



Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes  
April 16, 2025  
Sarasota County Health Department

Attendees:

Devon Jarrett	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Millie Stepanek	Safe Children Coalition, Schoolhouse Link Program
Jason Saffels	CFBHN
Angela Wilson	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
John Harney	Suncoast Partnership Board
Taylor Neighbors	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Jalynn Booker	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
David Setchel	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Pam Fields	Legal Aid of Manasota
Sharon Marchese	Sarasota County Government
Margi Dawson	Turning Points
Tina Juillerat	League of Women Voters
Cathy Bryant	Streets of Paradise
Joy Paul	Streets of Paradise
Cathy Graff	Mothers Helping Mothers
Carol Estrada	CONP Social Services, City of North Port
Ali Kleber	Advocate
Ben Petro	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Christina Russi	Caring Collective
Layla McCarty	Sarasota County
Devin Beede	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Beatriz Cordoba	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Tiffany Morgan	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Ursula Fare	The Salvation Army
Lakisha Zanders	HOPE Family Services
Paul Sutton	SCOSA
Lize Francis	Manatee County
Erin Eisenheimer	CONP Social Services, City of North Port

**I. Welcome & Attendance-Taylor Neighbors, CEO**

The meeting commenced at 9:05 A.M. Taylor welcomed all in attendance. Attendees signed in on our attendance sheet. Devin Beede introduced himself, as did Tiffany Morgan, Beatriz Cordoba and Kristi Ryan, our new staff members.



**II. Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2025**

Minutes were approved without opposition.

**III. Manatee County Update: Leah Hudson, Homeless Project Manager**

The location of the Sheriff's Office Fresh Start project has changed. The county is finalizing a plan to transform the current Public Works facility on 26<sup>th</sup> Ave E to the homeless shelter. This new location is more centralized, and the building has a larger total square footage.

Helping Up Mission is reviewing the operations contract for Under One Roof with their board. They now have two employees working full-time at the administrative building and are finalizing the providers for the other office spaces. The current anticipated opening is the end of summer.

As of April 5, the Community Development department has received all applications for CDBG/ESG/HOME funding and the selection committee is actively reviewing and scoring all submitted projects. All scores will be submitted by early May, and the preliminary decisions will go before the board on June 3.

**IV. Community Resource Spotlight: Cathy Bryant & Joy Paul, Streets of Paradise**

**Streets of Paradise** began with just a few people, many who were formerly unhoused or directly impacted, who gathered each weekend to share food, supplies, and solidarity with neighbors living on the street.

In February 2018, Streets of Paradise officially became a 501(c)(3), allowing them to expand the work they were already doing. By 2019, they saw a deepening need. People who were being re-housed were moving into empty spaces; no bed to sleep on, no table to eat at, no lamp to light the room. And so, their Street to Home initiative was born. They secured a 4,300 sq ft climate-controlled warehouse and began collecting furniture and household essentials. Since then, they have transformed thousands of empty units into warm, welcoming homes. They are open for tours as well as accepting donations, M&W, 9:30am-12:30pm.

Today, they work side-by-side with hundreds of case managers, organizations, and community partners. They have served tens of thousands of meals, provided countless showers, and shown up after every storm, disaster, and heartbreak that's come their way.

**Pamela Fields, Esq. – Legal Aid of Manasota**

Founded in 1991, Legal Aid of Manasota provides legal services at no cost to those in need by partnering with local lawyers. They serve both Sarasota and Manatee Counties. They provide a full range of civil legal services, including Guardianships, Family Law, Estate Planning, Housing, Consumer Bankruptcy, Wills & Advance Directives and Probate to preserve Homestead. Legal Aid of Manasota also supports local non-profit agencies through their Community Counsel Project, providing free legal services with contracts,



insurance, lease agreements and real estate matters. Teaching people about issues before they happen is their goal. Justice is not justice if only the rich can afford counsel and gain access to the courts.

**V. Suncoast Partnership Updates:**

➤ **CoC System Performance Measures – Jalynn Booker, SPTEH**

FY 2024 System Performance Measures (SPM) affect projects such as Street Outreach, Emergency Shelters (Entry/Exit), Emergency Shelters (Night by Night), Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Permanent Housing and Permanent Housing with services. It is an annual report that each CoC generates from their HMIS/CSIS. It helps to evaluate how well a local system is doing to prevent and end homelessness. The report is submitted to HUD to develop national benchmarks based on:

- Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless – FL500 had a decrease in this benchmark.
- Measure 2: Returns to Homelessness – In general, there were lower percentages which is a positive.
- Measure 3: Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness – There were a smaller number of persons served in shelters, and a slightly larger number of people served in Transitional Housing.
- Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth - Total Income for Stayers did not increase from the previous fiscal year. This number could be improved by ensuring data for Earned Income is being updated regularly. Total income for leavers (those who exit the system) increased overall. This number could also be improved by ensuring the data is being updated regularly.

**Data Quality for Measure 4:**

- ✓ Be sure Project Start Date and Project Exit Date are completed in real time and are accurate.
  - ✓ Ensure Date of Birth is accurately filled out to identify adults.
  - ✓ Ensure Income and Sources are accurate and fully filled out at Entry, Annual Assessment and Exit.
  - ✓ Monitor Annual Assessment Due Warnings in Clarity for all active clients.
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- Measure 5: Number of persons who become homeless for the first time – Observed a lower number of people becoming homeless for the first time.
  - Measure 7: Successful Placements – Found a greater percentage of clients served in shelters and housing programs were exited to permanent housing destinations. The plan is to continue improving street outreach data.

HUD looks very closely at our SPM's. In June we will be able to compare them to other CoC's. It is key that we monitor and clean up the data. We will take a deep dive into SPM's on May 8<sup>th</sup> at our next Leadership Council meeting.



➤ **CSIS Updates: Jalynn Booker, SPTEH**

On April 1 we entered into a contract for system administration assistance with BitFocus. PIT & HIC reports will be completed and submitted to HUD. Once we get approval from HUD, we can release the data to the public.

➤ **Suncoast Housing Collaborative – David Setchel, SPTEH**

This is a collection of agencies who have clients that need housing and have immediate needs. Landlords are offered incentives/retention bonuses for clients still in place. There is money to spend by the end of June. We are relaunching this program with existing landlords as well as recruiting new landlords in both counties. The website has all the information.

**VI. Training – Jalynn Booker, SPTEH**

Coordinated Entry and Data Quality training courses are offered monthly on Fridays from 2-4pm. A training calendar is on our website. Basic Skills training is a must before any other. Licenses are issued twice a month. You can use Fresh Desk tickets to request training. Self-paced training courses are also available.

**VII. Funding Updates: Taylor Neighbors**

Our community will receive over \$2 million for RR, PSH, HMIS, CE, and our Planning Grant. The State Unified Contract, TANF and Challenge Grant are all still up in the air. We are waiting to hear from the State. More information to follow. The RFP will go out for these funds.

**Other Funding Updates:**

Layla McCarty mentioned Opioid Education funding.

**VIII. General Announcements and Public Comments**

**David Setchel:** We are planning a Day Conference on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at The Salvation Army on Tuttle St. Asking for ideas of topics and presenters. Some include:

- DCF Trainings
- SOAR Training
- NAMI
- ID Resources
- Cultural Sensitivity Training (USF)
- Resilient Retreat for Trauma Informed Care
- PIT Training
- Community Benefit Specialist, Mike Day, does MOU's with 14 agencies

Margie with Turning Points spoke about their event coming up.

Harvest House is going back to an emergency shelter for 90 days only. They applied for funding.

**IX. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 A.M.