

Flagler County Homeless & Housing Taskforce

April 2, 2:30 -3:30 p.m.

Flagler County Government Services Building

Present:

| First Name | Last Name | Organization/Affiliation |
|------------|--------------|---|
| Holly | Albanese | County of Flagler |
| Sue | Bickings | The Sheltering Tree |
| Denise | Calderwood | Family Matters of Flagler |
| Louis | Callagari | Catholic Charities |
| Jerry | Cameron | County of Flagler |
| Wendy | Cruikshank | Life Coast Food Pantry |
| Tony | Deobil | Family Renew Community |
| Nancy | Eisele | LSF Health Systems |
| Lindsay | Elliott | Flagler Habitat for Humanity |
| Michael | Esposito | County of Flagler |
| Jack | Howell | Palm Coast City Commission |
| Christina | Jackson | Episcopal |
| Ellen | Kinciad | The Sheltering Tree |
| Paul | Kocsis | Family Life Center |
| Elisa | Malo | LSF Health Systems |
| Janet | Nickels | Flagler County Department of Social Services |
| Devrie | Paradowski | Flagler County Department of Social Services |
| Heidi | Petito | Flagler County General Services |
| Tracy | Pfuehler | St. Mark by the Sea Lutheran |
| Caryn | Prather | Flagler County Fire and Rescue |
| Barbara | Preston | Betty Griffin Center |
| Becky | Quintieri | Flagler County Sherriff's Office |
| Jeanne | Rademacher | United Way of Volusia and Flagler Counties |
| Ralston | Reodica | Flagler County SHIP |
| Carmen | Santiago | The Sheltering Tree |
| Rich | Santomassino | The Sheltering Tree |
| Bob | Snyder | DOH-Flagler |
| Pierre | Tristam | FlaglerLive.com |
| Jeff | White | Volusia Flagler Counties Coalition for the Homeless |
| Wanda | White | The Sheltering Tree |
| David | Williams | Flagler County Sheriff's Office |

Welcome and Introductions

Carrie Baird welcomed the group and introduction ensued

Update on Homeless Encampment

Those present shared a brief status update on the Homeless Encampment at the Library, including Heidi Petito from Flagler County.

Aligning Affordable Housing Efforts with Actions to End Homelessness

Ralston Reodica provided a brief summary of a national guidance document and a handout with the recommendations strategies was shared with the group.

Break into Sub-Committees: Homelessness and Affordable Housing

Those present split up into two groups to discuss strategies for Flagler County.

Notes from Homelessness Break-Out (Thank you Sue!)

The committee briefly discussed designing different strategies for assisting homeless persons by type, such as: homeless families in hotels, chronically homeless individuals, seniors with social security with no housing, inmates released, homeless veterans, etc.

Those participating shared existing assets/resources:

- Jeff White, from VFCCFH shared information about funding at federal and state levels: DCF Grant, Challenge Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant. There is another grant coming in May/June for funding. Catholic Charities will have future ESG funds for Flagler County. (80% to Volusia 20% to Flagler, by population)
- Jeff also shared info about VI-SPIDAT: documenting homeless persons for the HMIS program to get assistance when it becomes available.
- Lisa Cancel, Changing Homelessness, can assist homeless and nearly homeless veterans with rent assistance and other issues.
- Holly Albanese, Flagler County Library, has meeting rooms available on a weekly basis for Coalition and County personnel to do Outreach there. Her mission is to educate the public and help people. Holly encourages agencies to do Outreach there on a regular basis. Heidi stated that county busses can be available to pick up homeless individuals and bring them back and forth from the library. Just need a time and pick up location. Holly would like to see a regularly scheduled date to have service organizations together at the library for assistance to our homeless friends. The library has GED and Adult High School on line classes for free, or scholarships.
- Noted resource: Assurance Wireless (free phones)
- Caryn Prather shared that community paramedicine program checks on homeless people regularly.
- Lou Callagari at Catholic Charities shared that they are a great resource of volunteers: St. Vincent de Paul Society, Social Justice Ministries, GED at inmate facility all from Santa Maria Del Mar Catholic Church.
- Sue Reese, from Health Dept. regularly goes to library to assist.
- Robert Snyder, Flagler County Health Department, shared information on two florida resources to work on new housing development: Carrfour and Ability Housing.
- Pastor James at Church on the Rock offers his facility for more assistance to homeless persons. They already do showers, laundry and meals on Wednesday and Saturdays (9-3 pm) in addition to Thursday night supper at 6:30 PM. Their church, zoned B-1 has a mission to our community to help.
- Becky Quintieri shared about the STRIDE program, helping released inmates get ID and get "home"- wherever that is in the US.
- Tony D. from Family Renew talked about the focus: families with children- a restoration program. Most families stay with FR 6-7 months but can stay up to 24 months. Success rate is high. Tony would like to see us bring Family Renew to Flagler County. Need: new property or renovation, and then assistance with operating costs for 2-3 years until the program is fully up and running. Currently FR in Volusia is at 98% occupancy, with 50 families on Wait List. The VI-SPIDAT prioritizes families.

Sub-group meeting wrapped up at about 4:45 PM

Brief Notes from Affordable Housing Sub-Committee

Carrie Baird provided a summary of the four strategies the Attainable Housing Committee of the Commission on Homelessness and Housing of Volusia and Flagler Counties has proposed: community education, access to existing rental stock, new housing development and developer friendly public policy. Those present discussed specific opportunities and actions to be taken related to the proposed strategies including:

- Creating a white paper for policy makers
- Exploring federal bonding for tenants
- Identifying land for development, working with city and county government
- Having nonprofit developers present outcomes
- Sharing communications to combat NIMBYism
- Sharing positive/balanced stories about individuals experiencing homelessness
- Using the Central Florida Commission's Rethinking Homelessness campaign materials

The next meeting will be May 7, 2:30 to 3:30.