



Hernando County Community Organizations Active in Disaster COAD Meeting #71 NOTES

Monday, August 28, 2023 @ 9:30AM via Zoom

WELCOME& PURPOSE – United Way of Hernando, Angie Walasek

41 participants

Brief Success Highlights

- **Dereck Pontlitz, Rotary:** D6950 Disaster Committee Co-Chair, assisting in disaster planning, looking for volunteers and would like to create a partnership with local agencies for preparations and aftermath. Rotary District 6950 Governor Elect (Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas) 407-353-8904 cell DGPontlitz2425@gmail.com
- **Career Source, Christina:** Assisted a veteran in crisis, connected him with a job opportunity paying \$17.00 an hour. Pasco/Hernando has collaborated, creating the Local College Access Network for furthering education opportunities.
- **St. Vincent de Paul, Ed:** Along with the help of Linda Cursey over at MFCS Head Start, they were successful in preventing a family of 6 from facing an eviction.
- **LSF, Paul:** Partnered with NAMI & Baycare; recently housed 1 client out of Jericho Roads and 4 other families into permanent housing. Contact # 904-510-7349
- **St. Vincent de Paul CARES, Diana:** New Operations Manager Tomi has joined SVdP. Move In celebration for all people housed in Hernando County (**see attached invitation**), will be at the VFW on 9/6 at 5-6:30pm. Raffle items needed.

COUNTY UPDATES

- **United Way, Angie:** In preparation of Tropical Storm Idalia – predicted to hit Hernando the hardest late Tuesday going into Wednesday morning/afternoon. Storm Surge predicted at 6-9ft AGL.
 - Emergency Shelters:** As of this morning’s EOC Briefing, (4) voluntary shelters have been activated. West Hernando Middle School (Special Needs) – DOH is requesting just 1 caregiver to accompany. Parrot Middle School (General Population / Pet Friendly), Hernando High School & Nature Coast High School both General Population (Pet Friendly if needed to be).
 - Transportation:** School Bus Transportation will be provided today from 12pm-9pm for those in need of transportation to shelters; generally special needs. Please call Hernando County Public Information Center (PIC) at 352-754-4083 to arrange pick up.
 - Special Needs Registration:** Encouraged to share information with clients in special populations (at risk, elderly, disabled, mentally ill, etc.) More information can be found here: <https://www.hernadocounty.us/departments/departments-a-e/emergency-management/special-needs-information>
 - Sand Bag Locations:**

SANDBAG STATIONS OPEN

HOURS & LOCATIONS

🕒 8am-5pm

- 📍 LINDA PEDERSEN PARK
6308 SHAL LINE BLVD
SPRING HILL, FL 34409
- 📍 ANDERSON SNOW PARK
1319 ANDERSON SNOW PK
SPRING HILL, FL 34409
- 📍 RIDGE MANOR COMMUNITY CENTER
3446 CENTER BLVD
RIDGE MANOR, FL 33621
- 📍 CITY OF BROOKSVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
600 S. BROOKSVILLE AVENUE
BROOKSVILLE, FL 34409
(CITY OF BROOKSVILLE SITE AT 6PM OPEN FOR 24 HOURS - WEATHER PERMITTING)

Please bring your own shovel

- **Emergency Management Director, Dave DeCarlo (joined at 11:09am):** The EOC is at level 2 activation and tomorrow morning we will go to a level 1 with all emergency support functions (ESF). As of right now, there is a hurricane warning, aiming to reach up late Tuesday afternoon, going into early Wednesday. Tropical Storm Idalia is looking to possibly make landfall North of us. A reminder that shelters are a last resort. It's encouraged to of course stay with family and friends when possible. He encouraged all of us to stay informed. This has potential of becoming a Cat 3 with up to 115mph winds. Thanked all COAD Members for our local role before, during, and after a storm.
- **211, Kip:** Edits are still being made to the [211 Senior Wellness Directories](#); please reach out to Kip kipc@211tampabay.org or Angie to suggest any updates. Check your information listed! Services are pulled directly from 211 Hernando database www.UnitedWayHernando.org/211 211 call center agents will still be answering calls during the storm.
- **Department of Health (Angie):** Mark your calendars for the CHIPP Community Needs Assessment Workshop on 9/19 10-2pm at Department of Health on Forest Oaks.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

- **United Way of Pasco, Ben Ortberg:** [Fighting Human Trafficking Program](#)'s Intensive Case Manager. Serving human trafficking survivors in Pasco and all adjoining counties including Hernando. The goal is to get these individuals into stabilized housing. Support received from both a federal and state grants. Provides full wrap around services to survivors. Will assist with safety planning, financial aid, transportation services, furnishings, referrals for legal and medical services, rental assistance for 12-24 months. This service will also place survivors up to 5-night stays in hotels across Florida if needed under their Emergency Hotel Program. Right now, only able to provide 5 cases per month. They've helped over 100 survivors to date. Trying to reactivate mobile therapist services. In 8 months, previously provided over 109 therapist sessions where the therapist goes directly to the survivor. Referral forms and assessment check lists are available. Contact Ben directly at 727-992-0554 or Bortberg@unitedwaypasco.org

RESOURCES & UPDATES

Supplies

- **United Way Angie:** [211 Senior Wellness Directories](#) are available at UW office. Toiletry kits, school supplies and children's books are first come first served.
- **People Helping People, Kendra:** In need of towels for Day of Hope, will also accept bikes.

Shelters & Housing

- **Dawn Center, Shannon:** Currently 10 shelter beds are open & available for survivors of domestic or sexual violence. Transitional Housing Grant coming to an end on 9/30. 24/7 Hotline # 352-686-8430 can also be texted.
- **United Way, Angie:** Hernando's internal [Tampa Hope](#) resource mapping will be available by next Hernando Homeless Initiative meeting on 9/19 at 3:30pm at Chamber.
- **United Way, Mindy:** Recent housing law workshop hosted by Community Legal Services of Mid Florida was a great refresher. Was familiar with the eviction process, although was unaware that while in the eviction process, if you are paying your rent to

the courts your grace period (typically until 3rd or 4th) is voided and you have to make payments on the 1st of the month. **(see attached webinar presentation).**

- **People Helping People, Kendra:** Day of Hope will be hosted Saturday, September 23rd at PHP's HELP Center. This opportunity is designed to bring all available resources for homeless individuals to one convenient location. On-site showers, employments opportunities, food, health & needs assessments, etc. will be provided that day. **See attached flyer** and contact admin@phphernando.org if you'd like to set up and join us that day.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse

- **211, Kip:** Their call center has received 1,803 inbound calls for 988; 103 from Hernando County phone numbers. Due to this being a *national* suicide & crisis prevention lifeline, callers are not geo-located. Currently the highest call volume in state for 988. Calls are always answered within 120 seconds.
- **NAMI, Tina:** Support Group will resume on Zoom tonight, NAMI CareLine 352-316-7783 9am-9pm available during storm. Faith Net Program meeting was supposed to be hosted at St. Francis has been canceled. Friday night's support will resume as planned.
- **Baycare, Sandra:** Mobile Response Team # 352-467-OKAY is 24/7 assistance for mental health & suicide crisis.
- **Hernando Community Coalition, Tresa:** A reminder to for individuals seeking shelter or just in general, make sure medications are packed in preparation for the storm.

Childcare & Schools

- **Students & Families in Transition, Shanika:** Schools will remain closed Monday through Wednesday in for storm shelters. HCSB staff in shelter placement (admin, custodial, food & nutrition, etc).
- **Early Learning Coalition, Brenda:** Some daycares will follow school schedules.

Food & Distribution

- **St. Vincent de Paul, Ed:** The Food Pantry will be closing Tuesday and Wednesday, encouraging residents and volunteers to prepare and stay off the roads. Serves approx. 119,000lbs of food a month and approximately 115 families.
- **People Helping People, Kendra:** Neighborhood Blessing will be out today instead of Tuesday, educating homeless individuals of resources and handing our Disaster Preparedness Guides.

Emergency Assistance

- **United Way, Angie:** Congressman Gus Bilirakis' team is offering a Community Services grant workshop on 9/7 @ 1:00pm **(see attached announcement)**

Employment

- **Career Source, Christina:** If CS does indeed shut down due to the storm, they have an

emergency line available for callers. Unemployment rate for Hernando (3.9%) is higher than the state (3%). Contact Christina to receive monthly job listings. September's will be sent out soon. There's been a spike in local layoffs in Hernando County. Received 5,000 calls, 600 visitors to Brooksville office. Hike in traffic at new location off of Spring Hill Dr. Christina Sowers, CareerSource Pasco Hernando Workforce Manager. 352-251-7166. CSowers@careersourcepascohernando.com (Jobs, workforce services, and more). Work cell is 352-667-1851 Good Jobs initiative is a grant incentive for loyal employees (cars).

- **Career Source, Tracie:** Non Custodial Parent Employment Program (NCPEP) assists parents ordered to pay child support - to find or maintain employment & provides various support services catered to each individual's needs (could be gas card/bus pass/training certificate/child support enforcement issues- etc). To refer individuals or for more information please email or click this link: <https://www.careersourcepascohernando.com/ncpep> Also, CareerSource Pasco Hernando's next partners meeting is on 09/27/23 at 10; if interested in attending please email: Tentler@careersourcepascohernando.com
- **Pinellas County Urban League Senior Jobs Program, Warren:** Employment Placement for 55 and over, positions within Non Profit Community Agencies or government departments, starting at 20 hours a week and can last 9 months up to a year.
- **Dawn Center, Shannon:** Hiring for several positions. Has 3 Shelter Advocate positions open. These positions work directly with survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence who reside in emergency shelter. We are open 24/7. Resumes can be submitted via info@dawncenter.org. All training provided on the job. Advancement opportunities are plentiful. Full time. Pays 100% of medical and dental benefits plus retirement account match.
- **Students & Families in Transitions, Shanika:** Specialist position is available! And Unaccompanied Youth Worker position open, 200 Days / 8-hour days. GED or high school diploma required.

Volunteerism

- **United Way, Angie:** Brought up the option to host a county-wide Volunteer Fair in the fall. Reach out if this is something that interests our partners.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 25, 2023 @ 9:30am via Zoom

Adjourned Meeting at 11:12am

www.UnitedWayHernando.org/COAD

