Meeting Minutes
Health & Safety Coordinating Committee
Lee Center
May 1, 2026

1. Reduction in Harm of Eviction Process

Kate Garvey, Director, DCHS, provided an update on eviction prevention and diversion efforts, including improvements to intake, outreach, and case management.

- **Eviction activity and service demand:** More than 1,200 eviction summonses received each quarter. Approximately 750 residents seek assistance each quarter. Three DCHS staff currently manage approximately 245 appointments per quarter. Referrals come from courts, community partners, landlords, City offices, and other sources.
- **Intake and assistance process:** Emergency cases are prioritized immediately. Other applicants go through screening, documentation review, and ongoing case management. In FY25, approximately 1,000 residents were assessed. Approximately 245 households received $775,000 in assistance. Assistance often includes behavioral health, workforce support, and stabilization services in addition to financial assistance. Wait times reduced from as long as seven weeks to approximately three to four weeks.
- Eviction Diversion Program Pilot launching in July. Will allow tenants to make an initial payment while longer-term payment arrangements are evaluated.

Discussion:

- Mayor Gaskins raised issues related to landlord outreach, chronic eviction filers, documentation requirements, and residents seeking assistance on the day of eviction.
- Sheriff's Office described ongoing coordination with DCHS and landlords to provide flexibility when possible and connect tenants with resources before evictions occur.

2. FY26 Reflection & FY27 Workplan

Mayor Gaskins and Councilwoman Greene led a discussion on the FY27 work plan and the structure and effectiveness of FY26 meetings.

- Considered continuing deep dives on individual issues versus smaller, more targeted discussions. Emphasized maintaining broad organizational awareness while creating opportunities for more candid, solution-oriented discussions among departments most directly involved. Suggested incorporating more real-time problem-solving.
- Considered involving additional departments, including ITS, Human Rights, and Legislative Affairs, when appropriate.

- Potential FY27 priority areas: 1) Housing and eviction prevention, 2) Neighborhood- and geography-based coordination strategies, 3) Mental health and housing intersections, 4) Public safety and emerging crime trends, 5) Economic development and quality-of-life planning. 6) Cross-department collaboration and improved meeting structure.
- Discussed potential impacts of federal workforce reductions and broader economic uncertainty on housing stability and service needs.

3. SHARE Team Update

Dana Wedeles, Strategic Initiatives Officer, provided an update on SHARE (Safe Housing Alert Response and Engage).

- SHARE was developed to strengthen coordination among departments responding to quality-of-life concerns at multifamily properties with elevated calls for service or code issues.
- Approach uses quantitative and qualitative data to identify properties requiring focused intervention. Creates a formal framework for interdepartmental coordination.
    - April workshop outcomes identified intervention criteria, defined lead agency responsibilities, inventoried existing services and resources.
    - Five primary focus areas 1) Housing and property concerns 2) Safety and infrastructure, 3) Service navigation, 4) Youth engagement, 5) Long-term planning.
- Mayor Gaskins and Councilwoman Greene expressed interest in providing additional information to the full City Council about SHARE and related coordination efforts.

4. State of Health: CHIP Update

Staff provided an update on Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) coalitions and neighborhood-based engagement.

- Arlandria Coalition finalized a vision statement focused on 1) Healthcare access, 2) Fair wages, 3) Economic opportunity.
- Landmark–Van Dorn Coalition identified three priority areas 1) Youth opportunities outside of school, 2) Community safety and violence prevention, 3) Access to green space and recreation.
- Workgroups are forming around each priority area. Additional outreach, including canvassing and community events, is underway to increase resident participation and feedback.

- Mental Wellness workgroups continue to meet regularly, focusing on root causes and long-term systems issues rather than solely developing short-term programs.

5. Data Report

The group reviewed current Health and Safety data trends and discussed several areas of interest.

- **Domestic violence:** Discussed increases in reporting, seasonal trends, and outreach to increase awareness of available resources. Staff noted that increases in hotline calls and service requests can be positive indicators of greater awareness and willingness to seek help. Mayor Gaskins and Councilwoman Greene expressed interest in a future presentation focused on domestic violence trends and prevention.
- **Traffic crash data:** Discussed delays in reporting, Staff attributed delays to external data processing issues. Updated information will be provided when available.
- **Nuisance complaints:** Reported 53% increase as the City approaches the summer season. Staff provided an update on efforts to fill the vacant noise inspector position. Emphasized the importance of maintaining adequate staffing capacity during periods of increased activity.