

Health & Social Services Branch Meeting

Meeting Minutes

1:00 PM-2:30 PM | MARCH 23, 2023 | COLLABORATORY | 2031 JACKSON ST, FT MYERS | PUBLIC MEETING

Call to Order

On March 23, 2023, The Health & Social Services Branch Meeting convened at 1:00 PM with the following members present:

- Troy Churchill (Lead)
- Therese Everly
- Angela Katz
- Stephanie Edwards
- Julie Ferguson
- Dawn Belamarich
- David Brown

Facilitators and Branch Support:

- Jon Romine
- Robbie Heere
- Harrison Newton

Introductions

Troy Churchill, the Health & Social Services Branch Lead, welcomed the team and provided Branch members with his background and experience in Lee County. Branch members introduced themselves.

Review of the Recovery and Resilience Planning Structure and Timeline

Mr. Romine presented the work of the Recovery Task Force (RTF) and Branches, including the RTF seeking initial priorities when they meet on March 24th.

Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Romine reviewed the main responsibilities of the Branch and members including the development of the community engagement plan, initial branch priorities, and the branch action plan. Branch support staff also reviewed the requirements of Sunshine Law.

Initial Branch Priorities Discussion

Mr. Romine facilitated the discussion on initial branch priorities. The following topics were discussed by members:

Initial Branch Priorities:

- Access through mobile services and for special needs environments that include necessary services and accessibility to facilities built to provide services, pharmacies, mental health services:
 - Delivery of health care and social services;
 - Mobile health care clinic;
 - Communication plan during emergencies including where to get health care;
 - Organization leading for central place to get information and communications;
 - Coordinated central plan and community resilience center for emergencies;
 - Addressing shelter needs of families and children with special needs;
 - Spaces that are hardened and designed for special needs families;
 - Supporting community needs to prepare for emergency situations;
 - Resources and capacity analysis for needs of vulnerable communities;
 - Assisted living staffing needs;
 - Pharmacy needs during emergencies;
 - Water wells for hospitals, hardening infrastructure of health care services;
 - Evacuations and sheltering needs including elder care and special needs (From RTF members); and
 - Build a tiered plan for health care services during emergencies.
- Coordination of provided by a resilience hub with dependable and real time information and based on prior mapping critical care infrastructure:
 - Coordinated response for health care services in emergency;
 - Information on how to navigate resources for individuals and families;
 - Exploring development of a new Community Resilience Center;
 - Resiliency for health care and social service providers, loss of workforce;
 - Document key issues experienced during and immediately after Hurricane Ian, and review standards of preparedness and resilience, as well as lessons learned from other communities; and

- Multi-use center that can also be used for resilience center to provide services.
- Mental health response in real time and especially through one-year anniversary with support for staff and considerations for workforce retention and well-being:
 - Access to mental health services;
 - Response in the community to meet mental health needs; and
 - Prioritization of mental health needs, including sensitivity to one year anniversary.
- Regulatory requirements for special services and supportive living centers, options for providers:
 - Policies and protocols in place to harden vulnerable health care facilities;
 - Communication plan across facilities and systems for coordination, mapping critical care infrastructure;
 - Policy changes of yearly list for vulnerable populations that need special needs sheltering;
 - What qualifies someone for special needs for sheltering;
 - Regulatory challenges for residential group homes and providers that have additional needs but cannot go to special needs shelters; and
 - Hardened health care buildings as shelters.

Mr. Mazany reminded the Branch members of the resources, especially from the relationship between Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), Hagerty, and the Collaboratory, to support the ideas and framework developed by the Branch.

Branch Community Engagement Strategy Discussion

Mr. Romine presented opportunities for community engagement in the Recovery and Resilience Planning process including, On The Table (OTT) community dialogues, public meetings, public workshops, social media, online surveys, regular Branch meetings, and Town Hall events. Public workshops will occur in April to engage Subject Matter Experts (SME), including county and municipal experts, to provide information.

Branch members agreed about the importance of talking with other branches since work is interconnected and initiatives will be collaborative. Additionally, opportunities to collaborate amongst community organizations were agreed upon to make it easier to obtain funding. The members discussed the work of the unmet needs committee and the importance of engaging the community.

Next Steps

Branch members discussed the schedule of meetings. Members discussed that Wednesday afternoons would be the best days to accommodate schedules for the members. No zoom option for members.

Public Comment

No public comment requested.

Ms. Evelyn Ryan commented that FutureMakers is also working on an initiative on health and wellness coalition in the community.

Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Mr. Romine thanked the Branch Leads for their participation. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. on March 22, 2023.