



## **4<sup>th</sup> Visioning Meeting – Marion County Minutes**

**February 23, 2021 3:30pm**

- Robert Cooper welcomed attendees to the meeting. In attendance; Robert Cooper, Mary Jensen, Steve Blank, and Ethan Bradley of Zero Hour Life Center, Meghan Riley-Reynolds of LSF, Renee Morrisette of LSF, Nancy Castillo of the Marion County Children’s Alliance, Jonathan Rosado of LSF, Community Member Mary Fowler, Jessica River of The Centers, Taylor Banks, Regina Lewis, Alina Stoothoff, and Crystal Watkins of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, Carole Williams-Hayes of DCF/SAMH Central Region, Cindy Brown of Congressman Daniel Webster’s office, Tom Hauck of Marion County Children’s Alliance, Summer Brown of Oxford House, Robert Jacobson of Narcan/FL, Pastor Luis of Kingdom Revival Church, Brianna Kelly of Marion Senior Services, and Chris Downing of Interfaith Community Services.
- Rob asked if everyone received the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and if anyone had any questions; there were none.
- Rob asked for someone to motion to approve the minutes, Meghan Riley-Reynolds offered the motion to approve and Steve Blank second the motion.
- Rob announced the location of the ZHLC RCO Ocala office at 807-A SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Ocala, FL 34471. Rob advised several peers came to the office to volunteer time to clean and paint the office prior to opening.
  - Peer support groups are still virtual at this time with the hopes to move some of them to in-person groups post Covid.
  - First Recovery Coach Academy class was last week with 12 students enrolled.
  - Working to collaborate with other agencies/providers to break the silos in providing services.
  - Next Recovery Coach Academy is April 12-16, 10am-4pm
    - Perspective students can enroll through end of March.
  - Rob is working towards adding other classes such as Recovery Coaching in the Emergency Room, to the Recovery Coach Academy

- Website for the academy is: [www.zhlcacademy.org](http://www.zhlcacademy.org)
- Rob introduced Megan Riley-Reynolds to discuss the Organizational Readiness Committee
  - Review fifteen various policies
  - Good feedback with minor changes suggested to policies.
  - No meeting scheduled at this time; when will meet again when new policies need review.
  - Minor tweaks were suggested, and feedback was shared with meeting participants on the policies.
  - Policies discussed were accepted by the committee.
  - Rob thanked the committee for all the hard work and progress.
- Rob asked for the Outreach Committee members to work on scheduling a meeting for next week to plan a grand opening for the RCO.
  - Rob will send email to Outreach Committee for meeting dates.
- Rob asked for the Strategic Planning members to be on the lookout for an email with meeting dates for this committee.
- Rob advised members that ZHLC applied for the SAMHSA Building Communities of Recovery grant.
  - If approved, ZHLC will build a peer workforce to help people get in or stay in recovery.
- Rob introduced the ZHLC Marion County Recovery Coordinator, Steve Blank to discuss updates with the RCO in the community.
- Steve discussed the importance for people who attend the peer support meeting to interact during the meeting.
  - Plans to attend the next Recovery Coach Academy
  - Asks member to if there are things the ZHLC could be doing or what other services are needed.
  - Alina Stoothoff discussed how drug court participants must attend peer support meetings now as opposed to historically they only attended AA/NA meetings. Alina stated that ZHLC meets the person where they are in recovery and does not certain on one specific pathway to recovery. Alina feels that this is beneficial to the participants. Alina would like to make sure that ZHLC is looking at the Opioid epidemic in our community and educating the community about recovery, prevention, and being trauma informed.
  - Steve mentioned a peer who recently attended a peer meeting but was reluctant to participate due to past trauma and triggers.

- Rob discussed what meeting people where they are means to him. Rob stated individuals seeking recovery are welcome to attend the groups no matter if they are sober or not, participate or not. Rob feels if individuals keep coming to the meetings and surround themselves with the recovery community, they will become more involved in the meetings and with the RCO.
- Alina stated it is important for the community to learn not to stigmatize those in or seeking recovery.
- Rob talked about the role of the RCO on a state and local levels.
- Rob Jacobson talked about how connections with community leaders, agencies, and providers with the RCO's are an integral part of providing services. RCO's are valuable in bring people in one place to meet, share ideas, create new conversations, and build the recovery community, educate the community, and destigmatize addiction.
- Rob opened the floor for questions or updates from members.
  - Nancy Castillo of Marion County Children's Alliance, Prevention Coordinator
    - Reminded the committee that the Ocala Recovery Fest will be held Saturday September 11, 2021 at Tusawilla Park. The stage is under construction, committee members will need to decide on an alternative for the stage.
    - Approximately 4000 Deterra bags remain, if anyone needs one contact Nancy.
    - Alliance meeting is March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Steve Blank and Robert Cooper will be presenting at this meeting.
    - Kathy Leonard is a peer working with pregnant moms including minors and facilitating All Recovery support groups.
  - Mary Fowler stated she feels that as a ZHLC peer recovery support group participant, the groups work. Once people become comfortable with their peers in the groups, they will open up, share phone numbers and provide support to others. Mary stated that this peer driven model helps to get people through recovery.
  - Crystal Watkins shared that she hears from her clients frequently how case managers, counselors, etc. do not understand because they have never been through addiction. Crystal stated the partnership with ZHLC has been beneficial for case managers and their participants in

the drug court programs. Crystal thanked Rob, Mary, and everyone at ZHLC.

- Brianna Kelly talked about her role and the programs at Marion Senior Services. They are starting geriatric counseling including for seniors who are caregivers for children. They also have a meals program and a transportation program with Marion Transit.
  - Pastor Luis offered the support from his church to ZHLC. Kingdom Revival Church offers Christian 12 step groups on Tuesdays and Halo for Hope on Thursdays. Previously help events to gather toiletries and other necessities which were then provided to individuals at Phoenix House.
- Rob announced the next Visioning meeting will be March 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm
  - Robert thanked everyone for attending today and closed meeting.