



Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC)
Thursday, March 28, 2024 | 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Pinellas Park Barbara S. Ponce Public Library: 7770 52nd St N, Pinellas Park
Meeting Room: Kitchen-Side

The Pinellas Continuum of Care is dedicated to ensuring homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time experience.

Time	Topic/Materials	Action or Discussion	Lead
5:30pm	Welcome and Introductions	Discussion	Wayne Martin, Co-Chair
5:35pm	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Meeting Attendance • February 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes 	Action	Wayne Martin, Co-Chair
5:40pm	LEAC Business Cards	Action	Victoria Kelly, HLA
5:50pm	LEAC Membership, Attendance, and Stipends	Discussion, Possible Action	Kat McMillan, Secretary
6:05pm	Florida Senate Bill 1530 and House Bill 1365	Discussion	Victoria Kelly, HLA
6:50pm	Public Comment	Discussion	Wayne Martin, Co-Chair
6:55pm	Closing and Adjournment	Discussion	Wayne Martin, Co-Chair

2024 LEAC Meeting Attendance

Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Daniel Albright	x	x										
Gary Small	x	x										
Jennifer Haithcock	-	-										
Kat McMillan	x	x										
Melody Hefner	x	x										
Mike Chretien	x	x										
Norm Wagner	x	x										
Wayne Martin	x	x										

Meeting Minutes

**Pinellas Continuum of Care (CoC) Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) Meeting
February 22, 2024, 5:30pm – 7:00pm | Pinellas Park Barbara S. Ponce Library, 7770 52nd St. N., Pinellas Park**

LEAC Member Attendees		
Mike Chretien	Wayne Martin	Kat McMillan
Norm Wagner	Melody Hefner	Gary Small
Daniel Albright		
Guest Attendees		
Ruben Malipca	Matt R	Lawrence Stenzel
Ronald Montero	Jack Flippen	Edna Charmaine Kennedy
HLA Attendees		
Victoria Kelly	Sezen Boylan	Mario Rodriguez

Welcome and Consent Agenda (presented by Victoria Kelly)

- Meeting was called to order at 5:28pm.
- The Consent Agenda included January 2024 meeting minutes and LEAC member attendance.

Melody Hefner motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; Kat McMillan seconded; motion carried.

- The group discusses recording future meetings.

Melody Hefner motioned to approve recording future LEAC meetings; Wayne Martin seconded; motion carried.

LEAC Leadership Overview, Nominations, and Election (presented by Victoria Kelly)

- An overview of the Co-Chair and Secretary positions was provided. Co-Chairs will set meeting agendas, liaise with external stakeholders, ensure the committee's objectives are met, lead the committee in discussions and decision-making processes, oversee subcommittees and workgroups (if needed), and participate in the bi-monthly CoC Board of Directors meetings. The Secretary is responsible for taking meeting notes, leading LEAC meetings in the absence of the Co-Chairs, and participating in the bimonthly CoC Board of Directors meetings in the absence of the Co-Chairs. LEAC leadership terms are 1-year, January 1st – December 31st, and future LEAC elections will take place during the December meeting.
- An overview of the election procedures was provided. The floor was opened for nominations, and candidates were permitted 3 minutes to speak, answer questions, or have an advocate speak on their behalf.
- Kat McMillan nominates Wayne Martin for Co-Chair. Mike Chretien nominates himself for Co-Chair. Ronald Montero (guest) nominates Gary Small for Co-Chair.
 - Wayne Martin states that he is working on a 5-year plan, as well as considering immediate needs, such as meals, job readiness, education, and general community engagement. Gary Small asks Mr. Martin about previous leadership experience. Mr. Martin explains that he served as Section Leader at a previous job and Assistant Manager of a fire brigade.
 - Mike Chretien states that he is a current member of the CoC Board of Directors, noting the value of having someone with recent lived experience on the board, as well as the importance of steady liaising with leadership. Mr. Chretien also points to previous experience as Secretary of a board. Gary Small asks if serving on both LEAC and the CoC Board would be too heavy a lift schedule-wise. Mr. Chretien explains that he believes serving on both would be beneficial.

- Gary Small discusses leadership experience as a previous business owner, stating the importance of keeping agendas on track, keeping meetings focused, delegating authority, and so forth. Mr. Small points to his several years of lived homeless expertise and current position working at a food bank. Mr. Small states that knowledge is power.

Melody Hefner motioned to elect Wayne Martin as Co-Chair; Kat McMillan seconded; motion carried.

Wayne Martin motioned to elect Mike Chretien as Co-Chair; Kat McMillan seconded; motion carried.

- Wayne Martin nominates Kat McMillan as Secretary. Kat McMillan nominates Melody Hefner as Secretary. Melody Hefner nominates Daniel Albright as Secretary.
 - Kat McMillan discusses current experience with homelessness and the importance of progress. Ms. McMillan mentions the value in future collaborations with every organization providing homeless services. Ms. McMillan states she will do her best if elected.
 - Melody Hefner states that she has experienced homelessness for 9 years and is trying to do her best for both herself and the community.
 - Daniel Albright expresses thanks and declines the nomination.

Gary Small motioned to elect Kat McMillan as Secretary; Daniel Albright seconded; motion carried.

LEAC Meeting Planning (presented by Victoria Kelly)

- LEAC members review meeting dates, which fall on the 4th Thursday of each month. The committee discusses rescheduling November and December’s meetings due to the holidays. HLA suggests the 3rd Thursdays of these months, November 21st and December 19th.

Kat McMillan motioned to approve rescheduled meeting dates; Wayne Martin seconded; motion carried.

- LEAC members review the meeting time, which is currently 5:30pm – 7:00pm. Members discuss extending the monthly meetings to 7:30pm.

Wayne Martin motioned to continue 5:30pm-7:00pm meetings; Kat McMillan seconded; motion carried.

- LEAC members discuss preferred stipends, including Wawa, 711, Target, Walmart, Publix, and Aldi gift cards.

Kat McMillan motioned to provide Walmart and Publix gift card stipends; Gary Small seconded; motion carried.

- LEAC members discuss necessary meeting supplies, including portfolios, binders, legal pads, a meeting notebook for the LEAC Secretary, business cards, and resource guides.
- Transportation needs are discussed. HLA offers to assist those needing a monthly bus pass, and committee members request gas cards for members who drive to meetings.
- Potential trainings are discussed, and LEAC members express an interest in board governance, professional development, and public speaking training.
- LEAC members request handouts to aid in recruitment and advocacy, including a PR guide and one-pager or brochure with statistics about homelessness, resources, and information about the committee.

Added Agenda Item: Street Outreach Planning Meeting Discussion (presented by Sezen Boylan and Victoria Kelly)

- The collaborative LEAC and Pinellas Street Outreach meeting was discussed. Mike Chretien, Wayne Martin, Norm Wagner, and Daniel Albright participated in and shared insights about this meeting.
- Sezen Boylan explains that Street Outreach is supports people experiencing homelessness in securing permanent housing. Street Outreach is designed to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by connecting them with critical services. Pinellas Street Outreach teams are one of the primary ways (access points) to get connected to Emergency Shelter and other services. There are several organizations and municipalities providing Street Outreach across Pinellas County. Mrs. Boylan explains that the HLA is asking for the expertise of LEAC members to ensure Pinellas Street Outreach Policies and Procedures follow true best practices, really meeting the needs of the community.
- Committee members indicate that sometimes Street Outreach feels more like “transient trespass enforcement.” The committee discusses how approaches can be difficult but that things may improve. Committee members suggest drop-in centers / regularly posted schedules to ensure easier contact with Street Outreach. Committee members also suggest increasing clean and sober shelters.

Closing and Adjournment

- Wayne Martin, Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.
- The next meeting takes place at 5:30pm on Thursday, March 28th.

Proposed LEAC Business Cards

Front:



The front of the business card features a vertical decorative bar on the left with green, yellow, and blue segments. The logo for Pinellas Continuum of Care, showing a family silhouette, is positioned at the top left. The text 'Pinellas Continuum of Care' is stacked vertically, with the tagline 'Ending Homelessness Together' in a smaller font below it. To the right, the title 'Lived Experience Advisory Committee' is prominently displayed in a large, bold, blue font, followed by the tagline 'Creating change through lived expertise' in a smaller blue font. Below this, two QR codes are provided: the first is for 'About LEAC' with the URL www.PinellasHomeless.org/livedexperience, and the second is for 'Support the Mission to End Homelessness' with the URL www.PinellasHomeless.org/donate.

Back:



The back of the business card features the same vertical decorative bar and logo as the front. The title 'Lived Experience Advisory Committee' and tagline 'Creating change through lived expertise' are repeated. Below, two QR codes are provided: the first is for 'View Resources' with the URL www.PinellasHomeless.org/resourceguide and the subtext 'Employment, Health, Hygiene, Meals, Shelter, Transportation, & More'; the second is for 'Request Help' with the URL www.PinellasHomeless.org/request-help and the subtext 'Referrals for families & individuals experiencing & at-risk of homelessness'.

LEAC Charter – Membership and Attendance

Membership

Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) Members will consist of those with lived experiences of homelessness or those closely associated with the unhoused community. Members will serve as representatives and advocates, driving the committee's initiatives.

LEAC Members must be members of the Pinellas Continuum of Care (CoC). CoC Membership is free for persons with lived experiences of homelessness within the last 7 years. Scholarships for CoC membership may be available for those who experienced homelessness more than 7 years ago.

Recommended members for this committee include individuals with lived experience who represent the following organizations, groups, or persons:

- 2 People who have previously experienced homelessness and are employed at a CoC member agency
- 2 People who are currently experiencing homelessness in Pinellas County
- 2 People who experienced homelessness within the last 7 years but are not currently experiencing homelessness
- 1 Person living with a physical disability
- 1 Person living with a mental/emotional disability
- 1 Survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- 1 Person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, regardless of length of service, and who was discharged or released there from, excluding anyone who received a dishonorable discharge
- 1 Person who is a part of the LGBTQIA+ community
- 1 Person who is part of a family with minor children
- 1 Person who is a senior

Attendance

The quorum for Lived Experience Advisory Council meetings follows quorum requirements set in the CoC Charter. As of December 2023, quorum requirement is 50% + 1. Every member is asked to RSVP to the monthly meeting announcements for physical attendance. In-person attendance counts towards quorum; virtual attendance is not allowed unless an accommodation has been requested and approved. Attendance for all voting members will be tracked. LEAC follows attendance requirements as set in the CoC Charter. As of November 2023, excused absences can be granted for up to 25% of annual meetings. Members with unexcused absences for more than 25% of meetings will be asked by the Chair to step down.

Florida Senate Bill 1530 and House Bill 1365

Recent legislation, Florida Senate Bill 1530 (SB1530) and Florida House Bill 1365 (HB1365), now Florida Statute 125.0231, has been passed and will go into effect on October 1, 2024. These new laws state:

- Municipalities and counties cannot authorize or allow public camping or sleeping on public property without certification from the Department of Children and Families (DCF).
- Public sleeping / camping is:
 - Defined as lodging / residing outside:
 - In a temporary outdoor habitation used as living space, as evidenced by:
 - Use of a tent or temporary shelter;
 - Presence of pillows or blankets; or
 - Storage of personal belongings.
 - Without a tent or other shelter
 - Not defined as:
 - Sleeping overnight in a motor vehicle that is registered, insured, and located in a place where it may lawfully be.
 - Camping for recreational purposes on property designated for such purposes.
- If there is inadequate shelter space, municipalities may designate public camping locations on county or municipal property. This must:
 - Be approved by the county's – and if applicable, municipal – governing body;
 - Be certified by DCF;
 - Provide running water, bathroom access, and security;
 - Not be in use for more than 365 consecutive days;
 - Is not located in an area zoned for residential use;
 - Is not located in an area that would negatively and significantly affect the property value or safety and security of other existing residential or commercial properties and would not negatively affect the safety of children;
 - Prohibit alcohol and drug use;
 - Provide behavioral health services, including substance use and mental health treatment resources;
 - Follow inspection and community posting requirements.
- This law permits Pinellas residents and business owners to sue counties and municipalities for noncompliance.
- This may not apply during a state of emergency in this or neighboring counties.

The full text is available at <http://laws.flrules.org/2024/11>.



The Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas, Inc.

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Chair, Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas Board of Directors

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February 28, 2024

Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas Encourages Lawmakers to Consider Alternatives to Florida Senate Bill 1530 and House Bill 1365

Pinellas County, Florida - The Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas (HLA) is urging Florida lawmakers to carefully consider the implications of Florida Senate Bill 1530 (SB 1530) and House Bill 1365 (HB 1365), which may negatively impact local governments, nonprofit organizations, and Floridians experiencing homelessness. As advocates for the most vulnerable members of our community, the HLA encourages legislators to explore alternative approaches that prioritize permanent housing solutions and transformative supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

SB 1530 and HB 1365 propose measures to prohibit sleeping on public property, requiring certification from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and introducing the possibility of legal action against local governments for noncompliance. However, these bills do not allocate adequate funding for shelter or vital supportive services. This places a strain on local governments and nonprofits, further limiting resources available to community members experiencing homelessness.

According to the latest report from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Pinellas County, Florida, faces significant challenges related to homelessness, with high rates compared to similar communities nationwide. Over 2,100 individuals, including families, Veterans, seniors, and children, experience homelessness in our community on any given night. Penalizing these individuals and families for their involuntary circumstances only perpetuates cycles of poverty and marginalization, hindering critical efforts to address homelessness effectively.

The Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas encourages lawmakers to explore alternatives that focus on funding and housing solutions that these individuals and families need, ensuring all members of our community are treated with compassion, dignity, and justice.

About the Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas:

The Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas (HLA) strives to prevent, divert, and end homelessness in Pinellas County by providing leadership to community partners and stakeholders in the planning, implementation, and alignment of the community-wide crisis response system. The vision of the Homeless Leadership Alliance is to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and a one-time experience.

The HLA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that serves as the Pinellas Continuum of Care Lead Agency, Collaborative Applicant, and HMIS Lead Agency and provides housing navigation, administrative support, coordination, and funding management to carry out the policy goals of the Continuum of Care.

To learn more about or support the Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas, visit www.PinellasHomeless.org.