

**Homeless Reduction Task Force of NWFL
Criminal Justice/Legal Services/Specialty Courts Subcommittee Minutes**

Thursday, July 20, 2023

12:15 - 1:30 pm

Hagler Mason Conference Room, City Hall and Zoom

In Attendance: Cathy White, Kelly Richards, Donna Brewton, Kaitlyn Bonham, Scott Nash, Melissa Ashton, Carrie Cromeey, Allison Patton, Blair Castro, Connie Bookman

- Guest speaker Dr. Matt Crow, UWF

Connie discussed Dr. Crow coming to the next meeting and possibly being a co-chair after Allison rolls off

- FL Bar Foundation, Funding for Legal Services

Connie discussed lobbying for FL Bar Foundation funding for legal services so we can shore up money for our local servant leaders

Melissa (LSNF Programs Director) has taken on a lot of grant work and outreach work recently. One example of recent work would be Warrington Pines- they are using a grant to pay for representation for these evictions

Discussion: Could this money potentially be for Court Assistance Programs? Only to represent any families of those incarcerated and not anyone currently in jail due to federal restrictions. Legal Services can help evicted tenants understand their rights and the process that's about to happen when it comes to evictions.

- Subcommittee Goals and Objectives

Allison received the charter and goals and objectives of the subcommittee. Some "wins": We have made it so homeless can now join TEAM court and have worked through the address issues so they still qualify for programs.

Cathy says there are also 4 participants currently with Dream Center mentorship who are also in the Drug Court program - with success, they hope to expand this program for Vet Court and TEAM Court.

Allison asked reps from the jail how we can partner and what their issues are. Cdr. Nash says that a lot of places that want to help the Homeless when they get out of jail, but they need to have an address so that's always been an issue. Issues with ID cards, or signing up for benefits while in jail....maybe there is a way we can partner to solve these issues.

Allison spoke about the low-barrier shelter which is coming to the city soon.

-DOJ Grant for Reentry program

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