



CFCH Leadership Council

MINUTES

Recorded at meeting held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Chair Mike Griffin called the meeting to order at 11:05am.

Present were

Mayor Jose Alvarez, Mayor Jerry Demings, Mayor Buddy Dyer, Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Shannon Gravitte, Mike Griffin (*Chair*), Dawn Haynes, Jeff Hayward, Aaron Hill, Eric Jackson, Tim McKinney (*Vice Chair*), Kay Rawlins;

Guests: Todd Carr, Thomas Chatmon, Robin Fawsett, John Hearn, Allison Krall, Desiree Matthews, Bob Miles, Andrew Thomas;

Staff: Martha Are, Brian Postlewait, Paula Atkinson, Rashad Haynes, Christopher Fowler and Greg Mellowe.

Opening Remarks

A moment of silence was observed for Jackie Dowd of iDignity.

Griffin welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness (CFCH) Leadership Council. He remarked that this is an important step aligning CFCH with the Central Florida Continuum of Care (CoC). He noted that the CFCH leadership will take on responsibility for strategies implemented, as well as maintain transparency with providers and all stakeholders.

Jeff Hayward mentioned that we are the envy of other communities because of this alignment and the strategic opportunities it presents.

Bezos Day 1 Families Fund

Martha Are announced that our region was selected to receive funds from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund. The award of 5.25MN was the largest award in the country. The award, to be spent over 5 years, is intended for literally homeless families, and expected to be for value added services, rather than replacement for existing dollars. An RFA for sub-recipients is projected to be done in the first quarter of 2020.

Are reviewed the eligible uses of the funding, which includes shelter diversion; expanding access, especially for families with profiles the systems is not well equipped to assist at this time; expansion of Rapid Rehousing services; case management for non-chronic families needing permanent supports; and landlord recruitment efforts. We will be encouraging providers to try new ideas (flex their entrepreneurial muscles)

Mayor Buddy Dyer asked about how we plan to liquidate or monetize the stock awarded. Are responded that HSN's Board is actively seeking best practices from selected financial institutions.

Shannon Gravitte asked about restrictions on the awards. Are noted that funds must be spent in compliance with the awarded application, but with flexibility.



Mayor Demings asked whether the grant agreement has been executed. Are responded that we have not received the executed copy as yet. Demings asked that the Council be provided with a copy of the executed agreement. Mayor Alvarez expressed enthusiasm about the prospect of this resource coming into our system, adding that Osceola has a lot of families that need help. Griffin acknowledged how important that issue is and commented that the hope is to increase services available.

Unsheltered Homeless Study | California Policy Lab

Are presented on a study conducted by the California Policy lab which focused on contrasting attributes and health conditions of sheltered versus unsheltered populations experiencing homelessness. She noted, for the Council, that the study used data gathered across the country from VI-SPDAT assessments.

Mayor Demings commented that the report highlights the need for mental health and substance abuse treatment options. Mayor Alvarez asked for clarification on the relevance of this study, commenting that this study may create some confusion regarding terminologies used. Are responded that the study reinforces the community's position of making our approach with Housing First be trauma informed.

It was acknowledged that homelessness in Kissimmee and Sanford manifests differently compared to Orlando. This group is expected to help shape the strategy to ensure that the community may be able to provide the most appropriate and client-centered response for all regions covered. McKinney commented that it would be useful to have more mental health resources available.

Mayor Demings asked about the time period the study was conducted over. Are replied that they looked at over 60,000 assessments, but she was unsure of the time period. Demings continued inquiring whether we were able to validate the study's observations with our experience here in Central Florida. Are stated that it is part of our next steps.

Introduce CFCH New Structure

Election of new Leadership Council Members

Griffin asked the group present to recall when a vote was placed to convene this group. Under the new structure, this group would focus on shaping the strategic priorities for the region.

MOTION: Tim McKinney moved to approve the CFCH Leadership Council members as presented. Jeff Hayward seconded the motion which passed with unanimous consent.

Are then walked through the CFCH Managing Board, also included in the board packet. She noted that this board will maintain decision making responsibility for staying in compliance with HUD.

MOTION: Hon. Buddy Dyer moved to approve the CFCH Managing Board which was seconded by Hon. Jose Alvarez. All were in favor.



CFCH Leadership Council Committees

Griffin turned the attention of the council to the Committees List in their board packet, noting that these are the committees being proposed to help ensure that the strategies discussed are being employed. He also mentioned that Homeless Services Network will be hiring someone to focus on advocacy and public relations and invited persons present to identify individuals who they believe will work well in these groups. All Committee members do not have to sit on the leadership council.

The At Risk Committee will be chaired by Community Resource Network. Dawn Haynes commented that the concerns about hotel families raised by Mayor Alvarez are considered in this arena.

Update on Transfer of Assets

Bob Miles reported on the assets that CFCH held and what has been transferred. He highlighted that 21,000 has been held to cover remaining expenses (accountant, IRS 990)

He then added that after nine years of service he has decided to step down from the CFCH Board, but will make himself available to the persons remaining. Griffin thanked him for his service adding that he has been very helpful and the community owes him a significant debt.

Other Business

Meeting Dates

Griffin noted that it was originally intended for the Leadership Council to meet quarterly. However, it was felt that would limit the opportunities to keep the Council properly informed and also limit the council's ability to shape the strategic priorities of the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness.

The idea of meeting bi-monthly was presented and accepted.

The next meeting of the CFCH Leadership Council will be February 26, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm