

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; HONORABLE PATRICIA M. GLASS CHAMBERS  
1112 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, Florida  
MAY 18, 2021**

Meeting video link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUlgjuGhS-qV966RU2Z7AtA>

Present were:

Vanessa Baugh, Chairman  
George Kruse, First Vice-Chairman  
Kevin Van Ostenbridge, Second Vice-Chairman  
Reggie Bellamy, Third Vice-Chairman  
Misty Servia  
James A. Satcher III  
Carol Whitmore

Also present were:

Dr. Scott L. Hopes, Acting County Administrator  
William Clague, County Attorney  
Vicki Tessmer, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Chairman Baugh called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

1. The Invocation was delivered by Father Robert Baker, Christ Episcopal Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**AGENDA**

BC20210518DOC001

1. **HOMELESSNESS**

 Ava Ehde, Neighborhood Services Director, used a slide presentation to provide an overview of the presentation, agency partners, the outline of the work session, and a video on the Unique Faces of Homelessness.

 Jackie Love relayed her experience of being homeless due to her and her husband losing their jobs and being evicted. Turning Points was a tremendous help and they were able to find employment and a new home with their assistance.

Ms. Ehde continued the slides showing the Faces of Homelessness in Manatee County and those who experience homelessness.

Lee Washington, Veterans Services Officer, addressed reasons people are homeless.

 Ms. Ehde continued her presentation and addressed youth homelessness and the chronically homeless.

Chris Johnson, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, continued the slides to address statistics, self-resolve and episodic, long term/high acuity, and chronic/highest acuity, coordinated entry, the breakdown of the homeless population in Manatee County, 843 people in Manatee County actively seeking help, 77 percent of the homeless need long term help, nine percent need permanent supportive housing, and these are the individuals who need the most services. He continued the slides to provide statistics for housing inventory based on area median income, those who can afford more expensive housing are taking up the more affordable housing, the goal is to house as many people as possible, everyone on the list

could be housed with 725 units, ALICE (Asset Limited, Constrained, Employed) Report, hourly wage for ALICE is a survival budget, the capacity to serve, shelter beds, veterans beds, housing capacity, future increases due to evictions, the unemployment rate, and the under-employment rate.

Renese Remy, Criminal Justice Policy Coordinator introduced the next part of the presentation.

 Julie Showers, Program Director, Salvation Army, continued the slides to explain the existing services provided by the Salvation Army including different types of shelter offered, possibility of a shelter for single women, veterans program, post release program, adult rehabilitation, community dinners, Pathway of Hope program for follow up with clients who may experience a setback, and case manager outreach.

 Kathy Kramer, Turning Points, used the slides to discuss the existing services at Turning Points Day Resource Center, qualified individuals, 159,684 services provided last fiscal year, transitional programs to help those who need immediate stability to remain in their homes, veterans services, and medical and dental clinics.

 Laurel Lynch, Hope Family Services, continued the slides and provided statistics for survivors of domestic violence, individuals served, cornerstone of services is safety, 19 percent decline in FY2019 but numbers are starting to increase, text line to seek help, issues that keep individuals homeless, and the difficulties for clients meeting the qualifications for obtaining rentals.

 Discussion ensued regarding the flyers with the help number for Hope Family Services are being placed in several businesses, medication management still takes place at Turing Points through a partnership with Centerstone, Our Daily Bread operates out of Turning Points, women are included with post release program, seven free nights for Manatee County residents each year at Salvation Army, and it is difficult to help those with disabilities who are older and finding an assisted living facility for them.

 Mr. Washington responded to questions that Florida has a program identifying veterans on Driver's Licenses, but not every agency accepts this as they require the actual DD214. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 the staff has been reduced at the National distribution for Veteran documents.

**RECESS/RECONVENE:** 10:21 p.m. – 10:33 a.m. All Commissioners present.

 Glen Gibellina spoke regarding the need for affordable housing and questioned why CARES Act funds cannot be used to assist with rent.

 Kim Bailey, Feeding Empty Little Tummys (FELT), express concern with the number of Children who need help with nutritional meals and questioned the statistics. She responded to questions that FELT is notified by the schools regarding the number of homeless children.

 Dr. Scott L. Hopes, County Administrator, stressed that homeless children are in need of many services, and meals are still being sent home with kids on Friday's and summer meals will be provided. The space at the old Wakeland Elementary could be used for transitional housing.

 Discussion ensued that only school employees are at Wakeland during the day, could provide shelter for families with kids, possibility of using the old jail for homeless housing for veterans and veteran services, the down payment required to move into an affordable unit, recognize Deputy Joy Hewitt who works with the homeless and the need for her to have assistance, many homeless people do not know how to seek services available to them, felons who cannot be hired, assist FELT with CARES Act funding, HOT Teams (Homeless Outreach Team), and there are currently no case workers to support mental health in the HOT Teams,

 Liz Larkin Skinner, Centerstone, stated they have a number people who work with the HOT Team, but there is no dedicated social worker to assist with the homeless.

 Discussion continued to make sure there is enough in the budget to provide more assistance to the HOT Team.

 Tracy Adams, Elderly Services, continued to use the slides to discuss the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program, which helps with energy crisis issues. CARES Act funding has also been allocated. These federal funds can be used to assist families experiencing an emergency where they cannot pay their electric bill. The Federal government has adjusted their guidelines and they have eliminated the seasons for crisis situations; therefore, individuals can receive help each month.

 James Clague, Suncoast Legal Services, reviewed services regarding assistance with evictions, financial stability, immigration, and family law. They assist veterans to obtain the discharge documents, and help others to obtain birth certificates and social security cards.

 Margie Genter , Goodwill Industries, spoke regarding providing support for those seeking jobs. They provide employment and life coaches to their employee, and they offer job seeking services to others as well.

Anthony Gagliano, CareerSource Suncoast, provided an overview of their services including career services, employer services, enterprise services, and initiatives.

Jane Rosebrough and Brittany Alkins, Centerstone, discussed programs provided to assist with mental health and substance abuse Centerstone offers forensic and homeless outreach, the Connections program to integrate community treatments and recovery support for homeless individuals, and the REACH program providing peer support for underserved communities. Centerstone also offers behavioral health services including an out-patient clinic and entitle specialists for individuals who are eligible for social security services.

 Linda Snyder, MCR Health, addressed unmet healthcare needs for the homeless, including inadequate food. There is a lack of medical care for the homeless which can cause other issues as well;. Medical services provided include care and counseling, prescription access, eye care/eyeglasses, and dental care.

 Mr. Johnson stressed the need for case management as a key component to support individuals to move forward with their lives.

 Amy Towery, Meals on Wheels Plus, reviewed the programs provided in Manatee County including home delivered meals, the Food Bank of Manatee, licensed senior daycare, and

dining sites for seniors. Over 1 million meals have been distributed to Manatee County residents including food bags to families.

 Chet Brown, Field Supervisor Code Enforcement, provided information regarding their role in identifying homeless camps, and providing water, bicycle tires, and trash bags. They educate property owners regarding homeless trespassing, and provide educational materials to direct the homeless to programs.

 Officer Pilat, Bradenton Police Department, discussed their homeless outreach teams and their partners. The program is funded by a grant, and the funds are used for transportation to support networks, lodging, food, and assistance in obtaining identification. He continued to provide statistics for the past two fiscal years.

 Captain Rick Gerken and Deputy Jewitt, Manatee Sheriff's Office, reviewed their work in visiting homeless encampments and connecting individuals to resources. There have been over 1,000 homeless arrests the past year. There are 27 documented homeless sex offenders in Manatee County. Deputy Jewitt has made contact with 600 individuals. They reviewed partners and organizations who are impacted by the homeless. There are no camping ordinances, but there is nowhere to put the individuals who are camping out. Drug abuse is a primary issue, and it is difficult to direct the individuals to services. When an individual is ready for help, there can be a disconnect, because there may not be immediate services available. Captain Gerken thanked the County for their efforts as well as Code Enforcement and Centerstone. He stressed the need for communication between agencies and level one housing.

 Mr. Washington continued the slides to discuss veteran transitional housing. He met with several agencies about the need for a committee to establish admission requirements, policies, and an inventory of available veteran housing.

 Discussion ensued regarding success of case management, continue to update Commissioners on possibilities for housing, the role of government to facilitate and help people who are in need, a work program has not been established in Manatee County, encourage higher paying jobs, government interference which drives prices up, under employment, public/private partnerships to provide housing, how do the services get coordinated to actually help the homeless, change policies hindering affordable housing, invest in a facility to provide housing, need more work driven information, avoid regulation, reasons for homelessness, and the purpose of a work session.

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**RECESS/RECONVENE:** 12:26 p.m. – 1:31 p.m. All Commissioners present.

2. **INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING**

Clarke Davis, Deputy Director Transportation, provided an overview of the presentation and used a slide presentation to define the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the CIP update process, establishing CIP project needs, funding sources including the Infrastructure Sales Tax which can only be used for infrastructure needs, impact fees (capital projects only for new growth), facility investment fees, and other funding sources (ad valorem, State and federal funding, rates and fees and fuel tax), Infrastructure Service Plans, land use and zoning, Certificates of Occupancy issued, population projections, growth over the past 60 years, the Moccasin Wallow Plan, future road needs, transit needs, the next major update for Transit will be in 2023, stormwater issues including watershed studies, concurrency requirements, and capital rehabilitation, operations, and maintenance.

 Charlie Hunsicker, Parks and Natural Resources Director, continued the slide to address funding sources, the Parks Master Plan, the environmental millage plan, boater services funding through the West Coast Inland Navigation District, preserve management plans (long term requirements for restoration plans), beach renourishment construction plans, required surveys for parking and sea turtle nesting, watershed management plans to identify water quality impairments and sources, and the B.P. Oil spill damage award with a 10-year expenditure plans.

Geri Lopez, Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity Director, continued the slide presentation to discuss the Southwest District Plan and Tax Increment Funding (TIF), funding approach to projects, the Northwest County Plan (Port area), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) five-year plan, and priorities for federal funding.

David Morgan, On-base Coordinator, used the slides to address Property Management's asset management system, building and grounds management, using Drones to inspect roofs, existing and future assets, and planning for rehabilitation and reinvestment.

 Susie McGuire, Information and Technology Services Interim Director, continued the slides and reviewed service requests, business projects, and strategic planning and refresh, Virtual Computer Environment, unified communication system servers, and the fiber optics master plan to link various areas of the County.

 Debbie DeLeon and Tammy Parrot, Neighborhood Services Department, used the slide presentation to discuss neighborhood plans, libraries, levels of service and State standards, library locations, dedicated millage and estimated revenue, and the operational budget.

 James Crutchfield, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Chief, continued the slides and discussed the master plan, how EMS can grow, the existing system, and a review of the budgets and billing services.

 Jeff Goodwin, Utilities Deputy Director, used the slides to review potable water, sanitary water, solid waste, service level boundaries, condition assessment of existing infrastructure, potable water facilities, distribution system master plan, and comprehensive plan, wastewater master plans for all facilities, reclaimed water master plans, and utility solid waste.

Mr. Davis concluded the presentations to summarize needs and feasibility, priorities, CIP, operating budgets, timing, funding limitations, production time, competing priorities, and operation and maintenance needs.

Dr. Scott L. Hopes, County Administrator, explained what was seen is the way things were done, and there is a decentralized organization and a fragmented planning process. Priorities come from the elected officials which are integrated into the budget and the scope of the County. The budget will be an early attempt to integrate the Board's priorities into the budget. A comprehensive integrated strategy is needed to define what Manatee County will look like in the future. He distributed two books to Commissioners, *The Tipping Point* by Malcom Blackwell, and *HBRs 10 Must Reads on Strategy* by Michael E. Porter, to assist with principles of strategic planning.

 Discussion ensued regarding Turtle monitoring, Environmental millage projects, B.P. Oil Spill funding is a 15 year plan, use of broadband throughout the County and specific dollars

assist with establishing infrastructure, projects of record are not funded, 911 is accredited, difference between the private sector and government, looking at a new government, and how to go to the next level.

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**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Van Ostenbridge 

- Noted he hosted Kevin J. Thibault, Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation, to provide overview of the county grid system and growth

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS**

Dr. Scott, L. Hopes provided an overview of the past six weeks, and addressed the amount of new growth, and the investments being made in Manatee County.



Glen Gibellina discussed information distributed regarding Babcock Ranch, and asked if staff has inquired what other Counties are doing regarding infrastructure. He suggested subdivisions have their own utility systems with recycled water and waste water distribution.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Baugh closed public comment.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Baugh adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Minutes Approved: June 8, 2021