. Jefferson
No Updates
 - h. Liberty
No Updates
 - i. Madison
No Updates

Jeanné stated that she has tried reaching out to each rural county to get representation at our meetings but hasn't had success in doing so. She stressed the importance and asked for suggestions to form communication from those counties.

5.Public Comment/Announcements

Taylor Biro Reported:

- There are some great initiatives from the ARPA grant, although the campaign is not in the guidelines to what HUD told us to do as advocates for the CoC. Taylor explained:
 - One of the goals for the CoC is to redistribute the authority from the City/County back to the experts on homelessness.
 - HUD reported that the system on homelessness wasn't working due to the City/County placing a huge focus on unsheltered homelessness that leans towards initiatives that hide the homeless from the public due to businesses complaints regarding the homeless in their business spaces, and home value goes down and crime goes up due to an increase in homelessness. Taylor explained that she did not think these should be funded concerns of the CoC. She also explained that there are several people working for the homeless community, and she doesn't feel as though we should support those things as well.
 - After seeing the anti-panhandling signs Taylor feels as though they are anti-homeless signs, and she feels as though the police in Street Outreach is anti-homeless and has systemic racism, and providing funding for both are systemic racism initiatives.
 - Taylor stated that she likes the work that the CoC is doing in the community, although, she feels that the CoC has enough staff and does not think that the CoC needs to blur the

lines between direct care, especially when many direct care organizations are not fully capable of funding their programs at this time, and she feels that it's causing a harmful power balance.

- Our programs are underfunded, and the problem needs full focus and Taylor feels the panhandling signs are awful, although, she thinks this is only the beginning. The Staffing Director was contacted to bring back an Agenda Item outlining alternatives to sleeping arrangements for individuals currently sleeping in public spaces and the potential impact this has on the County. Taylor believes this can be the County's prerogative and not that of the CoC.
- We have given police officers and sheriff's maps to our homeless camps that were created by Street Outreach teams and now we are making it illegal to camp and sleep in public spaces and illegal to panhandle, and this is being done in the middle of a housing crises.
- We need to go back to our roots and create some internal policies that protect the CoC and requires us to prove an initiative as evidence-based and that it's actually going to work here in our community and find out if it has worked in other places. Other communities have tried the same tactics for anti-panhandling and Police Outreach, and we have seen that it only makes things worse.
- A policy needs to be in place that holds the CoC's feet to the fire for the homeless and not for the needs of the City and County.

Shington's Clarification Response:

- There was not any ARPA funding utilized for the Campaign.
- The Ordinance that the Board asked them to bring back specifically looks at activities in the median and does not have anything to do with the homeless camping nor their sleeping arrangements.

6. Adjournment of Meeting

Jeanné thanked everyone for their time and thoughtfulness that's being put into the CoC and the community. She explained that the task that we face from day to day is huge and if we continue working together and show respect towards everyone's opinion, we will make a great impact on homelessness in our community.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.