

Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry
Membership Meeting
Holy trinity Episcopal Church on February 19, 2014

Brendan Shortley called to order. Minutes were approved with corrections noted.

Speaker – Meridian SSVF Program

Shawntell Brown, Barbara Richardson, Ebony Herrington

SSVF is a new program funded by the VA and administered through Meridian providing assistance to homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. The goal of the program is obtaining and maintaining long-term stabilized housing. They provide case management, assist with housing searches and help with obtaining veterans benefits. They also assist with deposits, past due rent, past due utilities, moving costs and some initial housing expenses. They have subcontracted with Three Rivers Legal Services to provide legal assistance such as evictions, veteran benefits, wage garnishment and unemployment. They've also subcontracted with Catholic Charities for financial planning services such as budget assistance. They can be reached by phone, email or in office. The office is located at 901 NW 8th Ave., in the same building as Three Rivers Legal Services.

CoC Competition - Theresa Lowe

The complete application was submitted for 2014-2015. It encompasses two years. We'll still have to do an update next year, but it will be much smaller in scale. In the meantime, we'll need to keep working on the CoC policies and procedures. Meetings are held the first Thursday of month at 10:30 at ACHA.

Point in Time - Theresa Lowe

This year's count was as follows:

- 2091 for this year
- 902 sheltered
- 617 unsheltered
- 572 – school children

This year's total is less than last year. The lower count is likely due to the weather. Realistically the homeless count is likely higher. A detailed report will probably be released in April.

GCI Update - Theresa Lowe

The city informed us that we should have the keys by end of the week. We're still waiting on insurance to complete underwriting. Job postings for Operations Director, Office Manager and Database Administrator have been posted. Hope to have positions filled and on site by mid-March. Client advocate positions will come next. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet on ACCHH website – it includes hours availability, and interests. Meal calendar is set up but not posted – will post it as time gets closer – need to get a better idea of how many meals we need. Part of our contract requires us to strongly encourage those who provide meals on the Plaza to do it at Grace Marketplace instead. The City is working with RTS to create a bus pass for Grace, much like the Senior Center bus pass. There is also the possibility of getting a van. A wish list has been created on Amazon.com. You can find it on Amazon by searching “Theresa h. Lowe” – “Grace Marketplace wish list”. Items do not have to be purchased on Amazon.com but it can be used as a guide for items in need. We will also accept cash donations. Terry Fleming is coordinating an office furniture collection. His email is sfcctpf@aol.com. Day one services will include mail, storage, phone calls, restrooms, case management, 2 meals/day, and showers if the

plumbing gets corrected in time. Initially, no children can be on the property due to liability. No police clearance will be required. Brendan discussed the fact that city did not buy the surrounding woods, and there is only a 30-foot barrier around the fence line. However, the City will allow tents inside the fence line. The March meeting will allow the community to give input. ACCHH will provide a Powerpoint of the property at the March meeting.

Program Eligibility Spreadsheet

This was sent out on the listserv. Complete one form for each program your agency provides – not one per agency, but one per program provided. The spreadsheet will be posted on acchh.org as a google doc that can be sorted, and manipulated based on needs. This way we can go on and use the services and sort according to the characteristics of an individual client.

Treasurer's Report - Theresa Lowe

We are still waiting on funds from DCF.

HMIS Workgroup – Theresa Lowe

Still working on some questions related to different programs and how they're offered. A comprehensive universal intake form has been completed. There will be two versions. Version A is minimal, B is expansive. A universal exit form was also created. The next task is HMIS policies and procedures. HMIS workgroup meetings are held the first Thursday at 9:00 am at ACHA.

CoC Workgroup - Theresa Beachy

Every renewal was met except for GHA Vetport grant. That money went back into the general CoC fund and will be transferred to rapid re-housing programs. We likely will not hear from HUD until summer.

GPD Report - Cpl. Deal

There have been a lot of unreported homeless on homeless crimes. He shared story about an individual who was recently beat up. GPD followed-up and made arrests. They are also working with social workers from the VA to identify and assist homeless vets who are eligible, but not receiving services from VA. Spice overdoses have decreased due to the targeting of the sellers. GPD cannot enforce spice use at the street level. Cpl. Deal also asked if we can help with "DJ". There have been complaints from citizens in the downtown area, and Cpl. Deal feels that "DJ" is in need of assistance, but is unwilling to seek it out.

Other Announcements

Terry Fleming - The Masquerade Merriment will be held April 4 at the Hippodrome. Tickets are \$30. Proceeds go to benefit The Pride Center, The NAACP and the Coalition. See Terry or Theresa for tickets.

Miriam Elliott –Will be taking part in the "CROP Walk" to raise money for hunger. 75% of the proceeds go to international organizations and 25% goes to St. Francis House and Gainesville Community Ministries. She is asking for donations to sponsor her walk. An email with information was sent out on the listserv.

Alachua County Social Services – ACSS has SHIP funds to help with rental assistance. A notice will go out on the listserv. There will be one social worker, Cheryl McFadden, who will handle the SHIP program.

Vicki Lawrence – She and others will be holding another meeting at Tent City that will provide food and a dumpster to help clean-up the area

Next Meeting March 19, 2014 Noon at St. Francis House