



# Hernando County Community Organizations Active in Disaster COAD Meeting #70 NOTES

Monday, July 31, 2023 @ 9:30AM  
In person at Hernando County Emergency Management

**WELCOME& PURPOSE** – United Way of Hernando, Angie Walasek

**31 attendees**

**Brief Success Highlights**

- **Boys & Girls Club, Brian:** Had a successful volunteer event with local church. New facility grounds were landscaped and helped out with painting. Still looking for volunteers.
- **Youth & Family Alternatives, Priscilla:** Youth clients were successfully enrolled into a Job Core and the Air Force.
- **Emergency Management, Dave:** Provided over 28,000 pair of gloves to local Animal Shelter since their closure due to Parvo among cats & dogs.
- **Emergency Management, Erin:** HERicane Girls Camp over and successful, looking to incorporate COAD members to next camp. Next camp is June 15-19 2024. Planning Meetings will begin in October.
- **United Way, Angie:** [Results are in.](#) The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Stuff the Bus was successful! Thanks to all who volunteer, gave, or participated in this back-to-school initiative.

## **COUNTY UPDATES**

- **Emergency Management, Dave:** A heat advisory is still in effect. Recommended to follow the CDC for signs of Heat Strokes. EM recently conducted a walk-thru at Challenger K-8 for emergency shelter. Tropical waves forming in New England will not affect us.
- **Emergency Management, Erin:** Working with Sheriff's Office and Hernando County School SROs on Active Threats Trainings and incorporating first aid, tunicates, and 42 Stop the Bleed kits were distributed.
- **211, Terri:** 44% calls have been for Housing & Shelter, 23% looking for low-income housing, 39% needing Rental Assistance, in total 3,000 calls for Hernando County. Call center addressed the long wait times and thanked for everyone's patience. **United Way, Angie** stated that Hernando receives monthly call-trend reports, that are detailed and broken down by calls, needs, referrals, demographics, etc. Plans on sharing them at COAD Meetings moving forward.
- **Department of Health, Jennifer & Magan:** DOH is currently hiring. The Brooksville office is now open Monday-Wednesday. August is World Breast Feeding Month The Great Latch On is August 15<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 1pm @ Health Department Forest Oaks. Trunk or Treat will take place on 10/26 6-8pm. Vendor space available!

## **RESOURCES & UPDATES**

### **Supplies**

- **United Way Angie:** [211 Senior Wellness Directories](#) are available at UW office. Toiletry Kits & school supplies are first come first served, plenty of children's books available

for outreach efforts as well. A reminder that **Disaster Tax Free Holiday**: August 26th through September 8<sup>th</sup>.

- **Emergency Management, Dave:** [Hernando Disaster Preparedness Guides](#) available. 225 per box, PPE still available for distribution.
- **Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Lillibridge:** Back to School Bash @ Grace World Church on 8/5 from 9-12pm, distributing back packs, Fire Rescue will also be distributing 600 Lunch Boxes.
- **Department of Education Opportunities/CareerSource, Jose:** Has toys in reserve to distribute if needed.
- **St. Vincent de Paul, Ed:** Could provide available bikes to those in need of transportation.

### Shelters & Housing

- **United Way, Angie:** A group of partners toured Tampa Hope on July 20<sup>th</sup> in hopes of learning more and replicating a similar homeless housing initiative in Hernando. There was detailed discussion on participant's experience and take aways of the tour (**see attached Tour Notes**), along suggested next steps for mapping needed and available resources. UW will revisit the list of general resources/partners given to us from Tampa Hope and identify their services. This conversation will also continue at Hernando's Homeless Initiative Meeting – next on August 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 3:30pm at the Chamber of Commerce.
- **Dawn Center, Shannon:** Sister DV Shelter in Marion County will be closing its doors; Department of Children & Families will be onsite to assist the 60 currently sheltered there. The Dawn Center will be full to capacity in the meantime. Create Mapping of Resources and compare.
- **Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Amber:** 175 currently homeless, 8 Vet HH, 255 people (15 Vets). 13 HH this year being permanently housed. On August 8<sup>th</sup> from 1pm-2:30pm Community Legal Services of Mid Florida will be hosting a virtual informational workshop surrounding new housing laws. Register! (**see attached flyer**)
- **Jericho Roads Ministries, Bryan:** Children & Women's facility opened up, Men & Women's shelter full. Graduation will take place on 9/23/23 for 10+ graduates of the program.
- **United Way of Pasco County, Ben:** UWPC received state funding to assist with transitional and permanent supportive housing for individuals impacted by human trafficking. Hernando residents qualify, and this includes wrap-around resources, and even a 5-night hotel stay for victims. Referrals are now being accepted. Ben will present more information on this partnership at September's virtual COAD Meeting\*

### Emergency Assistance

- **United Way, Angie:** Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP) Phase 40 1<sup>st</sup> payments have been released by the state to approved LROs.
- **American Red Cross, Sharon:** Red Cross installs up to 3 FREE smoke detectors for safety and prevention. Group courses are also available to implement into workplaces, schools, and civic service groups. 1-800-Red-Cross (or contact Sharon! [sharon.christian2@redcross.org](mailto:sharon.christian2@redcross.org))

## Employment

- **Career Source, Cristina:** Location has moved to Spring Hill by the Supervisor of Elections office. Monthly emailed job listings will be focusing on certain sectors to align with the workforce board, higher paying jobs in Hernando County. Listings will be more condensed in the future. Call center is open until 7pm and open on Saturdays. 30% of calls are from Hernando County. Their Mobile Unit Bus is available, but looking for a new driver. There's been a recent spike in layoffs (Walmart Distribution Center, health insurance facilities, etc.). Currently at 3.9% HC unemployment rate (higher than Pasco & the State). Now Dept of Commerce, unsure of when funds are coming through for unemployment. Recommended to fill a vacancy before applying for UE. The CS Center is also available for those looking for a space to meet with clients. Make sure your job opportunities are clearly communicated so they can be posted on EmployFlorida.
- **Department of Correction, Jose:** Job opening, hiring Veterans.
- **Hernando County Sheriff's Office, Sgt Lillibridge:** Hiring for several positions, including Communications. Training available. Visit <https://www.hernandosheriff.org/joinourfamily.aspx>

## Food & Distribution

- **People Helping People, Marty:** Feeding Tampa Bay's mobile food distribution is always the last Wednesday of the month at 10:30am at PHP's HELP Center.
- **St. Vincent de Paul, Ed:** Lbs of food distributed are up by 30% the first 6 months of this year. # of individuals served/fed has increased by 50%. Families/households served is up by 40%.

## Childcare & Schools

- **Students & Families in Transition, Shanika:** Please remember to refer students & families with school age children who are in transitional housing, recent loss of housing, or homeless. SFT assists with school stability and wrap around resources. Approximately 175 students have already qualified for services this new school year. New program flyers available in both English & Spanish **(see attached flyers)**.
- **Department of Health, Magan:** Back to school physicals and immunizations are now available.
- **Early Learning Coalition, Brenda:** There is still available funding for families looking for quality providers.
- **HCSB Medicaid Coordinator, Nicole:** Noted many individuals are currently losing benefits. Aiming to utilize Premier and others to connect with appropriate navigators to establish eligibility.

## Mental Health & Substance Abuse

- **Baycare, Sandra:** June was a little slow. 1,146 medical services provided and 2,372 wraparound services in June. 24 crisis calls where 88% are diversion. Happy to share that the BOCC recently approved funding for transportation for clients in need, to and from clinic. QPR trainings are available for the workplace.
- **Hernando Community Coalition, Tresa:** Local overdose rates are holding steady. 143 accidental overdoses currently recorded. HCC has available over 900 Narcans for

distribution. This is a Nasal Spray medicine used for the treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose emergency.

### **Volunteerism**

- **United Way, Angie:** Angie presented the concept for a potential Volunteer Fair in the fall. This would be at a remote location (potentially an accessible park with shade – Hernando Park?) where all local organizations can highlight and recruit for their volunteer needs. Everything from event, clerical, Board Members, students, on-going, one-time volunteer types. Angie stated it's often shared that residents have difficulties connecting to meaningful volunteer experiences. Remember to list unmet volunteer needs/opportunities on Lend a Hand Hernando [www.UnitedWayHernando.org/Volunteer](http://www.UnitedWayHernando.org/Volunteer). Based upon group interest, this is to be revisited.

**Reminder: Next COAD Meeting will be via Zoom on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am**

**Adjourned Meeting at 11:38am**