

Homeless Reduction Task Force of NWFL
Criminal Justice/Legal Services/Specialty Courts Subcommittee
MEETING MINUTES 4.20.23

12:15 - 1:30 pm

Hagler Mason Conference Room, City Hall & Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE: Ken McMahon, Allison Patton, Tori (cadet), Ronnie Rivera, Dr. Kenita Williams, Blair Castro, Kaitlyn Bonham

Discussion

PPD CRA officers are in attendance –they gave a recap on the status of many of the homeless individuals in this district.

Subcommittee Administrative Update: Discussion on a new date for meetings- does the third Thursday work for everyone?

Ronnie is stepping down as co-chair, he says that still would like to see a county and city ordinance, and a better connection to the community. Cathy White will be taking his place. Cathy is an active member of the subcommittee and the Director of Case Management from Court Administration. She has also been very instrumental in the SIM work.

The County Commission approved a joint city-county workshop with Dr. Joe Savage Jr., which will take place at 9:30 that morning of the BOCC Meeting, May 9th. He is also speaking at Civic Con later that evening and then to Task Force and Michelle Salzman's task force on the 10th. Please check your emails for details and RSVP today; slots are filling up!

Review the Charter: The group reviewed the goals and charter of the subcommittee. Allison pointed out that sometimes we find gaps that we can't do much about, but we did get an understanding of other issues, such as homeless not being able to participate in TEAM court because they don't have a permanent address, so this became action item and this is now addresses, they will use providers/shelters to participate in address after discussion with state attorneys.

Next Steps: We still would like to partner and strengthen our programming with the DREAM Center and Terri Merrick to expand mentorship- this is still on our to-do list and a high priority! We should also try to help the Legal Services staff, who are really helping the homeless with evictions, etc., we can try to figure out how to get them more resources. The group also reviewed grant opportunities for your community.

Reentry Resources: <https://pinellas.gov/community-re-entry-resources>

MEETING ADJOURNED at 1:15 PM