

Community Health Action Teams (CHATs) are community-led groups working in coordination with the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) to improve the health of Sarasota County residents.

## Meeting Summary

---

**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021

**Time:** 2:00 to 3:30 pm

**Place:** Microsoft Teams Video & Teleconference

**Meeting Attendees:** Angela Murray – Safe Children Coalition; Joseph Mack – CHAT Chair; Kevin Stiff – City of Sarasota; Debbie Sargent – Community Member; Andrea Blanch – Sarasota Strong; Gene Marie Kennedy – MHI; Christine Quigley – Sarasota Bay Estuary; Ramon Quintero – Sarasota DOH; Chris Canaday – JFCS; Dr. Kristopher Fennie – New College; Julie Stewart – Community Member; Barbara Soloman - MHI; Jan Booher – Resilient Communities; Alicia Diaz – Selby Library; Beverly Phelps – Healthy Start Coalition; Olympia Fulcher – MHI; Kameron Hodgens – Glasser Schoenbaum; Dr. Lisa Merritt – MHI; Robert Thomas, Natalie Bryan, and Ashley Spangler – Sarasota DOH

1. **Review Meeting Summary from January** – No changes needed to January meeting summary.
2. **City of Sarasota Homelessness Response** – Kevin Stiff
  - Housing First since 2017. To do this the Homeless Outreach Teams, consists of police officer and case manager work to contact every homeless person in Sarasota to help them find a way to get out of homelessness. Want to help and sustain their housing without having to be “fixed” first. Most people who are experiencing homelessness or living on the street just need a little assistance. Main goal is outreach and coordinated entry.
    - City makes available 20 beds each night at Salvation Army for those who want help.
    - For those that are able bodies adults, the city helps fund “street teams” where they can do work around the city like clean up trash.
      - They spend time at the Salvation Army, and work on finding employment
    - For those that are disabled, mentally or physically the goal is to get them into housing, then help addressing other needs.
    - Permanent support housing for chronic individuals: work with programs to get them permanent housing for however long they need.
    - Emergency services are also offered: including change of clothes, dinner, breakfast, shower, and place to sleep. Those will be given for free to those that are seeking and working with the program to end their homelessness, and if not in a program it is a \$12 fee.
    - The city budget for this program is ~\$1 million.
    - Effective case management is key, working with those who want to end their homelessness until they get a home, and 1 year after they have been homed.

- Continuum of Care
- Current 2020 demographics and data can be found at [https://98877379-0aa3-46f6-a76b-2c30f5fb8696.filesusr.com/ugd/c0dc5c\\_584c76c55d8c414ca37a1b43d65d3e90.pdf](https://98877379-0aa3-46f6-a76b-2c30f5fb8696.filesusr.com/ugd/c0dc5c_584c76c55d8c414ca37a1b43d65d3e90.pdf)
- What can the CHAT do to help?
  - Get involved: volunteer at Salvation Army, Resurrection House.
  - If wanting to donate items: do not drop items off directly to those on the street, take to places like Salvation Army/Resurrection house.
- 211 - Nationwide help number
- My Florida families website offers resources for families who are in need.

### 3. **Community Portrait Newtown: Equitable Data Cycle Supporting Civic Engagement and Advocacy in Newtown, collaboration between New College and MHI**

- Looking for community feedback on study survey
- Interest in outcomes of inequity and social factors to help the community of Newtown
- Draft questionnaire is attached, additional questions or thoughts, send responses to Gene Marie at [genemarie.mhi@gmail.com](mailto:genemarie.mhi@gmail.com)

### 4. **CHAT Announcements – While we did not get to these items here is some updates on other things going on in the Newtown community.**

- COVID updates
  - COVID updates - Currently first and second dose appointments are continuing at Sarasota Square Mall. We are currently giving out the Moderna vaccine
    - As of Monday March 15, anyone 60+, health care worker, school employee, law enforcement, firefighters, and those determined vulnerable by their physicians are eligible for the vaccine. **Anyone over the age of 18 can sign up** on the Everbridge website and will receive an account number when it is their turn to become eligible.
  - Other state and federal popup sites are continuing to happen sporadically
  - State sites at the Tampa Greyhound track have on average been giving out around 2000 vaccines a day with availability of 3000, if you feel comfortable getting yourself to that location it could be an option.
- Community Health Improvement Plan – Possible CHAT Projects
  - Mental Health
    - Campaigns
    - Harm Reduction
  - Access to Care
    - Equity

- Trauma Informed
- Community Wide Walking Plan
- Environmental Health
  - Built Environment Project
  - Education

## 5. Newtown Community Input & Needs

- General –
- Mental Health –
- Access to Care –
- Environmental –
  - EPA Environmental Justice Grant: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of up to \$6 million in grant funding
    - Addressing COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income communities and communities of color
    - Climate Change and Natural Disaster Resiliency outreach and planning
    - New applicants to either opportunity
    - Ports Initiative to assist people living and working near ports across the country
    - Small non-profits
      - For more information please visit <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-availability-6-million-annual-environmental-justice-grants>
      - Submit proposal packages by May 7

**6. April 15, 2021 Meeting – All CHAT and Leadership Council members** (and feel free to invite any community members or clients interested, all are welcome!)

**7. May 25, 2021 – Newtown CHAT Meeting at 2 p.m.**