



FUNDERS' COUNCIL
February 23, 2024 | 9 AM – 11 AM
Virtual Only

[Click Here to Join Virtually](#)
Meeting ID: 880 1216 4476
Passcode: 819209
Dial-In: [305 224 1968](tel:3052241968)

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

Time	Topic/Materials	Information/Action	Lead
9:00-9:05 AM	Welcome		Kathleen Beckman
9:05-9:15 AM	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Minutes from December 2023 Review Agenda 	Action	Kathleen Beckman
9:15-9:30 AM	Meeting Schedule and Location for 2024	Information	Kathleen Beckman
9:30-10:00 AM	HMIS Policies and Procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and provide feedback 	Discussion	Kathleen Beckman
10:00-10:30 AM	Funders Council Charter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential changes to Chair role 	Discussion	Kathleen Beckman
10:30-10:40 AM	New Members for Funders Council	Discussion	Kathleen Beckman
10:40-10:50 AM	Interest in HUD Alignment Training	Discussion	Kathleen Beckman
10:50-11:00 AM	Workflow Information Request	Discussion	Kathleen Beckman
11:00 AM	Adjourn		Kathleen Beckman

December 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Pinellas Continuum of Care
Funders' Council Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2023 | 9:00am – 11:00am
Virtual Only
[Click Here to View Meeting Recording](#)

Attendees		
Karen Yatchum	Lynn Farr	Arrow Woodard
Carol Stricklin	Chuck Lane	Helen Rhymes
Joe Riddle	Councilmember Kathleen Beckman	Jeanine Evoli
Sara Madden (Guest)	Ann Marie Winter (Guest)	Camille Henry (Guest)
HLA Attendees		
Dr. Monika Alesnik	Lara Wojahn	Victoria Kelly

Welcome (presented by Dr. Monika Alesnik)

- Dr. Monika Alesnik called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
- Funders' Council members, guests, and HLA staff were introduced.

Funders' Council Chair and Vice Chair (presented by Dr. Monika Alesnik)

- Dr. Monika Alesnik asks that the council elect a Chair and Vice Chair during this meeting, as Duggan Cooley resigned earlier this year. Dr. Alesnik also asks if Funders' Council members think it should be permanently merged with the Providers' Council. There are challenges on the Funders' Council because staff members at local governments are restricted from taking positions that may conflict with their elected officials.
- Karen Yatchum explains that Pinellas County's attorneys discussed a Pinellas County team member serving as the Chair in this capacity and does not recommend it, as it goes against an internal county directive regarding staff participating on boards.
- Karen Yatchum supports merging the Funders' and Providers' Councils, as the joint meetings are more productive. It is also more efficient as there is no need to wait for the second group to meet to vote on the same decision.
- Dr. Alesnik notes that there are a lot of prescribed processes and contractual obligations for the HLA and the CoC and it would be beneficial to shorten the time it takes to make a decision. This is a good time to look at the structure of the CoC and make improvements going forward. The joint Funders and Providers meetings have shown how beneficial they are.
- Chuck Lane agrees that joining the two boards makes a lot of sense.
- Arrow Woodard stated that there is now, post-COVID, more overlap between Funders and Providers so merging would be helpful.
- Dr. Alesnik states that HLA will propose the merger to Providers' Council later today if approved by the Funders' Council, noting that this would ease the meeting-burden of CoC members.

Chuck Lane motions to recommend to the Providers' Council that they merge the two committees; Arrow Woodard seconds; the motion passes unanimously.

Proposed 2024 Funders' Meeting Schedule (presented by Dr. Monika Alesnik)

- Proposed meeting 2024 Funders' Council meeting dates are reviewed without objection from councilmembers:
 - Funders' Council: Friday February 16th; HLA proposes hosting December 20th's meeting on November 15th or December 13th due to the holidays.
 - Joint Funders' and Providers' Council: Fridays April 19th, June 21st, August 16th, and October 18th.
- Dr. Alesnik notes that the Chair of the Providers' Council has reviewed and approved the joint meeting dates.
- Dr. Alesnik informed the attendees that she will let the Providers Council chair, April Lott, and the incoming Providers Council chair, Kevin Marone, know about the vote and present that at the Providers Council meeting later today.
- Arrow Woodard asks how long the merger would take.
- Dr. Alesnik states that they are reviewing the charters for both Providers and Funders councils and that they are able to combine meetings without a change to the charter, but if they combine the committees permanently, they would need to change the charters for Funders, Providers and the main CoC charter. If the merger isn't immediate, they still need a chair for Funders Council.

Reminders (presented by Dr. Monika Alesnik)

- Dr. Alesnik reminded attendees that the Point in Time Count will require volunteers and asked that attendees have their team volunteer.
- Dr. Alesnik announced they are soon interviewing for the Special Initiatives Coordinator position.
- Dr. Alesnik announced that Victoria Kelly has been promoted to Senior Manager of Organizational Advancement and Strategy.
- Dr. Alesnik stated that they are monitoring the weather and are ready to activate Cold Night Shelter if the weather gets too cold overnight and HLA will be sending out an email later today.

Group Discussion (presented by Dr. Monika Alesnik)

- Karen Yatchum notes that the last joint Funders/Providers meeting, family shelter was listed as the priority and a letter was supposed to be forthcoming to all the municipalities and governmental agencies. At the time, Karen Yatchum noted this might cause family shelter to be funded over other projects. Now that Pinellas County is working on Street Outreach, they are waiting for written standards on street outreach before they procure the service provider. The question is asked if these funds should be diverted to family shelter because street outreach is saturated in the county, acknowledging that they lost points in the NOFO because there is no county-wide street outreach.
- Arrow Woodard discusses Largo's Street Outreach: the street outreach person is inundated with phone calls every day in a couple hours, 20 to 30 phone calls. They have a front door for families through 2-1-1 but don't have a front door for homeless individuals. It's unsustainable because

then street outreach folks aren't out in the street; they're answering phone calls. Wonders if there is a way to potentially use part of that as like a front door like a call center for coordinating that for homeless individuals. Or how we how we somehow triage that volume calls because the hospitals and rehab centers, instead of calling Largo, now they're having their clients call directly so that they are not contacting the shelters for intake.

- Helen Rhymes discusses St. Pete's Street Outreach: it's twofold because they have PATH. The issue is that for some of the shelters, the way they get in is through street outreach. So, you need to work out how those individuals get in. They only serve St Pete residents. If they don't have a full street outreach countywide then that impacts the areas that we do have. Plus, they have people that just show up and obviously people travel around, they're in all different municipalities. Trying to figure out where people reside mostly is an issue, but they really don't have a place to tell people to turn to if we don't have full county wide street outreach, but to Karen's point she is worried about the family shelter aspect of that because the ARPA dollars are going to end. Their scattered site family shelter, which is 25 beds right now (at up to 28) will go away. That's \$2.5 million. That cannot come from general fund dollars. So that is a very big worry.
- Karen Yatchum replied she felt like the message she left with at the last joint meeting, loud and clear, was family emergency shelter is the number one priority. The County has focused on funding for adults, because there is a Juvenile Welfare Board and the Children's Services Council in the community. So, the focus has always been adults or adults without children. JWB still funds some services at St. Vincent De Paul for family emergency shelter out. Some of the decisions that is what is the best use of the funds: reprocur outreach. She believes it was agreed that outreach should not be a call center; they should be locating those that are the most vulnerable, that are living on shelter that need to be connected to various services, including shelter. Would not be an advocate to create additional call centers, there are enough individuals living in shelter that need connection. And the connection to behavioral health is also of utmost importance.
- Jeanine Evoli with Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) states that she will take this information and need back to JWB, stating that their focus has primarily been on prevention with a significant amount of funds going towards the Family Services Initiative and helping prevent evictions and homelessness.

ACTION ITEM: HLA Staff will work with Providers Council on the letter explaining prioritizing family emergency shelter as identified by Providers and Funders in October.

- Arrow Woodard suggested that as part of updating the standard procedures for street outreach they could standardize the time to get a call back such as 48 or 72 hours to give the street outreach staff time to focus on street outreach. Otherwise, they would spend all day answering the phone. She asked if other organizations are applying for expansion of their family shelters or for operating expenses.
- Chuck Lane responds that they are not going to put out anything specific to that but would support an expansion of family shelters. It's much easier to get funding for capital projects than for operating expenses.

- Arrow Woodard states that they were thinking about putting it as the number one request in the RFA in the application cycle this year and if they don't get it, they're probably going to do some neighborhood projects. Asks if others are looking at anything like that as well.
- Joe Riddle states they are not looking specifically at family shelter but if they did receive an application requesting funding to expand a family shelter, it would be one that they would look to fund if it scored the appropriate funding.
- Arrow Woodard asked if it makes sense to award family shelter projects with additional points if it is a county priority this year.
- Joe Riddle responded that their structure is not set up that way right now. The majority of projects that they receive they are able to provide funding for the score them to rank them and one or two fall off each year but the scoring doesn't identify priority areas.
- Chuck Lane will talk to his advisory board about prioritization of family shelter projects since this is the number one issue in the county right now.
- Lynn Farr states that they do not have a priority list in their setup either. The applications will start in January for subrecipients to apply for funding they do public service and capital improvement projects.
- Jean will take this back to Beth and let her know of the need for more family shelter and this discussion. They do not have a lot of family shelter investment. She listed a few investments they have in shelter. Their focus is on the prevention end and a significant amount of money is in the family services initiative to try to prevent families from becoming homeless. A lot of requests they have are for eviction prevention. They focus on this to prevent more families from becoming homeless.
- Karen Yatchum asks if the document is coming that shows that family shelter is a priority of the CoC. Also asks if it is accurate that they lost NOFO points due to lack of countywide street outreach. She needs this information to help inform her decision on what initiative to focus on - street outreach or family emergency shelter - when making recommendations to county administration.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Alesnik will pull up the NOFO scoring to determine what points were lost on lack of street outreach.

- Dr. Alesnik noted that Built for Zero program lost points. If the CoC wants to continue doing Built for Zero they will need to expand Street Outreach.
- Dr. Alesnik notes that both Built for Zero and family shelter are important needs.
- Karen Yatchum replied that the message and discussion from the last meeting that the CoC asked all funders to ask how this can be increased – street outreach is \$440,000 – not a large amount but will be a small increase if they want to take this approach.
- Arrow Woodard asks that the rapid rehousing program – lots of funds in the system from the pandemic – they can help get the families rehoused quicker would some of the money bolster rapid rehousing?
- Karen Yatchum – the funders of rapid rehousing right now have about a couple million. We all know finding housing is the issue. Teams are at capacity. Looking at ways to shift funding to serve more families. But that was not where she understood the priority of the CoC to be.

- Arrow Woodard – the motels and shelters burn up money and then at the end the families still don't have permanent housing so they are looking at this as not a good way to spend the money and would prefer rapid rehousing.
- Joe Riddle asks if they are aware of any agencies with plans to expand family shelter if they had the funding?

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Alesnik will ask Providers if there are plans to expand family shelter at the next meeting.

- Arrow Woodard wonders where is the pandemic-era list of potential expansion projects.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Alesnik will go through Amy's files to see if there is a list of potential expansion projects.

- Joe Riddle states they need the list of projects to be able to start looking for funding to execute.
- Helen Rhymes sees both sides but when looking at the \$400,000 number if it is used it for scattered site it could be 2-3 months of assistance. Are other municipalities ready to put up money for that? St Petersburg is funding scattered site programs. They have 107 families on the shelter prioritization list. Scattered site is expensive and would consume the \$400,000 quickly. They have helped 100 families with \$2.5 million. So the plan with Built for Zero was to increase Street Outreach to reach the chronically homeless. Rapid rehousing was originally for individuals on the street not families. Only the Collab project is touching individuals right now.
- Arrow Woodard wants to know if it makes sense to have a countywide position that will focus on the long term chronic homeless on the street. A clinician position that works with street outreach folks to help the most vulnerable. Seeing a huge spike in females on the street. Could attract trafficking even more. 30% of calls are females. Females have been traditionally a smaller portion of homeless.
- Karen replies that is their hope that HLA would assist with getting the street outreach standards done, convening the groups already providing outreach, and the County would look at how they can be innovative and maximize. They have the street medicine team will continue to fund. There is a big intersection linking the most vulnerable with behavioral health care. They have funding on the table right now and looking to get creative with how to help the most vulnerable with all the programs existing in the county. Its not moving as fast as they would like. She doesn't want to make a decision without including the conversation that occurred at the last meeting. It's tough prioritizing funding. Wants to focus on the most vulnerable. If the discussion will be held at Providers then she would love to watch the video and hopefully that will inform her decision.
- Arrow Woodard stated senior homelessness is a growing issue as well.
- Councilperson Beckman wants Dr. Alesnik to ensure the discussion will occur at the Providers Council as well.
- Sara Madden states that the public defender's office funds a case worker to work with low level ordinance violators to keep them out of the justice system. Having a coordinated and standardized street outreach system would be very helpful.

- Arrow Woodard had one reminder about the Homeless Remembrance Day on December 21st. Proclamation on the 19th. Luminaries will be lit on the 21st. This will be an opportunity to solicit volunteers to sign up for PIT Count.
- Ann Marie Winter states that they have seen an increase in senior homelessness primarily after the pandemic. Call rate from seniors (60+) has increased by 40% telling them they are at risk of losing their home. Invited participants in a round table discussion to see what role the Area Agency on Aging can play to help prevent homelessness in seniors. Invites participants to interested in joining a work group on preventing senior homelessness and increasing affordable housing for seniors to contact her.
- Joe Riddle wants to let the group know that their application round for CBDG and ESG will open on January 10 and run through February 12.

Adjournment (presented by Dr. Monika Alesnik)

- Dr. Alesnik adjourned the meeting at 9:50am.

Proposed 2024 Funders Council Meeting Schedule

- **Frequency:** 3rd Friday of every other month

- **Funders Council Only Meeting Dates:**

- February 23rd
- December 20th

(possible to reschedule to November 15th or December 13th due to holiday)

- Location recommended to be virtual only

- **Joint Funders and Providers Council Meeting Dates:**

- April 19th
- June 21st
- August 16th
- October 18th
- In person at Habitat for Humanity with virtual participation

HMIS Policies and Procedures