



# Hernando County Community Organizations Active in Disaster COAD Meeting #82 NOTES

Monday, August 26, 2024 @ 9:30 AM via Zoom

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

52 participants

## **SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS**

- **American Red Cross, Kris:** Hernando County Fire Rescue is in the process of partnering with the American Red Cross to install fire detectors in homes that need them. Anyone needing a smoke detector can call the fire department to get one installed free of charge.
- **Emergency Management, Angel:** Attended a conference and gave our COAD a shout-out!
- **Premier BOD, Marla:** Noted she always enjoys raising awareness on 211 Hernando and educating others of the service.
- **Endeavors, Mike & Amanda:** Client's home had been severely damaged during Hurricane Idalia. Stayed in a motel for 3 weeks covered by the Red Cross. FEMA funding was approved along with St. Bernard and covered the rest of the repair costs. The client had done a lot of the repairs herself, while wheelchair-bound. **Robert:** A client lost her residence and spouse around the same time as Hurricane Idalia. She was placed in a motel and received services through American Red Cross, Mustard Seed, and Orlando Housing Authority. Needed one final piece, and that was working with utilities in Orlando. United Way took on this final task. **Mike:** Thank you, United Way for connecting the dots.
- **Community Legal Services, Paul:** The name has changed to just "Community Legal Services" (no more Mid-Florida). The new location is now open in Spring Hill. Providing free legal services to clients impacted by natural disasters. Free legal services for victims of disaster against landlords. Phone: (800) 405-1417

## **COUNTY UPDATES**

- **Emergency Management, Erin:** Welcome back Dave. Thank you to Angie and Kris for muck buckets. Share this Self-Reporting tool to help anyone who may need to report recent Hurricane Debby damages: <https://hernandocounty.jotform.com/242174517553962> This tool is a great way to capture unmet needs. Happy to share there is no concerning activity in the 7-day forecast. For more information on weather activity please visit [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) and for river flooding and water activity [www.water.noaa.gov](http://www.water.noaa.gov).
- **United Way, Angie:** Brought attention to the Volunteer Florida recommendation for encouraging residents to sign up for FEMA, even though Hernando County was not declared a disaster in the case we are added for Hurricane Debby in the future. **Erin** received guidance, and although that is correct, it is agreed upon not to necessarily promote locally and provide false hope for financial aid.
- **Angie** has met with Dr. Steven Hanneman from **Team Rubicon** regarding their role for disaster response in Hernando. She is very pleased with this partnership and looks forward to September's COAD Member Spotlight, where they will be sharing more on their services.

MITIGATION & PREPAREDNESS – RESPONSE – RECOVERY

[www.UnitedWayHernando.org/COAD-Emergency-Management](http://www.UnitedWayHernando.org/COAD-Emergency-Management) – [HC Department of Health - 211 Hernando - 988](http://www.HC-Department-of-Health-211-Hernando-988)



- **Dept of Health, Jennifer:** DOH received training on Human Trafficking from The Children's Advocacy Center. A previous [Grant Opportunity](#) was shared for the Health Care Screening and Services Grant Program.
- **211, Terry:** Announced 211 Tampa Bay Cares' open house scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2pm-4pm in Clearwater. She invited all to come see their new facility & call center. [Click here to RSVP](#). Noted 211 was excited to be participating in United Way's upcoming Publix Giving campaign.

## **RESOURCES & UPDATES**

### **Supplies–Partner Needs**

- **United Way, Angie:** We have bagged toiletries kits available for pick up at the office,
- **People Helping People, Kendra:** Several 6-foot round tables and an abundance of walkers, crutches, and medical supplies.
- **Endeavors, TaVon:** The Center for Independent Living is accepting medical supplies.
- **American Red Cross, Kris:** M95 and regular face masks from TECO and tables available.

### **Emergency Assistance**

- **United Way, Angie:** Over the past three weeks, our team has closed 3 disaster related cases. **1** was from the mini **"tornado"** that disrupted Brooksville a few weeks ago. Young couple had their meter knocked right off their home after weeks of moving in due to storm and tree damage. **2** was a long-term recovery rehousing referral from Endeavors for a resident previously impacted by last summer's **Hurricane Idalia**. **3** was a disabled resident with MS and recovering from COVID who is oxygen dependent. **Hurricane Debby** debris knocked her pole and meter down, leaving her 3 days without AC and her elderly dog passed because of it. – All cases were assisted and closed.
- **Endeavors, Mike:** Will share pending LTR Hurricane Idalia cases with United Way for further evaluation.
- **Premier BOD, Marla:** "Does anyone know about tree service for Disable Elderly residents with trees that are in danger of falling on their homes? I know of a couple of families that are in no way able to pay the full cost of tree removal or trimming to make them safe. Please feel free to email me with any information." **Angie** encouraged the resident to utilize the [Damage Self-Report Tool](#) so we can easily follow up for assessment and response options.

### **Food & Distribution**

- **People Helping People, Kendra:** Monthly mobile food distributions taking place this Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am at Kass Circle.
- **Feeding Tampa Bay, Brenda:** Recently acquired a new grant and would like to expand services within surrounding counties. Offering free nutrition education for any organization interested will provide food samples and materials. **(see attached flyers)** **Kendra** offered the HELP Center as meeting space for anyone in need.
- **BayCare, Sandra:** A reminder that People Helping People will be hosting their "Striking Out Hunger" event on 9/21 from 10am-4pm Teams of 4. **(see attached flyer)**



## Shelters & Housing

- **St Vincent de Paul CARES, Tomi:** Requesting more referrals for Hernando County as a result of more assessments being conducted. Looking to house more non-veteran homeless individuals. There has been an uptick in homeless Veteran homeless assistance. 3 homeless Veterans recently assisted. Referrals are being accepted for Veterans and can assist with up to 60 days if they haven't received services already. Can also offer preventative services for already housed Veterans. For non-veterans reach out to Mid Florida Homeless Coalition for assistance. For veterans in need have them contact our office at 727-432-7462. This number is for Jason, he is their screener. To email Tomi: 727-338-9213 or [tomi@svdpsp.org](mailto:tomi@svdpsp.org)
- **PHP, Kendra:** They now have a volunteer currently adding clients to Clarity!
- **United Way, Angie:** [Homeless Initiative Meeting](#) is Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 pm at the Nativity Lutheran Church on 19. Mid Florida Homeless Coalition previously sent out opportunities through [HUD NOFO](#) (Notice of Funding Opportunity). **Tomi** explained the CoC program competitions and how MFHC will be providing opportunities to learn more.
- **Dawn Center, Adrianna:** 4 beds are currently available due to roof damages. Roofers are on-site and will let the group know if any additional support is needed. A reminder that Dawn Center assists any and all domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking cases.
- **Endeavors, Mike:** Still working with housing victims of Hurricane Idalia in need of housing. Some are still in hotels, and the program for that assistance will be ending in November. Will follow up with UW.

## Mental Health & Substance Abuse

- **Hernando County Sheriff's Office Community Policing, Sgt. Matt:** The Sheriff's office has received a grant for their mental health unit. 4 deputies are now certified to work with mental health or substance abuse crisis clients. 2 deputies working each day, 7 days a week. [mlillibridge@hernandosheriff.org](mailto:mlillibridge@hernandosheriff.org)
- **Hernando Community Coalition, Jennifer:** The [Hernando CARES](#) guides have been updated and are available for distribution. Access online for a digital copy Mental & Behavioral Resource Guide: [www.HernandoCares.org](http://www.HernandoCares.org) For requests on Hernando Cares Guides you can contact 352-596-8000 or [onthegoprevention@gmail.com](mailto:onthegoprevention@gmail.com) - Jennifer Bliska or [www.hernandocommunitycoalition.org](http://www.hernandocommunitycoalition.org) Free Nar-Can Distribution and training are available. Safe medication disposal kits are available to be shipped or can conduct a presentation at your organization.
- **BayCare, Sandra** Has coordinated opioid response and additional partnership with Hernando County Fire Rescue. 352-467-6107 Assisting peers to get them into treatment after a reversal overdose takes place. Kicking Addiction will also be taking place on 9/14 for celebrating recovery! **(see attached image)**
- **Gulfcoast North AHEC, Sheena:** Free tobacco/nicotine cessation groups are available. Partnership with DOH specializing in support for moms & babies who are wanting to make changes with addictions. Sheena Thompson [sthompson@gnahec.org](mailto:sthompson@gnahec.org) or call 813-929-1000
- **NAMI Hernando, Sam:** [NAMI Walks](#) is coming up on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Continuing to provide services for those suffering from mental illness, including AA and NA.



## Childcare & Schools

- **Students & Families in Transition, Pam:** Happy to introduce their new Coordinator Cindy [Knowles\\_C@hcsb.k12.fl.us](mailto:Knowles_C@hcsb.k12.fl.us) and Specialist Torri. Currently 415 qualified students are recorded for this school year (only in week 3). **Angie** asked if these trends are in line with last year's numbers? **Pam** – yes, however thanks to having staff they are now able to process cases faster. Will also be bringing on additional Academic Support Specialist.
- **Early Learning Coalition, Brenda:** Please refer families with little ones looking for early childhood education care. Ages 0-12 with after school care and 0-5 with early childhood care + FREE VPK.

## Employment

- **Gulfcoast North AHEC, Sheena:** Position available - [Community Health Educator/Tobacco Cessation Specialist](#)
- **Urban Legal, Waren:** Provides unemployed senior placement services at agencies for free of charge. Approximately 20 hours a week – long term. Serves Pasco, Hernando, Sumter, Lake. 135 people in the program. 75 host agencies. Contact [wthomas@pcul.org](mailto:wthomas@pcul.org).

## MEMBER INPUT, UNMET NEEDS, & OPPORTUNITIES

- **Gulf Coast, Donald:** First time participant! Assists fathers with children 17 years old and younger with parental skills.

## Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am

## **NEXT MEETING:**

Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am via Zoom

**Member Spotlight – Team Rubicon, Dr. Steve Hanneman**