

**Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry
Membership Meeting
Holy trinity Episcopal Church on January 15, 2014**

Brendan Shortley called to order. The minutes for January were not distributed. It was agreed to wait on approval of minutes for the next meeting.

Speaker – Alachua County Coalition Against Human Trafficking

Maria Semac

The coalition just formed this last year. It is affiliated with Trinity United Methodist. It's a collaboration with local volunteers and advocates. They have also coordinated with other social service agencies. The goal is to build a safety network of partnerships to identify, rescue and restore victims of human trafficking. The homeless population is especially vulnerable and therefore prone to be trafficked. The term human trafficking includes sex trafficking and labor trafficking such as farm workers, domestic servitude, and debt bondage. The coalition consists of four committees:

- educational committee
- fundraising awareness
- victim services/advocacy
- Legal

The next meeting is Fri Jan 24th at Trinity United Methodist. January is National Human Trafficking Awareness month and yesterday, the Alachua County Commission named this month Human Trafficking Awareness month in Alachua County.

Action Items

Director's Report – No report

Treasurer's Report - Beth O' Grady

Waiting for the DCF contract money to come in. The contract includes the executive director's and administrative assistant's salary, plus some administrative expenses. Beth will bring the treasurer's report to the next general meeting.

Special Events Workgroup – No report

HMIS Workgroup – No report

CoC Workgroup – No report

PIT Workgroup

We still need a lot more volunteers to sign up. Every agency needs to help. He sign up schedule was passed around.

Putnam county is likely to do a street count for the first time this year. The next meeting for the Putnam County Pit Workgroup is Tuesday, January 21, at 10:00 a.m. at Heart of Putnam. The date for the Putnam count is also January 29th.

Police Report – No GPD present

Current or Formerly Homeless Individuals

Other Items:

The Gainesville City Commission has an agenda item that includes some new enforcement issues regarding the Downtown Plaza scheduled for their next meeting. The board will not be present because of contract negotiations, but it would be good to have representatives from the Coalition present. There is an underlying feeling that once GCI opens the city will have an alternative which will allow them to start forcing people away from downtown.

David Reed of the Alachua County Nutrition Alliance discussed the city-held visioning session and tour of GCI on Friday. Many of the advocates at the visioning session discussed the fact that GCI will not be an alternative. There was a lot of support for having a tent city on the property that allows participation without requiring it. Brendan Shortely added that having there be a free bus zone from downtown to GCI was also discussed heavily. The contract negotiations bar any further discussion of the project.

Salvation Army is feeding 5 days/week from 4-5p.m. Also they're doing cold night shelter. They can take about 16 men and 15 women.

Annette Kennedy - Interfaith Hospitality Network has changed their name to "Family Promise".

Angie Pye updated the Coalition on the issue from last month regarding the removal of homeless belongings. There was a discussion between the chief of police and city manager. They have come up with a protocol that involves notifying individuals that that area was going to be closed for work. Heart of Putnam went before the commission to ask if they could provide cold shelter. The commission agreed to appoint someone to a local coalition-type committee for the homeless and also to take part in the PIT count.

The next meeting is February 19, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.