



## **VOLUSIA/FLAGLER COUNTY COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless' Continuum of Care Committee endorsed a name change and seated a new leader when it met on Friday, February 26. The newly named Volusia/Flagler Commission on Homelessness approved a motion that included the name change and to "begin the process of expanding the organization's impact in ending homelessness in the two county area."

The 24 member, all volunteer Commission also approved a change in leadership and seated three new Commission members. Sam Willett took over Chair of the Commission, succeeding the Neighborhood Center's Susan Clark who had chaired the group for the past two years.

Consistent with a goal of expanding private sector participation, the Commission seated attorney Jim Rose, retired circuit court judge Dave Beck and TD Bank Community Development Officer Janet Hamer.

The Commission is required to exist to prioritize and authorize the expenditure of federal funds for homeless services in Volusia and Flagler. Willett noted that the Commission wants to extend its influence. "As a Commission we want to expand our impact to draw all the resources of our communities together. Every person in our community deserves the dignity of a home. The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently recognized Volusia and Flagler Counties as the first communities in Florida to provide housing for all our veterans. The ambition of the Commission is to build on and broaden this achievement."

As part of its expanded role in the community the Commission approved a request to serve as the required steering committee in a grant application that the City of Daytona Beach will be submitting to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. If successful in being awarded the grant the City would have up to \$800,000 available annually for three years to provide an overlay of substance abuse and mental health treatment services for chronically homeless individuals placed in permanent supported housing.

The Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless, led by Executive Director Jeff White, will continue to serve as the lead agency and Collaborative Applicant for and staff to the Commission.