

Planning & Capacity Branch – Lee County Recovery Task Force

Meeting Minutes

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM | SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 | COLLABORATORY | 2031 JACKSON STREET, FORT MYERS, FL 33901 | PUBLIC MEETING

Call to Order

At 10:03 AM on September 19, 2023, Sandy Stilwell-Youngquist, Branch Lead, convened the Planning & Capacity Branch meeting with the following members present:

- Sandy Stilwell-Youngquist, Branch Lead
- Jennifer Hagen
- Meagan Strayhorn
- Alvin Henderson
- Matthew Leger

Facilitators and Branch Support:

- Tessa LeSage, Collaboratory
- Tracey, Phillips Hagerty Consulting
- Harrison Newton, Hagerty Consulting
- Robbie Heere, Hagerty Consulting

Introductions

Ms. LeSage provided an update of the work of the Recovery Task Force and the Recovery and Resilience Planning Process. Ms. Phillips reviewed the process for members and stakeholders to provide feedback on the Initiatives.

Overview of Recent Recovery Task Force Efforts

Ms. LeSage provided a summary of the One-on-One meetings with the Recovery Task Force Members and their leadership teams.

Branch Initiative Feedback Summary

Ms. LeSage described the first Initiative, P&C01: Emergency Logistical Resources, and the feedback received from the Branch, the Recovery Task Force, and the County. Mr. Henderson brought up the resilience hubs concept. Resilience hubs combined with mobile health units could work to provide essential emergency medical care when integrated together. Ms. Phillips suggested that grant funds could potentially assist in making this a reality. Mr. Henderson asked how private entities could be incorporated to help fund the two initiatives. Members discussed the potential solutions to solve the challenge of logistics pre-disaster and post-disaster. Members suggested the Initiative to expand the Disaster Advisory Council and incorporate the work of the Long-Term Recovery Group. Mr. Henderson suggested that the Public Information Officers and stakeholders have a unifying message about the process. Mr. Newton introduced the County feedback for the Initiative, including feedback related to logistics and response for resources during a disaster.

Members discussed the second initiative, P&C02: Recovery and Distribution Center, and agreed to consolidate this Initiative with all logistical and resource topics. Ms. Phillips reminded members that this is a strategic planning process and specific implementation steps are not part of this process. Members discussed that establishing a 501c3 would require a lot of effort and resources for the County. Members suggested that resourcing organizations such as Collaboratory and United Way that are already supporting disaster-related efforts is essential and that the original intent should be made clear in the Initiative profile. Members suggested that the Initiative should include expanding the Disaster Advisory Council (DAC), leveraging the skills of the membership of the DAC, and work to expand the missions with the subject-matter experts that are associated with those entities that already exist.

Ms. LeSage introduced the third initiative, P&C03: Cost Recovery Planning. Mr. Henderson stated that the Initiative incorporates cost recovery efforts into planning to increase municipal resilience. Ms. Phillips informed members of some potential funding sources for mitigation, resilience, and hardening. Members discussed the integration of these funding opportunities throughout Initiatives. Mr. Henderson discussed the value of the Florida Recovery Obligation Calculation and the policies that are in place to help with cost recovery and expediting projects for resilience. Members agreed when Ms. Phillips suggested that implementation would require an analysis of mitigation planning, which would need to be incorporated into these Initiatives. This could potentially lead to more resilience funding opportunities through FEMA or other sources.

The Support Team introduced the fourth initiative, P&C04: Communication Capabilities. Mr. Newton introduced the County feedback, which included a technical approach from the County. Members discussed and agreed that this Initiative would be better placed under the Infrastructure Branch with other communications services Initiatives. Mr. Henderson suggested that the Chambers of Commerce be included as partners to assist with communication.

Mr. LeSage and Mr. Henderson introduced the fifth initiative, P&C05: Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment. Members discussed the integration of the feedback and the intersection of this Initiative with the goal of achieving higher density. Ms. Phillips stated the importance of a clear alignment of recovery efforts including the Disaster Advisory Council, the Local Mitigation Strategy, and any future assessments.

Mr. Newton described Lee County's role in providing maps and data to assess and recognize resilience opportunities across Initiatives or across other recovery efforts. Members discussed the strategic need for this perspective. Mr. Henderson suggested that a GIS expert could assist in providing information on what is currently available and collection/visualization of the data. The members suggested that this overlay would need to include existing maps and identify existing gaps. Members discussed that the implementation portion of this Initiative would be to have engaged partners. Members agreed that the overlay is foundational to making data-driven solutions and connecting efforts between multiple recovery efforts.

Members expressed that community specific issues are included in the resilience hubs Initiative, which achieves the goal of addressing neighborhood-level challenges across the region. Members discussed neighborhood resiliency and the importance of using a hyper-local lens when connecting neighborhood-level challenges to services provided by resilience hubs.

The Support Team introduced the eighth initiative, P&C08: Local Mitigation Plan. The feedback was summarized that this Initiative consolidated with others informed by assessments for vulnerability.

Initiative Consolidation

Ms. LeSage introduced the consolidation plan for the Planning and Capacity Initiatives. Members discussed the consolidation of multiple initiatives across Branches with the goal of strategic planning and elevation of common themes. Mr. Henderson stated that sustainability of efforts should be considered as the work does not stop with the Plan.

Public Comment

Chase Pizaris Henderson thanked the Branch members for their participation and supported the work of the Branch.

Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Ms. LeSage thanked the members for attending and then adjourned the meeting at 11:31 PM.