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BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESSES

Annual Conference

The 2015 Florida Institute for Homelessness and Supportive Housing (FIHSH) conference was the best attended in the Institute's history. Over 400 individuals attended more than 40 workshops and plenary sessions during the three-day event. Held at the Coronado Springs Resort, one of Disney's prime properties, the event included a dessert and fireworks reception and a private screening of @home with Mark Horvath. The film, the winner of the Best Documentary Award, follows the work of e-activist Mr. Horvath on a road trip across the country as he makes homelessness in America visible.

FSHC wishes to thank the following 2015 sponsors who without their help Institute would not have been so successful: **Visionary Sponsor** - The Department of Children and Families; **Change Agent Sponsors** - The Department of Education, PAEC, and Florida Homeless Education; **Innovator Sponsors** - Florida Housing Finance Corporation, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., and Wells Fargo; **Trend Setter** - PNC; Creative Thinkers - Alkermes, and BBT; **Leader Sponsors** - Ability Housing, Client Track, Citrus Health Network, and Florida Community Loan Fund.

FSHC and its partner, the Florida Homeless Coalition, are in the planning stage for the 2016 FIHSH and are looking closely at the survey results from attendees last year to assure 2016 is even more successful. The 2016 FIHSH will be October 5-7, 2016. The conference will be held at The Renaissance Sea World, Orlando, Florida. As the FIHSH website is updated we will keep you posted. If you have any suggestions you would like to share with the planning committee or are interested in becoming a sponsor, contact karen@fshc.org.

Advocacy

Despite the chaos of last year's legislative session, the Coalition, working with other advocates, was able to successfully convince the Legislature to designate a 10% minimum of the State Apartment Incentive Loan program (SAIL) for housing for individuals who are homeless or have special needs, Legislation also allows 25% of local State Home Incentive Program (SHIP) funding to be used for short term rental assistance. Building on that success, FSHC is asking legislators to make these provisions, enacted last year in proviso, to become permanent in law. SB 1534 by Senator Simmons and HB 1235 by Representatives Miller and Brodeur are currently working their way through the legislature.

In 2016 FSHC is also advocating for funding earmarked for rental assistance for individuals who have severe mental illnesses and/or addiction disorders and the more frequent users of high cost public services.

[Download the FSHC's Legislative Ask here](#)

FSHC Staff

FSHC hired longtime advocate Karen Koch as its new executive director in August 2015. Koch had previously been a board member, representing one of our partner coalitions. *"Karen has more than 25 years of*

advocacy and policy experience. *She is very knowledgeable and committed to creating more access to housing for all Floridians,*” said Shannon Nazworth, FSHC board chair. *“She is going to be a great asset to FSHC and help us build upon our recent successes.”* It’s been many years since the Coalition has had executive support and the Coalition board sees this as a great opportunity to broaden membership, expand the Coalition’s advocacy, and to provide training and technical assistance in 2016. *“I look forward to working with the board and the Coalition members to help them achieve their goals of expanding affordable supportive housing to Florida’s most vulnerable individuals who deserve to live as independently as possible”* says Koch.

Come join us this as we make 2016 even more successful for Florida’s homeless and those with special housing needs.

Join

Become a member of the Florida Supportive Housing Coalitions. Your membership will help FSHC fulfill its mission of expanding affordable supportive housing in Florida.

[Visit the FSHC website to download a membership form.](#)



Donate

Don’t want to become a member but support the mission? Consider donating. FSHC accepts donations through Paypal.

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FSHC Elects 2016 Board

Seven members were elected to the FSHC 2016 board at the Coalition’s Annual Member meeting in October. Elected were: **Gail Cordial**, Alkermes; **Joy Beaton**, Florida Community Loan Fund; **Mark Wickham**, Youth and Families Alternatives; **Sandra Newsom**, Carrfour; **Shannon Nazworth**, Ability Housing of Northeast Florida; **Tom Griffin**, The Transition House, and **Coretta Gooden Hill**, United Way of Northeast Florida.

These individuals join current board members: **Jack Humburg**, Boley Centers; **Karen Mahar**, Camillus House; **Olga Golik**, Citrus Health Network; **Dana Farmer**, Disability Rights Florida; **Mark Fontaine**, FADAA; **Melanie Brown-Woofter**, FCCMH; **Maria Barcus**, Housing Partners Florida; **Donna Wyche**, Orange County Health Services; and **Janet Hamer**, TD Bank.

[Download 2016 Board Member List](#)

FSHC Welcomes New Members

Alkermes, FL; Alpha-Omega Miracle Home, St. Augustine, FL; Cocoa Housing Authority, Cocoa, FL; Deland Housing Authority, Deland, FL; Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County, St. Johns, FL; Lake Wales Housing Authority, Lake Wales, FL; Osceola County, Kissimmee, FL; St. Johns County Health and Human Services, St. Augustine, FL; Volunteers of America of Florida, Punta Gorda, FL; Youth and Family Alternatives, New Port Richey, FL; West Palm Beach Housing Authority, West Palm Beach, FL

[Download 2016 FSHC Member List](#)

In the News

Florida Housing Finance Corporation Funds Permanent Supportive Housing Pilots

In 2013, the Legislature appropriated \$10 million to Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to develop permanent supportive housing for persons with special needs and individuals who are chronically homeless. Working with stakeholders and other state agencies it was decided to target the funding to individuals who are homeless and are high users of crisis and acute healthcare services and often cycle in and out of institutional settings because of their lack of stable housing in the community.

Three developments totaling 122 units were awarded funding. They are:

- Duval County: Village on Wiley, 43 units (fully occupied);
- Miami-Dade County: Coalition Lift, 34 units (in development; should be in lease-up late 2016); and
- Pinellas County: Pinellas Hope V, 45 units (under construction; should be in lease-up by spring 2016).

Each Pilot will partner with experienced researchers to engage in a multiyear study to quantify cost/benefit data showing what, if any, public savings have occurred.

[Download a copy of the pilot requirements](#)

Along with the forgivable loans provided through a \$10 million appropriation, FHFC will make additional forgivable loans available to further support the development of Units set aside for Extremely Low Income (ELI) residents.

DCF and the Managing Entities Housing Initiative

The Department of Children and Families has begun a new housing initiative for the purpose of increasing and improving collaboration and coordination between the Managing Entities (ME) and Local Homeless

Coalitions, Continuum of Care Plans, Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), and other key state and local stakeholders. The initiative also requires ME's to find safe, affordable housing for individuals with mental illnesses and/or co-occurring substance abuse disorders including the necessary support services for these individuals to be successful in the community. The initiative also has the purpose of increasing the number of discharges from the state mental health treatment facilities into stable community housing.

The department provides each ME funding to hire a housing coordinator and even though the contract amendment just went out in February the ME's already have a housing coordinator in place. For more information see Contract Amendment #37 and the list of the housing LEAD coordinators and CEOs by ME at the links below.

"FSHC is excited about working with the ME's and DCF and hopes the ME's will use FSHC as a resource", says Koch.

[Download the Contract Amendment 37 here](#)

[Download the list of the housing LEAD coordinators and CEOs by ME here](#)

Member Spotlight

Village on Wiley, developed and operated by Ability Housing of Northeast Florida becomes the first of Florida Housing Finance Corporation Pilot Sites to begin accepting residents.



Ability Housing celebrated the dedication of Village on Wiley on September 15, 2015. Village on Wiley is part of a pilot initiative, funded by Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), to assess the cost benefits and personal outcomes of providing permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless or unstably housed high utilizers of crisis services. FHFC launched the pilot initiative in 2013; selecting three sites through a competitive RFA process. The sites are located in Duval, Pinellas and Miami-Dade counties. Village on Wiley, located in Jacksonville, is a 43-unit new construction project. Ability Housing is partnering with area service providers to ensure residents have access to the supports they may need to maintain the housing and access primary and behavioral healthcare. It was funded with a \$5.975million forgivable loan from FHFC.

The Ability Housing pilot cohort consists of residents of Village on Wiley as well as residents of other housing it provides. In total, the assessment will include over 70 individuals. Pilot participants are identified by area hospitals, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and area service providers. Health Tech Consultants, Inc., with Jacksonville University, is conducting the pilot evaluation. The evaluation methodology was approved by FHFC, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Children and Families and other state agencies.

Ability Housing serves Northeast and Central Florida; it's mission is to provide quality, affordable community-inclusive housing for individuals and families experiencing and at risk of homelessness and adults with a disability. For more information visit www.abilityhousing.org or contact them at info@abilityhousing.org.

Resources

Supportive Housing Integrated Models Toolkit

In response to recent trends to promote integrated housing where fewer supportive housing units are placed among a greater number of developments the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) recently published a new resource guide on what integration of supportive housing looks like. <http://www.csh.org/supportive-housing-integrated-models-toolkit/>

CSH "Moving On" Initiative

Learn what New York is doing to help individuals to transition from supportive housing to more independent living. On December 28, 2015 CSH announced the selection of five sub-grantees under its 2015 "New York City Moving On" initiative. Grants to the five community groups under the "Moving On" initiative is designed to enable tenants who have achieved stability in supportive housing to transition to other independent housing. <http://www.csh.org/2015/12/five-nyc-organizations-become-part-of-moving-on-initiative/>

The Path Forward: Rethinking Solutions for Homelessness in Florida

written by Barbara Poppe and Associates. The report provides both Florida and national comparison statistics related to homelessness. The report results are based on research and input from community dialogues conducted in Tampa Bay, Central Florida, Jacksonville and Miami to get local insight from homeless service providers, business leaders, and philanthropic funders. [Download the Path Report here.](#)

The Substance Use and Housing National Leadership Forum Report.

The National Council on Behavioral Health and CSH report that states and communities can improve services and outcomes for people with substance use disorders (SUDs) by integrating housing with treatment and recovery support programs. This is according to housing, homeless and SUD treatment experts who convened for a frank dialogue on new service approaches for this population. The National Council on Behavioral Health and CSH highlight that and other recommendations in their report. <http://www.csh.org/2015/09/integrating-housing-with-treatment-improves-outcomes/#sthash.hxtpJiXW.dpuf>

Nowhere to Go: The Housing Crisis Facing Americans With Disabilities

For millions of renters with limited mobility and other physical challenges, there are few homes and apartments on the market that work for them. A new report from Harvard finds that more than 7 million renter households have a member with a disability. (According to the Census Bureau, about 57 million Americans, or 19 percent of the U.S. population have a disability, many of whom are senior citizens.) <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/12/renting-with-a-disability/420555/>

HUD Family Options Study

Provides evidence that vouchers are the most effective housing resource for promoting family stability and ending homelessness for families with children. <http://csh.us1.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=d477f3e2e075003c9d2f335a3&id=f8c462a50f&e=2b1cbe2be9>

These and other resources will be posted at www.fshc.org. If you know of other resources you feel should be posted send them to karen@fshc.org.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Legislative Session –

January 12 – March 11, 2016

Permanent Supportive Housing Training –

May 12 – 13, 2016, Orlando, FL
Hosted by FCCMH and FADAA

CSH Summit –

June 8 – June 10, 2016; Chicago Marriott Magnificent Mile
540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611
<http://www.cvent.com/events/csh-summit-2016/event-summary-b05896613e504f549b12ef1d73909e59.aspx?ct=48832732-1e0d-43b1-8af7-01e4e9cd58aa>

SAVE THE DATE | 2016 Florida Institute on Homelessness and Supportive Housing –
October 5 – 7, 2016 at the Renaissance Sea World, Orlando, FL

Florida's Behavioral Health Annual Conference –

August 10-12, 2016, Orlando, FL
Hosted by FCCMH and FADAA
[Visit the conference website here.](#)



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