

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
Citizens Advisory Committee on Health and Human Services
Meeting Date – February 14, 2008
Community Services Department – Basement Conference Room

“Regular Meeting”
MINUTES

CAC Members Present:

Dr. Richard Galeta (Chair)
Barbara Jacobowitz (1st Vice-Chair)
Thomas Arnedos (2nd Vice-Chair)
Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock
Col. Michael Gauger
Mary Jill Hanson
Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson
Nate G. Nichols
Dr. Cynthia R. Smith

Absent CAC Member(s):

Sandra Chamblee

Ex-Officio Member(s) Present:

Edward Holloway
Houston Tate

Absent Ex-Officio Member(s):

Lt. Mike Kirschner
Brenda Gail Oakes

Others Present:

Tammy Fields
Edward L. Rich
Renee Constantino
Sharon O’Neill
Lorenzo Taylor
David Rafaidus
Linda Gordon
Houston Tate, PBC Office of
Community Revitalization
Ruth Moguillansky-DeRose, PBC Office
of Community Revitalization
Chrystal Mathews, PBC Office of
Community Revitalization
Thelka Rowe, Health Force Inc., Home
Health Agency
Clyde Voce, Health Force Inc., Home
Health Agency
Karis Engle, Glades Initiative Inc.
Robert Anderson, PBC Health Dept.,
Environmental Specialist

Agenda Items

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call – Linda Gordon – 8:35 a.m.
- B. Disclosures
 - None
- C. Public Input on Agenda Items
 - None
- D. Staff Information Updates
 - Copies of the written “Update on Oakwood Center” were distributed at the meeting.

Renee Constantino – Program Monitor Sharon O’Neill went to Oakwood Center for monitoring by the day after the incident happened. Oakwood has not fallen out of compliance. It was obvious that Oakwood was quite concerned about making sure they got things tightened up. Dr. DePiano was not available to attend today’s CAC meeting.

However, Dr. DePiano can be scheduled for a future meeting if there are a lot of questions. Our monitoring did not find issues, however the Department of Children's Services' and the licensing bodies' monitoring are more intense.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He requested that, in the future, information be provided within the CAC Packet so that everyone will be able to review it in advance of the meeting.

Col. Michael Gauger – He has to do intern work for his Master's degree in Social Work. He worked 16-hours per week with Oakwood's Mobile Crisis Team from January to August 2007. He thinks it amazing what Oakwood is able to do with the limited resources they have.

Renee Constantino – She noted that Dr. DePiano's letter clearly states that what got Oakwood closed that day were small things having to do more with maintenance, than with patient care. They had the wrong things in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Col. Michael Gauger – He thinks what triggered the problem was the issue of housing. By law, a patient who has been stabilized by must be released by Oakwood (or any other mental health facility). Many patients are homeless and have no place to go. In the instance with Oakwood, the patient was in a non-licensed facility which had been operated quite well for a couple of years until the manager left; then there was a lapse in supervision of the facility. Once Oakwood identified the place as inappropriate, they stopped sending and/or referring released patients there. However, patients who were previously familiar with the place continued to board there after being released by Oakwood.

Thomas Arnedos – Doesn't Oakwood have a place like a half-way house? What sort of places do the released patients go to?

Col. Michael Gauger – Oakwood has a few half-way houses, but not enough. There are also levels of half-way houses depending on the condition of the person. Many released Oakwood patients don't want to go to a place where there is supervision because they don't want curfews, and because alcohol and drugs are not allowed.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – Now that Amendment 1 has passed, she is concerned about the Comp Plan's continuum of care and that it be in the safest environment. She is more concerned with an agency's need to stabilize the number of staff because of significant turnover. With possible budget cuts to the FAA Program, agencies may need to cut back on staff, and that could impact patient care.

Edward L. Rich – He said that the staff is really not sure of where the Board of County Commissioners is going to go, budget-wise. The County Administrator and his staff have given directions to all of the departments to do a five-percent (5%) cut. In a few weeks, after the Board meeting, there may or may not be further directions; he just doesn't know.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – For those of us who attended the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Focus Group meeting, it was very obvious from the discussion that the agencies think a 5% cut would really be a significant impact in the service delivery system. Not only do they not have enough money now, but the problems are exponentially growing.

Nate Nichols – He said the CSC does fund Oakwood. They always do a ‘due diligence’ and a very intentional review of what is going on. He concurs with Dr. Galeta’s comment made about providing the “Update on Oakwood Center” in the CAC Packet because that would have triggered him to do some in-house exploration prior to today’s meeting. He will take another thorough look and have his staff give him a report regarding Oakwood. From the CSC perspective, the problem at Oakwood has not risen to a level that there has been a real issue.

Dr. Richard Galeta – As the Children’s Services Council funds Oakwood Center, is there a level or age requirement, or does the money just go to Oakwood’s general fund?

Nate Nichols – The CSC funds over \$500,000 to Oakwood Center. There are two (2) specific programs funded. Primarily, the intent is to work with the younger children and their families.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – She thinks the CAC should find out what impact there was on Oakwood’s infrastructure when they took over as a provider in western Palm Beach County.

Edward L. Rich – He ran across an article in this morning’s Palm Beach Post on page 8A, “Florida faces huge Medicaid hit”. Services are impacted by getting less money from Medicaid. Oakwood is a Medicaid provider. The loss of Medicaid monies affects the service providers by millions-of-dollars each year. Copies of the article were distributed.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – She noted that Oakwood Center and South County Mental Health Center each have a Mobile Crises Team. South County has had to cut it children’s residential services for lack of funding. There really are no public mental health beds in this County except for Oakwood Center.

E. Chair Comments

Dr. Richard Galeta – He called everyone’s attention to the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes distributed in the CAC Packets. He expects to have further Executive Committee Meetings to work some of the items out, and updates will be forthcoming.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions

- None

B. Adoption of the Agenda

- *Barbara Jacobowitz – Motion to Approve and Adopt the Agenda.*
- *Dr. Cynthia Smith – Seconded the Motion to Approve and Adopt the Agenda.*
- *No Discussion*
- *Motion to Approve and Adopt the Agenda passed unanimously.*

3. REGULAR BUSINESS (Action Items)

A. Adoption of CAC Regular Committee Minutes (January 10, 2008)

Karis Engle – She highlighted that the corrections to the December 13, 2007 CAC Minutes were listed in the January 10, 2008 Minutes, but were not actually changed in the Adopted December 13, 2007 Minutes.

(Recording Secretary's Note: The "Corrected Adopted" December 13, 2007 Regular Committee Meeting Minutes are being provided in the March 13, 2008 CAC Packet.)

- *Mary Jill Hanson – Motion to Approve and Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Minutes of January 10, 2008.*
- *Thomas Arnedos – Seconded the Motion to Approve and Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Minutes of January 10, 2008.*
- *No Discussion*
- *Motion to Approve and Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Minutes of January 10, 2008 passed unanimously.*

B. Adoption of CAC Executive Committee Minutes (January 10, 2008)

- *Thomas Arnedos – Motion to Adopt and Approve the CAC Executive Committee Minutes of January 10, 2008.*
- *Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – Seconded the Motion to Adopt and Approve the CAC Executive Committee Minutes of January 10, 2008.*
- *No Discussion*
- *Motion to Approve and Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Minutes of January 10, 2008 passed unanimously.*

4. OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM 4A: The Children's Services Council – Planning and Funding Activities presented by Nate Nichols

- A folder of informational materials was provided that included: The Children's Services Council 2005/2006 Annual Report; a 2007/2008 Directory of Funded Programs; and an invitation to the "State of the Child, 2008 Economic Indicators Report Release". This year's presentation will take place on Friday, February 29, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the United Way Auditorium located at 2600 Quantum Boulevard, Boynton Beach, Florida. All are invited.
- The three (3) critical outcome areas of the Children's Services Council (CSC) are about:

- Healthy Births – Assuring that children are born healthy, and that the mother has nutrition and is appropriately treated for her pregnancy. The father’s health, regardless of their marital status, is also critically important during the pregnancy.
- No Child Abuse – Assuring there are absolutely no abuses to the child.
- School Ready – Assuring that the child will be ready to enter school at the appropriate time.
- Aspiration - The fourth outcome area is called Aspiration, which is to assure that the child is at grade level at the end of the third grade. A child not on grade level by the end of the third grade has a 70% to 75% chance of not graduating from high school.

It is the school district’s responsibility to achieve the goal of the child being at grade level at the end of third grade. The CSC is supportive of and collaborative with the school district, but Aspiration is not an outcome for which the CSC holds itself accountable.

- As a part of Healthy Births, ‘Child Care’ is *quality* child care. There is a Quality Improvement System in this County. To-date, the CSC has funded over 123 both family child-care sites and other child care sites that are in a voluntary quality-rating system.

The underpinning is to make sure that there are professional-skilled levels of the child-care staff. Many child-care providers are high school graduates, which is the base requirement. The CSC works closely with licensure relative to the kinds of training and skills that staff need. The CSC is currently working with Palm Beach Community College where over two-thousand (2,000) people in the community who are child care providers receive academic training. The CSC is also working with Florida Atlantic University to ensure that there are career opportunities for child-care providers.

- Primetime - The CSC has created Primetime which is an intermediary that provides quality after-school programs for children. It is designed and funded by the Children’s Services Council and by other funders. The Primetime program works together with the School District. Primetime is doing a similar academic program modeled after the early child-care initiative to provide professional development of the staff.
- Healthy Beginnings (f/k/a Direct Services) is a cluster of services designed to support the mother and father as they are going through the process of the child’s birth, and pre-natal and post-natal services, and needs that the family may have.
- The ‘Universal’ module is really what the CSC calls their ‘family and community services’. Those are also a cluster of programs.
 - There is a parenting center that is universal to any parent in the community, and is available to any parent who wants parenting education.
 - There is also a mentoring center that is available universally.

- Parenting centers and mentoring centers go to where the population is. A church or a school in the community might be used as a location to provide the services.
- Pertaining to literacy, there are currently fourteen (14) Beacon sites scattered around the County. The intent is to focus on and support the academic experience of the child. Primarily, the program seeks to determine the services needed in a geographic community, and how can those be brought to bear within the Beacon construct.
- There are Family Resource Centers which the CSC also supports.
- A Risk Screen is offered to all children born in Palm Beach County. In 2007, there were 15,823 births. The intent is to link the parents with whatever they need as they go through the child's delivery and follow-up. It makes no difference what the parent's socio-economic status is.
- Where is the Children's Services Council going? The focus is on early childhood. That means Primary Prevention and Early Intervention.

Primary Prevention means the pregnancy of the mother and the child at birth. It is not about 'deep end' services. The CSC works collaboratively with other systems. The goal is to prevent children from ever entering the Juvenile Justice System. The CSC's focus, energy and success are contingent upon ensuring that the child doesn't reach those levels.

- Tax reform is ever-present and significant to all. Being a taxing authority, the CSC is going to be effective as well as anyone else. To date, the CSC knows it is going to experience a \$7.5 million cut in funding. That cut is the baseline, and the CSC doesn't know how much more funding might be cut.

Dr. Cynthia Smith – She commended Nate Nichols and the Children's Services Council for the work they are doing through the Primary Prevention program. As an educator, she constantly sees situations where support was not given to children and families, and often sees that the damage is already done by the time the schools get the children.

Nate Nichols – As you may or may not know, there aren't many dollars that come forward for the 0-3 year-old population. The CSC knows that the earlier the intervention, the more likely the child will develop and become a successful, contributing adult.

Dr. Cynthia Smith – She inquired whether the CSC is servicing parents who do not speak English. As the principal of the Palm Beach County School District's Adult Education Center, eighty-five percent (85%) of what they teach is English as a Second Language. She offered the Adult Education Center as a source for referral.

Nate Nichols – The CSC works with various communities. There is a continuous movement in this County of different groups and immigrants who feel a need to stay true to their culture. There is also a need for them to understand this way of life and to assimilate. Therefore, the educational component becomes even more critical.

Dr. Barbara Cox-Gerlock – She asked which CSC programs would be affected by the \$7.5 Million loss in funding.

Nate Nichols – He stated that the cuts will be across the board. Some cuts will be internal to the CSC, and some cuts will be to the providers.

Dr. Barbara Cox-Gerlock – Once a youth becomes involved in other systems like the Department of Juvenile Justice, the community lacks the resources to provide services to that youth. The youth begins to touch the other systems because the youth's needs are greater, but the County does not fund youth programs at that level. Even then when they do get services, they won't necessarily get the services to address their social and emotional needs.

Nate Nichols – He often hears questions about why the Children's Services Council isn't doing this or that. The reality is that the CSC cannot be all things to all people. The CSC needs to be laser-focused on what it is they are trying to do and to really attain outcomes.

AGENDA ITEM 4B: Update on the CAC Committee on the Health and Human Services Element – presented by Barbara Jacobowitz

Barbara Jacobowitz – She met with David Rafaidus and they discussed the following: What the steps will be in terms planning for the committee; the types of representation needed on the committee; how to go about actually updating the Element; what the expectations are of the committee to bring back to the CAC; that information from the FAA Focus Groups will be brought back to the committee; how to build an evaluation into the Element; and how to make the Element a more working, breathing document.

With the CAC's approval, the next step would be for David Rafaidus to outline a timeline for what steps are required by law to change the Element, and how to move forward to make those changes.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – She suggested that the Superintendent of Schools and the Department of Juvenile Justice have a representative on the committee.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He suggested representation on the committee of the United Way, the Medical Society, and the Dental Society.

Edward L. Rich – He noted that this committee on the Health and Human Services Element is in-line with what Assistant County Administrator Jon Van Arnam is going for.

Mary Jill Hanson – She commented that, at this particular point in time, she feels the committee on the Element may be a futile exercise because of the budget cuts.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He thinks that if the CAC can provide data to support the providers' needs, maybe the CAC can educate the public or others to listen to the CAC.

Barbara Jacobowitz – She believes it is more than that. The committee is taking a plan that is very abstract and attempting to focus it.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He stated that he also believes this process may allow them to get more coordination among the providers, and to pick up some of the voids the CAC is seeing.

Barbara Jacobowitz – She is presently in the process of doing something for the Palm Healthcare Board of Directors. She is looking at all of the different funding sources, what their goals and objectives are, and what they funded in the past year and a half. They are able to truly identify gaps, and what is being done in various areas. She is finding that many times funding is done is more in insulation.

Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson – Jon Van Arnam specifically has talked about the concerns that Barbara Jacobowitz brought up: Establishing priorities to be discussed by the right people. Renee Constantino is doing the FAA Focus Groups and providing reports.

Houston Tate – He and David Rafaidus have been discussing the natural linkage between what the CAC does and what the Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) does. The OCR meets directly with the communities. He offered the assistance and participation of the Office of Community Revitalization to the CAC.

Nate Nichols – There is nothing like data. Advocacy is a wonderful and important element, but it is critical that you have the current data and know the current facts.

Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson – She suggested that the Glades Initiative be added to the agencies selected to participate on the Element Committee.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He asked if it was possible to have Palm Beach Community College and other learning institutions involved in the Element Committee.

Barbara Jacobowitz – She pointed out that Florida Atlantic University (FAU) is on the list to participate on the Element Committee because it has the Wellness Centers.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He asked if there was a time frame.

David Rafaidus – He stated that he can develop a draft schematic for the next meeting of what players will be involved and under what step. There are a lot of people involved; it is just that everyone doesn't need to be involved at each step.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He would like to have a vote on the Element Committee's plan at the March CAC Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4C: Member Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Dr. Richard Galeta – He asked Renee Constantino if she had any further information from the FAA Focus Group – Category 1 (Substance Abuse/Mental Health) meeting held on February 31, 2007.

Renee Constantino – She provided a handout entitled “Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Priorities – Summary of January 31, 2008 Focus Group Meeting”. She thinks the focus group did a fabulous job and the participants were very respectful of each other. Each agency said that it cannot afford new cuts, but the good news was that they established priorities of where the money should go. One thing pointed out was that Mental

Health/Substance Abuse still faces a stigma. There is a lack of a marketing message of the positive outcomes that do occur, but are overshadowed by the bad things that are heard.

She thanked the CAC members who attended; Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock, Thomas Arnedos, and Houston Tate.

Houston Tate – He complimented Renee Constantino on the excellent job she did as Moderator.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – She thought one of the interesting things brought up several times at the meeting was that the failure to provide intervention and human services to the community will increase the prison population.

Col. Michael Gauger – There is a vast difference in the number of people who make it to a prison bed as compared to those who make it to a jail bed. One (1) or two (2) persons out of a thousand make it to a prison bed, and the rest are housed in the local jails which are County-funded, not State-funded. Right now, the dilemma is that the County Jail is the leading treatment program for mentally ill people and for substance abusers.

Thomas Arnedos – The Mental Health/Substance Abuse Focus Group mentioned that very point. They suggested perhaps a synergy between their efforts and advocacy, because if they were better funded, then the Sheriff's job would be easier.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – According to the television show "Prison Nation" on the National Geographic Channel, of the prisoners in the State and Federal prison system, eighty-person (80%) have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. And they may be in prison because of their substance abuse and/or mental health problem.

Mary Jill Hanson – She was involved in a case where a kid was arrested for burglary of petty things. He was bright and charming, and with proper intervention, he could have turned his life around. Instead he was re-arrested and then released again to the streets.

Col. Michael Gauger – He believes the problem is in the neighborhoods. The kids are being lost when they reach their teen years. The community centers *are* the schools with their huge recreation centers and meeting rooms. But after 5:00 p.m., the schools are locked up.

AGENDA ITEM 4D: Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

- None

AGENDA ITEM 4E: Good News Item(s)

David Rafaidus – He received an announcement that the 7th Annual Glades Reach Fair which is held in conjunction with the Glades Initiative is going to be held on February 16, 2008. There will be free medical, dental, and optometry screenings, among other things.

Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson – There are over 100 agencies that come out and provide

information and resources. Also, over 200 students from Nova University provide services and screenings to the Glades residents. It is an event that gets larger and larger every year.

Karis Engle – Over 1200 free medical services were provided in one day at last year’s Fair

Edward L. Rich – Today and tomorrow, at the Community College in the Glades, Community Services Staff members are taking applications until 9:00 p.m. for the Summer Camp Scholarship Program. In West Palm Beach last week, they had about 1500 applications. About 650 children have been identified as eligible for the Summer Camp Scholarship Program.

AGENDA ITEM 4E: Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings.

- Timeline for the Element Review Committee (David Rafaidus)
- Vote on the Element Committee’s plan to update the Element
- Presentation by the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office ‘Gang Task Force’ (Det. Byron Smith)
- Update on the FAA Process (Dr. Richard Galeta)
- How CAC members can access the FAA website (Renee Constantino)
- MAPP Project
- South County Mental Health and How It Works

5. ADJOURNMENT

- *Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – Motion to Adjourn the CAC Meeting.*
- *Barbara Jacobowitz – Seconded the Motion to Adjourn the CAC Meeting.*
- *No Discussion*
- *Motion to Adjourn the CAC Meeting passed unanimously.*

Future Meetings:

CAC Regular Meetings: March 13, 2008 and April 10, 2008

Executive or Reserved Meeting Dates: March 26, 2008 and April 14, 2008

*FAA Focus and/or Funding Advisory Groups: March 11, 2008; March 18, 2008
and March 20, 2008.*

Minutes approved by the CAC on April 10, 2008 by _____
Signature – Dr. Richard Galeta, Chair