



CFCH
Monthly Members'
Meeting

March 25th, 2025

A large, textured orange splash shape with the word "Welcome!" written in white. The splash has a rough, watercolor-like edge with some darker orange and brown tones. The background is white with some faint, scattered orange specks.

Welcome!

Agenda

Welcome

Homelessness In the News, Kate Santich

Seniors Experiencing Homelessness and Low-Barrier Shelter, Dr. Pia Valvassori, Shreya Varigala– Health Care Center for the Homeless

Central Florida Education Summit, Christine Cleveland – Orange County Public Schools

Community Legal Services Emerging Issues, Morgan Cardinal – Community Legal Services

HMIS – Duplicates in Client Track, Racquel McGlashen– Homeless Services Network

Spotlight on Best Practices, Ebony Tanner -- Homeless Services Network

Announcements

Homelessness In The News

Kate Santich



HOMELESSNESS in the NEWS: March 2025

WHAT
YOU
SHOULD
KNOW...





SODO Shelter plan abandoned

- ▶ Meeting March 12 turned ugly
- ▶ More than 100 SODO residents attended, many making false claims about the facility
- ▶ 'I cannot take this level of harassment for a year' – Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan. 'I really wanted this to be a solution...'
- ▶ Unknown whether renovation costs played a role

BUT, afterwards...



Commentary: Shunning homeless shelter proves we have lost sight of our neighbor

BY DAVID SWANSON

March 23, 2025 at 5:30 a.m.

- ▶ The Orlando Sentinel ran an editorial imploring the city to reconsider, calling the opposition “a display of selfishness, short-sightedness and deception.”
- ▶ Pastor David Swanson wrote an op-ed calling on residents to see the common humanity in people who are homeless.
- ▶ Orlando's advisor to the mayor on homelessness was flooded with letters of support for the shelter.
- ▶ Even if it doesn't change the fate of the Kaley Street facility, it shows that local leaders need to hear from constituents that support shelters, affordable housing and housing programs for people experiencing homelessness. We cannot be a silent majority.

Orlando moves forward with mobile solution for unsheltered homelessness

- ▶ **The Orlando City Council unanimously approved '407 Connect' — a plan to buy two former Greyhound buses outfitted with bunkbeds, bathrooms, and charging stations that can house up to 20 people each. The buses cost \$175,000 apiece; operations run \$3.1 million for 3 years.**
- ▶ **The buses would pick up and drop off people at the Christian Service Center, which would vet up to 40 people a night to use the bunks as they await more permanent housing. Everyone to get case-management.**
- ▶ **Goal: Move 407 people into long-term housing by the end of the third year.**



SUPPORT THE *PAUSE* ACT

PROTECT ACCESS TO UTILITY SERVICE IN EMERGENCIES ACT

**PASSAGE OF THE PAUSE ACT WOULD BE
A LIFESAVER FOR MANY FLORIDIANS**

Sort-of hopeful news...

- ▶ The Florida Legislature is expected to introduce budget bills in both chambers this week. The budget from Gov. DeSantis keeps spending for most homeless programs at 2024 levels – but does not include the \$10 million for unsheltered provided last year.
- ▶ The PAUSE Act (HB 419/SB 330) would prohibit electric, public, and/or water utilities from disconnecting services to residential customers with outstanding payments or fees during extreme weather events. In the past 6 years, average energy bills from investor-owned utilities have risen 31% statewide; in some areas, by as much as 44% for low-income Floridians living in the biggest cities.
- ▶ Housing bills aimed at increasing incentives and removing restrictions for affordable housing making their way through committees.



When will the Point-in-Time data be released?

Soon!

No, really!

Expected within two weeks!

We're just crossing our T's and dotting
out I's...

An update on HUD funding

FL507- Grant Renewal Dates

Grant #	Grant Name	Amount	Units	Renewal Date
FL0091	Covenant House ROPAL	\$ 154,449	10	5/1/2025
FL0106	Orange County S+C	\$ 1,118,373	63	5/1/2025
FL0090	Covenant House CMO	\$ 91,003	-	7/1/2025
FL0093	Homes for New Beginnings	\$ 73,486	50	8/1/2025
FL0331	Beacon of Light	\$ 131,846	5	8/1/2025
FL0086	HMIS	\$ 337,565	-	9/1/2025
FL1014	CoC Planning	\$ 922,847	-	9/1/2025
FL0307	Seminole S+C	\$ 761,567	46	10/1/2025
FL0412	Osceola S+C	\$ 339,871	19	10/1/2025
FL0958	PSH Sponsor- Grand Ave	\$ 122,303	6	10/1/2025
FL0996	YHDP - CES	\$ 154,000	-	10/1/2025
FL0997	YHDP - Drop In/Outreach	\$ 405,075	-	10/1/2025
FL1001	YHDP - Navigation	\$ 761,500	-	10/1/2025
FL0999	YHDP - Host Homes	\$ 376,200	30	10/1/2025
FL1000	YHDP - TH/RRH	\$ 1,983,643	104	10/1/2025
FL0998	YHDP - PSH	\$ 299,595	10	10/1/2025
FL0995	YHDP - HMIS	\$ 81,400	-	10/1/2025
FL0471	CES	\$ 456,124	-	11/1/2025
FL0561	PSH Rental Assistance	\$ 3,304,962	154	11/1/2025
FL0562	Rapid Rehousing	\$ 2,331,941	91	11/1/2025
FL0563	PSH Operating and Services	\$ 437,303	25	11/1/2025
FL1013	PSH High Med Needs	\$ 253,323	9	11/1/2025
FL0566	PSH Leasing	\$ 1,697,907	99	12/1/2025
FL0891	Project Imagine (DV)	\$ 1,876,337	80	12/1/2025
FL0892	PSH Sponsor - Ability	\$ 271,350	15	12/1/2025
FL0893	Catholic Charities HT/DV	\$ 442,000	18	12/1/2025
FL0959	PSH Sponsor - CASL	\$ 202,400	11	12/1/2025
		\$ 19,388,370		

Federal Funding Survey Highlights



Survey Overview



What is the impact if the HUD funds are not awarded or if contracts are not executed in CY2025



29 Partner agencies were asked to complete the form



22 agencies responded as of EOD 3/17



Some of the Questions

- How many agency jobs would be lost: 97 - 112
- How many people evicted due to nonpayment of rent: 744
- (for all of the region's CoC funding, it would be 845 households)
- How many adults facing eviction are currently employed or in school: 152

More Questions

- How many lose services and/or rent assistance from programs that are reduced: 2092
- How many lose services and/or rent assistance from programs that are eliminated: 560
- How many lose services and/or rent assistance from programs that are closed: 50



Seniors Experiencing Homelessness and Low- Barrier Shelter

Dr. Pia Valvassori & Shreya
Varigala



Senior Homelessness in Central Florida

Addressing the Growing Crisis



Why is this issue important?



https://www.ssseva.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/people-850097_1920.jpg

- The senior homeless population is growing rapidly due to economic and social challenges
- Seniors face unique risks
 - Declining health
 - Financial insecurity
 - Limited mobility
- Central florida is known for its tourism and growing retiree population
 - Seeing an increase in senior homelessness

Presentation Focus:

- 01 **Scope of the issue in Central Florida**
- 02 **Causes and risk factors**
- 03 **Impact on seniors**
- 04 **Available resources and potential solutions**

Scope of the Problem

- National Trends
 - People experiencing homelessness are concentrated in cities and urban areas
 - 7 states (CA, NY, **FL**, WA, TX, OR, and MA) account for 63% of people experiencing homelessness
 - The number of homeless adults over 55 has increased by nearly 50% since 2007
 - 20 percent were 55+, totaling **127,707** older adults
 - By 2030, seniors will make up half of the U.S homeless population
 - U.S. HUD's 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report highlighted an **18.1%** increase in homelessness nationwide, with older adults being disproportionately affected

Scope of the Problem

- Central Florida Statistics
 - Florida ranks **3rd in the nation** for the number of people experiencing homelessness
 - The 2024 Point-in-Time Count for Central Florida revealed a **28%** overall increase in homelessness from the previous year, rising from 2,258 individuals in 2023 to **2,883** in 2024
 - Over **700** individuals aged 50+ were identified as homeless
 - Nearly 200 were 65+, with more than half lacking access to any form of shelter
 - Rising house costs and lack of affordable senior housing are major contributors
- Future Projections
 - The economic strain on fixed-income seniors will likely worsen without intervention

Economic Challenges

- Rising housing costs
 - Rent in central florida jumped 20-30% in the last 5 years
 - Many seniors live on fixed incomes (eg. social security, pensions) which don't account for inflation
- Insufficient retirement savings
 - 40% of Americans have saved less than \$10,000 for retirement
 - Medical debt, unexpected expenses, or caregiving responsibilities are a drain on savings
- Evictions & housing shortages
 - Florida has limited rent control laws → easier to evict
 - Senior-designated affordable housing can have years-long waitlists

Healthcares & Aging-Related Factors

- ❑ High medical costs
 - ❑ Medicare doesn't fully cover long-term care, dental, vision, or home health assistance
 - ❑ Many seniors are stuck choosing between paying for medication or rent
- ❑ Chronic health conditions
 - ❑ Arthritis, diabetes, heart disease and mobility issues make it harder for seniors to maintain employment
 - ❑ Lack of stable housing worsens chronic illnesses due to poor nutrition, stress, and inadequate access to healthcare
- ❑ Cognitive decline & disability
 - ❑ Seniors experiencing dementia or other cognitive impairments are at high risk of eviction and exploitation
 - ❑ Many lack family support to assist with daily needs

Social & Systemic Issues

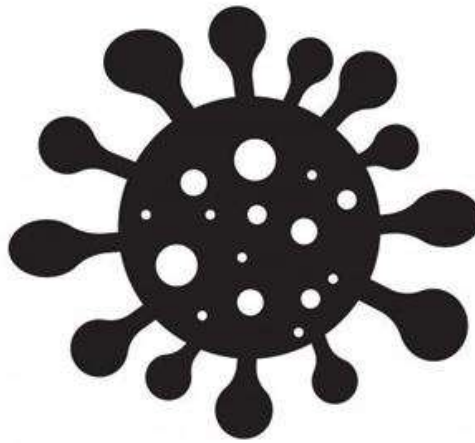
- Family & social network breakdown
 - Divorce, widowhood, and family estrangement leave many seniors without support systems
 - Elder abuse and financial exploitation can force older adults into homelessness
- Limited safety nets
 - Many shelters are not equipped for seniors' medical needs
 - Homeless service programs are often designed for younger adults and lack age-appropriate care
- Housing discrimination & barriers
 - Landlords may refuse to rent to older adults with fixed incomes
 - Seniors may not be "tech-savvy" enough to apply for online rental assistance programs

Impact on Seniors

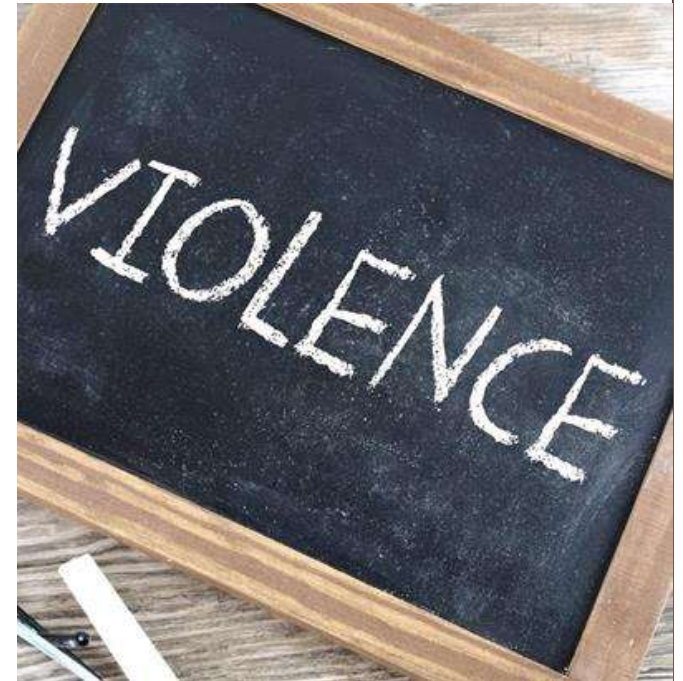
Mental Health



Physical Health



Vulnerability to Violence



Innovative Housing Models & Policy Changes

- Housing - First Approach
 - Tiny Home Villages & Micro - Communities
 - Medical Respite & Aging-in-Place Programs
 - Shared Housing & Intergenerational Living
 - Affordable Housing Policies & Rent Control
-

Housing - First Approach

- Provides permanent housing first, then connects people to healthcare, employment, and social services
- Example:
 - Pathways Housing First (Los Angeles, CA) - Helps seniors get stable housing **without preconditions**



Tiny Home Villages & Micro - Communities

- Small, low-cost homes for low-income seniors
- Affordable, sustainable, and builds community
- Examples:
 - Community First! Village (Austin, TX) - 51-acre tiny home village with housing, healthcare, and jobs
 - In Our Backyard (Anchorage, AK) - Senior-focused tiny homes with rental assistance

Shared Housing & Intergenerational Living

- Seniors co-live **with roommates** to split costs and caregiving
- Reduces **isolation** and **financial strain**
- Example:
 - NYC's Home Sharing Program - matches older adults with vetted roommates

Medical Respite & Aging-in-Place Programs

- Short-term housing for homeless seniors **needing medical care**
- Reduces ER visits & hospital readmissions
- Example:
 - Boston Health Care for the Homeless - Provides **post-hospital recovery** housing for seniors

Pilot Implementation

- ❑ One year duration
- ❑ Provide a safe, supportive emergency shelter and aid in transition of care
- ❑ Goal is to keep length of stay under 90 days
- ❑ Time to access health/BH and income supports to ensure transition in care
- ❑ Began in November 2024
- ❑ Currently housing 5 residents
- ❑ Average age is 64
- ❑ Increased ER visits, hospital admissions and length of stays

Partnerships

- Assisted living facilities
- Hospital systems
- Permanent supportive housing providers & homeless service providers

Gaps Identified

- Need for ADA accessible units
- Services to assist with aging in place
 - Wound care
 - Assistance with ADLs
 - Medication management
- Improved systems to enhance data sharing
- Improved partnerships with managed care organization to assist in subsidizing case management and other supports

Scope of Services

