

2012-13 ACCHH Annual Report

At the beginning of the year, we were notified that the State changed its funding for CoCs. This was a good news/bad news type thing. The good news was that we received more funding for CoC operations in the past. The bad news was that it was at the expense of funding the Challenge Grant that typically went to service providers for one-time expenses or rental assistance. The funds were also non-recurring.

The website was updated with a new look. It is now being updated on a regular basis.

The HEARTH Act requires us to establish a Coordinated Intake/Assessment process that is Continuum-wide. We have begun working on this but have a great deal more work to do before we can say we are ready and in compliance with the Act.

On October 25th, we held our 14th Annual Breakfast on the Plaza and Homeless Services Fair. It was once again very successful. Planning for our 15th Annual Breakfast is underway. It will be held November 14th, 2013.

ACCHH received \$25,000 in CAPP funding based on our \$56,000 request. We applied for \$56,000 again this year.

We have been working with the City of Gainesville as they move forward with their purchase of the former Gainesville Correctional Institution site. Once opened, the site will house the services previously planned for GRACE Marketplace, as well as services designed to empower residents and help prevent persons from falling into homelessness.

Formerly, the Alachua County Housing Authority was able to serve as our fiscal agent for purposes of advancing grant funds and salaries; waiting to be reimbursed for those funds until after the Coalition was reimbursed by our funders. Due to changes at the Housing Authority that were initiated by HUD, they are no longer in a position to provide us with that service. Therefore, it is imperative that the ACCHH become more solvent so that we do not have to rely on other agencies to provide these types of services.

In January, our Executive Director Jack Donovan, left the position of ED but joined the Board of Directors. This helped to provide some continuity. Theresa Lowe took over the duties of the ED. Jennifer Moises joined ACCHH as an Assistant and Elizabeth Lowe joined ACCHH as the HMIS Data Clerk.

Because of a number of issues at HUD and the Federal level, we lost \$230,911 in Continuum of Care funds. These are dollars that were awarded in the 2011 grant cycle but that HUD never got into contract. The end result was that our renewal and pro rata need amounts ended up being reduced by that amount. We are also still waiting to hear if other grants that were applied for during this year's cycle will be awarded or not. HUD is very far behind in issuing contracts (as evidenced by the funds that were lost in the 2011 cycle.)

We conducted the annual Point In Time Survey and counted 2,227 homeless persons. This was an overall increase of 130 persons. Our sheltered count rose from 543 in 2012 to 755 in 2013, mostly due

to increases in the number of HUD-VASH vouchers. The school system count also rose from 316 to 477. Our unsheltered count dropped from 1,235 in 2012 to 995 in 2013. We think most of the drop is attributable to changes in how the count was conducted and not an actual decrease in the number of persons who are homeless in Alachua County.

We participated in the First Annual Masquerade Merriment fundraiser, along with NAACP of Alachua and the Pride Community Center. We didn't earn that much and had a poor turnout from our agency. We are hoping for greater participation in the upcoming year.

Our Coalition actually represents five counties, not just Alachua. We have been reaching out to the other counties to try to get them more involved.

We have been notified that the State will continue the CoC funding. This will allow us to maintain a full level of staffing and continue to grow the Coalition. There will also be a competitive grant for rental assistance. This funding will go through the local Coalitions. As of now, we have not additional details about this grant.