



Board Meeting

July 11th, 2024 – 11:00am-12:30pm

MINUTES

Board Members: Jeanné Freeman (Neighborhood Medical), Johnna Coleman (BBCoC), Vicki Butler (CESC), Taylor Biro (LGBTQ Task Force), Gwynn Virostek (CCYS), Chuck White, Jessica Lowe (Leon County Schools), Sonya Wilson (CESC), Fred Thompson, Brenda Williams (Tallahassee Housing Authority), Fatima Oleabhiele (Capital Area Community Action), Tamika Fields (Family Promise)

Meeting Attendees: Dr. Lona Ford (BBCoC), Sarah Grindle-Rollins (BBCoC), Eric Layton (BBCoC), Ciara Tucker (BBCoC), Tori Stephenson (BBCoC), Jeff Kane (BBCoC), Lovena Basquin (BBCoC), Micha Allen (BBCoC), Abby Thomas Sanders (Leon County), Sylvia Smith (Big Bend Cares), Rob Renzi (Big Bend Cares), Robyn Wainner (City of Tallahassee), Kimberly Lyles (International Rescue), Justin Barfield (CCYS), Alma Venisee (Investing in our Youth), Derek Hubble (Family Promise), Halle Bush (Brehon), Jackie Fortmann (Leon County), Cindy Kimbrell (Legal Services), Coach Sue Semrau, Pat Thomas, Micah Doster, Nickolas Bittle (FSU), Elizabeth Robinson (Geeksi Connection), Steven Passeti (Family Promise), Red Caloco (Family Promise), Salena Burden (4 Sisters), Anita Morrell (City of Tallahassee)

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 11, 2024 Membership and Board Meeting Minutes
- b. April to June 2024 Finance Report
- c. BBCoC Staff Report
- d. Designation of Big Bend CoC as HUD Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead
(Annually requires a motion to approve BBCoC as Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead)

Jessica Lowe made a motion for approval of Consent Agenda and Rob Renzi seconded. All were in favor and motion carried and passed unanimously.

3. Discussion Items

- a. Funding Updates (as of 5/31/24)
 - i. Expected Contract Amount for 2024-2025
 - ii. 2023-2024 DCF Spending Update
 - iii. 2023-2024 ARPA Spending Update
 - iv. HUD HMIS and Planning Contracts 2024-2025
 - v. COT ESG Spending Update

Johnna Reported:

- Original contracts ended June 30th and we have not received new contracts to-date. The expected amounts are in board packet, along with spend-downs. Agencies will be notified

regarding 2024-25 Contracts as soon as the CoC hears from DCF. A call is scheduled next week with DCF to discuss contracts.

- ARPA Spending Update is included in packet. The Contracts will end September 30th and new contracts will begin October 1st.
- HUD HMIS and Planning Contracts 2024-25 are included in packet, as well as City of Tallahassee Spending Update.

Taylor Biro asked if ARPA Contracts goes through a Line Item with City and County Commissioners vote or considered staff approval.

Johnna explained that ARPA dollars were originally distributed in 2021 and are post-Covid dollars and Amendments goes through the County but are not Line Items. The Contract is a continuous spend-down of dollars.

- b. HOUSE BILL 1365: Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping: [FULL BILL HERE](#)
 - i. CoC Statement on Sanctioned Encampments
 - ii. Estimated Cost of Sanctioned Encampments

Johnna Reported:

- Johnna explained House Bill 1365 and stated that it does not allow individuals to sleep nor camp on public property (county areas, sidewalks, etc.)
- Do not know how DCF will allocate funding associated with the Bill for the CoC's and have not heard anything to-date regarding this. Johnna explained that the Bill states there is funding allowed for the CoC's to respond to issues related to homelessness (sanctioned encampments), although the CoC's decided that the cost of a sanctioned encampment is not considered humane nor feasible. Have spoken with City and County and all are in agreement.
- There is a draft of the CoC's Statement in packet, along with a draft of numbers estimating cost for encampments. Cost is astronomical compared to Permanent Supportive Housing.
- This was finalized the last week in June, and we are not sure of legal ramifications at this time. Worked with the county prior to this date and worked on the CoC's Statement.

Discussion

Taylor Biro – What does this look like in our community, and will we have to enforce it?

Johnna – This will place the county at risk with legal penalties. The CoC will make sure everyone affected by the Order knows what the consequences are, and we are conducting this via Street Outreach and through Tori Stephenson, CoC Community Liaison.

Abby Sanders (County) – Continuously working with Attorney as to how this works with enforcement with our county due to the Order affecting only public property and land. There will be penalties if we don't develop a solution and we will keep working with the County Attorney and will pass any updates to Johnna and the CoC. Public land is any land owned by Government entity (School District, City, County, etc.). There will be legal ramifications for the county but not sure of the level for allowing individuals to sleep on public property, and the legal ramifications will go into effect January 1, 2025.

Johnna – Street Outreach is meeting bi-weekly developing a By-Name List and identifying anyone that might be in a public area and will try to get them to a different location prior to the 10/1 deadline.

Johnna asked for any edits, concerns or input to be directed to her as soon as possible. She will be working towards having everything finalized and posted, after approval from the Executive Committee, by September 1st.

c. Committee Reports

i. Coordinated Entry Committee

Johnna Reported:

Micha Allen is our Coordinated Entry Director and we have met for a discussion on revamps to Coordinated Entry Trainings, etc. Will schedule a meeting soon to form a committee within the next month.

ii. HMIS Committee

Eric Layton Reported:

Working with the 12 CoC's in our area for HMIS implementation in Alabama and the FL Panhandle for new HMIS vendors. Looking for other options available. Will report any findings within the next couple months. The Q&A sessions and window for submission regarding a new vendor will be August 31st and our decision will be determined the beginning of November. At that time everyone will be notified.

iii. Needs Assessment and Planning Committee

Johnna Reported:

Committee is in need of a chair. Committee met in June and will meet August 21st at 10am. This will be a virtual meeting and information is located on our website. Sarah will send out information prior to the meeting.

Our current Homelessness Assistance Plan ends in 2025 and would like to see what the community needs. Anyone interested in becoming a member of this committee, contact Johnna.

iv. Racial Equity Committee

Johnna Reported:

Committee is in need of a chair. Contact Johnna if anyone is interested in working on the committee or becoming a chair.

v. Project and Application Review Committee

Johnna Reported:

This committee meets during times of competitions and NOFO is approaching soon. Agencies that have renewal projects please clean up data and make sure APR's are accurate, which counts as a huge portion of your score. Will send out any correspondence regarding NOFO as soon as we receive notice. Anyone interested contact Johnna. Individuals will not be able to apply for funding through the CoC if serving on this committee.

Discussion

Taylor asked if Law Enforcement had access to the By-Name List and if clients gave their consent to this.

Johnna explained that only HOST Deputies have access to the By-Name List, and they work with our Street Outreach Team, and they also gather consent.

Sylvia stated that an informed consent will need to be reevaluated once the county has completed its analysis. Sylvia also stated that we should keep this topic on radar and discuss often to make sure our clients rights are protected with informed consent.

4. Partner Updates

- a. City of Tallahassee – **Robyn** – Working on CHSP Award Letters and they will be distributed soon.
- b. Leon County – **Abby** – Will continue working with County Attorney and will reach out to Johnna with any progressions.
- c. Gadsden – **Jeanné** will reach out to Gadsden County officials regarding their participation in meetings.
- d. Wakulla County – *No Updates*
- e. Franklin – *No Updates*
- f. Taylor – *No Updates*
- g. Jefferson – *No Updates*
- h. Liberty – *No Updates*
- i. Madison – *No Updates*
- j. Partner Agencies

5. Public Comment/Announcements

Jessica Lowe – Leon County School Board

- The School Board had a reduction in allocated dollars and the District Department will be merging our department with social workers and health services and will be under Ms. Tonya Fitzgerald beginning this fall.
- We have CARES dollars that must be exhausted by September 30th. Our department will be able to purchase clothes, shoes, products and supplies. Due to workers comp and risk management, we will no longer supply hotel vouchers to support those that are experiencing homelessness.

Cindy Kimbrell – Legal Services

- Will share with everyone their Post Disaster Flyer, along with a flyer listing all services from their agency. Johnna asked if she would forward it to the CoC and we would share it also.

Public Comment/Announcements

- **Johnna** reported that Tori Stephenson, BBCoC's Community Engagement Liaison, has been working to find locations for cooling stations. The CoC Street Outreach Team will host cooling stations downtown within the next two Fridays. We will have cooling towels, water, etc. and we are also working to provide additional community resources. Johnna asked anyone who might know of a community business, church, etc. please send to Tori.

6. Adjournment of Meeting

Jeanné thanked everyone for attending and Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am.