

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
Citizens Advisory Committee on Health and Human Services
Meeting Date – May 8, 2008
Community Services Department – Basement Conference Room

“Regular Meeting”
MINUTES

CAC Members Present:

Dr. Richard Galeta (Chair)
Barbara Jacobowitz (1st Vice-Chair)
Sandra Chamblee
Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock
Col. Michael Gauger
Jill Hanson
Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson
Nate Nichols
Dr. Cynthia Smith

Others Present:

Jon Van Arnam
Edward L. Rich
Renee Constantino
Tammy Fields
Claudia Tuck
David Rafaidus
Linda Gordon
Karis Engle, Glades Initiative Inc.

Absent CAC Members:

Thomas Arnedos (2nd Vice-Chair)
Debby Walters

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Brenda Gail Oakes
Edward Holloway

Absent Ex-Officio Members:

Lt. Mike Kirschner
Houston Tate

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

Renee Constantino – The Summary of the FAA Focus Groups have been mailed to the CAC Members, Ex-officios and Staff. Out of over seventy (70) pages of notes, she created the Summary based on: What comprised the FAA Focus Groups; what were the questions (based upon the type of services provided); what the Focus Groups identified as

top priorities; the common threads of the priorities; and general discussion of future thoughts, of concerns, and change.

Dr. Richard Galeta – Because not everyone has had a chance to review the Summary of the FAA Focus Groups, he would like to put the Summary on the May Agenda.

Edward L. Rich – He is having a budget meeting with Staff on Monday, May 12, 2008.

Jon Van Arnam – The May 12, 2008 budget meeting will be with the Community Services Department, County Administrator Bob Wiseman, and him. Then on Wednesday, May 14, 2008, the County Management Team is meeting to work on the overall budget which will address the budgets of all departments. The County is going to have to find an additional \$10 Million in cuts. They will be trying to figure out how much of the cuts will come from departments, how much comes from capital or reserves that can be reduced, or other areas of the budget that can be reduced.

The first public budget workshop before the BCC will be sometime between May 14, 2008 and June 18, 2008. There will be a second workshop, and then the actual public hearings on the budget ultimately toward adoption of a budget in September 2008.

Dr. Richard Galeta – What percentage has been cut from the FAA budget so far?

Jon Van Arnam – The percentage of cuts from the FAA program has not been determined. So far there are a couple of scenarios for the FAA's that will be presented to County Administrator Bob Wiseman.

The roughly \$10 Million in additional cuts is over the whole spectrum. The departments' targets were to come in five-percent (5%) below what they had last year in ad valorem revenue. To achieve that, the departments had to have budget cuts in the seven-percent (7%) to ten-percent (10%) range because they have to achieve the increases in personnel costs, fuel and fixed costs that have gone up since last year.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions

Nate Nichols – He requested that 'El Sol' be added to the Agenda. The CAC meeting packet included copies of correspondence and El Sol documents that were mailed to County Commissioners Jeff Koons and Karen Marcus.

B. Adoption

- *Sandra Chamblee – Motion to Approve and Adopt the Agenda with the Addition of 'El Sol' as Other Business Item 4C.*
- *Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – Seconded the Motion to Approve and Adopt the Agenda with the Addition of 'El Sol' as Other Business Item 4C.*
- *No Discussion*

- *The Motion to Approve and Adopt the Agenda with the Addition of 'El Sol' as Other Business Item 4C passed unanimously. [NOTE: The Other Business Items will be renumbered as follows: Member Comments on Non-Agenda Items will become 4D; Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items will become 4E; Good News Items will become 4F; and Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings will become 4G.]*

3. REGULAR BUSINESS (Action Items)

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

- *Barbara Jacobowitz – Motion to Approve and Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2008.*
- *Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – Seconded the Motion to Approve and Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2008.*
- *No Discussion*
- *Motion to Approve and Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2008 passed unanimously.*

4. OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEMS 4A: CAC Work Plan for 2008/2009 – Executive Committee Recommendation presented by Dr. Richard Galeta

Dr. Richard Galeta – The Executive Committee met on April 29, 2008 to review the Work Plan for 2008/2009, the Homeless Strategic Planning Committee's 10-Year Plan, and the possibility of obtaining data from 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc.

Barbara Jacobowitz – Regarding 211 in particular, Thomas Arnedos was requesting that the CAC get more information about what happens after 211 refers someone to an agency for help. Did the caller get the services needed? Was the caller put on a wait list?

Pertaining to the Work Plan, it will be revised to show what Staff will be responsible for and what the CAC will be responsible for.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He reviewed the Palm Healthcare Report done by Barbara Jacobowitz. The Report is a tremendous base from which the CAC can get started on for the items that the CAC is interested in. The Palm Healthcare Report will be on the June 12, 2008 CAC Agenda and copies will be in the meeting packets mailed in advance.

Barbara Jacobowitz – The CAC will be able to utilize the Palm Healthcare Report after it is formally presented on May 28, 2008. Data specific to Palm Healthcare will have to be added to the Report. The three (3) sections she thinks are important are: 1) The entities that fund health and human services; 2) Palm Beach County structures that have begun on behalf of planning activities; 3) Needs assessments and other planning documents done since 2000.

David Rafaidus – The collection of all documents in Palm Beach County related to health

and human services will be a continuous process. He has begun collecting some documentation already.

Jon Van Arnam – The Renewed Focus task was to be the development of an inventory using the Treasure Coast product as the basis. Then the CAC would identify which efforts to track and/or have more future discussion about. There would also be other Work Plan headings having to do with benchmarks, hot issues, FAA's, or other activities of the CAC that aren't directly related to the Renewed Focus. He wants everyone to be clear about the Renewed Focus so that Staff and the CAC are working in union.

Dr. Richard Galeta – This is the 'first shot' at the Work Plan so that everyone would know what we'll be doing and within what time frames.

Jon Van Arnam - He asked if some of the work done on the draft Work Plan was taken out because there are a lot of blanks in the revised draft Work Plan.

David Rafaidus – The revised draft Work Plan [on legal-size paper] adds to and clarifies the format. If the revised draft format is approved, then he will drop-in the information from the first draft Work Plan [on letter-size paper] to the revised draft Work Plan.

Dr. Richard Galeta – Staff needs to determine what it can accomplish, and then the CAC and Staff need to agree on those objectives. Nothing is set-in-stone at this point.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – When can the CAC expect to receive from Staff the complete revised Work Plan with the information dropped-in?

David Rafaidus – Only the headings of End Product, Staff Role and Time Frame will need to be discussed. He will be able to complete the third draft Work Plan as soon as he meets with Jon Van Arnam and Renee Constantino.

Edward L. Rich – Within ten (10) days, the third draft Work Plan will be completed.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – So there could be an Executive Board meeting prior to the next Regular CAC meeting to: Review the third draft Work Plan; determine the Time Frames; determine the CAC's role, and put the Tasks in priority order.

David Rafaidus – That is correct.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock - Perhaps the FAA grant process should come before the Homeless Strategic Plan.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He spoke with Edward L. Rich earlier this morning regarding the issue of the FAA process. Right now neither Mr. Rich nor Jon Van Arnam has the specifics of the FAA budget cuts.

Edward L. Rich – Within ten (10) days he will have that information.

Jon Van Arnam – The County is in the third (3rd) year of a three (3) year contract cycle. New FAA grant applications are not being solicited this year. To the extent that the County has to, it will be possibly cutting or adjusting some of the contracts and re-allocating some funds. He doesn't see major changes to the process.

There is a bigger effort going on through discussions with the principal funders in the community about how to fund health and human services, particularly the social services. By next year at this time, if the recommendations are finalized and approved by the individual organizations, there may be some broader changes that could significantly change the way funding is distributed for social services. Until the discussions with the funders are completed, his suggestion is that nothing significant be done with the FAA process.

These are several things that need to happen to have an overall better system of care:

- Improve the way the County coordinates with other funders;
- Do a better job of identifying needs;
- Have provider agencies that are productive and have the best outcomes;
- Have coverage in all parts of the County's communities; and
- Possible consolidation of agencies.

Nate Nichols – He spoke on behalf of the Children's Services Council. He emphasized that the funders' discussions are looking at efficiencies, effectiveness, and the scope of work the funding agencies provide.

Barbara Jacobowitz – The Treasure Coast Health Council has already started a database in which the funders and what they are funding are being entered. The database defines what the actual characteristics in Healthy People 2010 are and who is funding what. Eventually when a full year is compiled in the database, it might be helpful to funders' discussions.

AGENDA ITEMS 4B: **The Homeless Strategic Planning Committee's 10-Year Plan – Comments and Questions to Claudia Tuck**

Barbara Jacobowitz – The Homeless Strategic Plan has great goals, but she questions where the money is going to come from to do some of them. She is also concerned about developing a local authority over homeless issues and who will empower that authority. Her list of comments (distributed at the meeting) includes her questions about the feasibility and difficulty in completing some of the tasks.

Jill Hanson – She agrees with Barbara Jacobowitz. The Strategic Plan presents what the problems of homelessness are, but doesn't seem to go in the direction of solving them. There are so many things that 'need funding' or 'need more funding'.

Claudia Tuck – She provided a handout entitled, "Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board – Executive Summary". The Summary provides the History, Goal, Purpose, and Current Status of the Homeless Advisory Board. The Summary also lists the Core Members and the Community and Business Members who sit on the Advisory Board.

The Homelessness project started in the early 2000's when there were Federal Mandates that

all communities receiving Federal funding must develop plans to end homelessness. In 2006, the County was asked to take the lead entity status for homelessness in Palm Beach County. They 'hit the ground running' and got the providers together and began work on a strategic plan. The idea was to bring everyone including but not limited to the municipalities, the faith-based, and the business community to the table because one entity cannot do it all. Also, the Staff started researching communities across the country that had already begun developing plans to end homelessness in order to learn what worked and what didn't. Then meetings began with Jon Van Arnam and Edward L. Rich, and led to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approving the development of a Homeless Advisory Board in May 2006.

The Goals and Action Steps to Ending Homelessness in Palm Beach County are the initial recommendations in a priority format. In April 2008, the BCC gave its approval to the Homeless Advisory Board to proceed. The Goals and Action Steps are just one part of the entire plan to end homelessness. Pertaining to needed funding, there is a lot of money that is available and, yes, there will be more revenue monies needed. The Goals and Actions Steps are meant to identify the coordination aspect of the plan to end homelessness.

At the next Homeless Advisory Board Meeting in May 2008, the funders will present what they fund toward ending homelessness. The meetings of the Homeless Advisory Board are usually held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the third (3rd) Wednesday of each month at the Community Services Department offices located at 1440 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Riviera Beach, Florida. The meetings are open to the public.

Barbara Jacobowitz – She mentioned the Medicaid Navigators which is a computer and software program that allow case managers and applicants to fill out forms, locates additional programs that applicants are eligible for, and is an informational resource to case managers.

Claudia Tuck – Along the lines of the Navigators, identified in the Goals and Action Steps to Ending Homelessness is the need to short-cut and try to streamline the Social Security application process. Several years ago, the Federal government set up a pilot-program called SOAR [Supplemental Security Income - SSI/Social Security Disability Insurance - SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery], which the Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) has been researching for over a year. The HAB is looking forward to bringing SOAR to Palm Beach County in August 2008. CAC member Debby Walters has been invited to be on the steering committee for the SOAR project in Palm Beach County.

Barbara Jacobowitz – There are also many homeless individuals who are HIV Positive. In the homeless planning process, she does not want them to be forgotten.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He asked if the Veteran's Administration (VA) was going to be part of the membership of the Homeless Advisory Board. Also, how much money is currently available for homelessness?

Claudia Tuck - Because the VA is a service-provider and has a Homeless Outreach Program, it does not have a member-seat on the Homeless Advisory Board. As to the available dollars for homelessness, that is the reason for the HAB's meeting with the funders. Each funder has provided documentation as to what monies there are from the private sector.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – From what she is hearing, just about every agency is losing funding.

Barbara Jacobowitz – The philanthropic investments are also decreasing.

Jon Van Arnam – The key VA staff from the Homeless Outreach Program were invited to meet with Claudia Tuck, Commissioner Jeff Koons (the Chairman of the Homeless Advisory Committee) and him. One of the results from that meeting was a letter from Commissioners Koons that went to the Director of the VA requesting a meeting to discuss the Homeless Strategic Plan and some other issues of mutual interest between the County and the VA.

The Homeless Strategic Plan has an emphasis on engaging philanthropic and businesses within the community. Some interest has been shown by outside funders who are very encouraged by the fact that the community is coming together with a plan.

Brenda Gail Oakes – She complimented Claudia Tuck and her staff for having the vision to try to get everyone together at the same table on the homelessness issue.

Claudia Tuck – She said that Georgiana Devine of the Human Services Division staff led the charge in pulling the providers together and bringing them to the table.

- *Barbara Jacobowitz – Motion for the Citizens Advisory Committee’s Endorsement of the Goals and Action Steps of the Homeless Strategic Plan.*
- *Nate Nichols – Seconded the Motion for the Citizens Advisory Committee’s Endorsement of the Goals and Action Steps of the Homeless Strategic Plan*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion for the Citizens Advisory Committee’s Endorsement of the Goals and Action Steps of the Homeless Strategic Plan passed unanimously.*

Jon Van Arnam – When the Homeless Strategic Plan is presented to the County Commissioners this summer, it would be nice to have a formal letter of endorsement to the BCC from the CAC.

Dr. Richard Galeta – The letter of endorsement will be done.

Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson – Are the Goals and Action Plans set in stone?

Claudia Tuck – The Plan was approved by the County Commissioners so they are going to proceed as is. Any recommendations to change the Goals and Action Plans would be done through a process with the BCC.

Jon Van Arnam – The Homeless Strategic Plan can be changed and/or tweaked. The intent of presenting the Plan to the BCC was so that they would understand and approve the direction the Homeless Advisory Board is going in.

AGENDA ITEMS 4C: El Sol Neighborhood Resource Center in Jupiter

Nate Nichols – He and others from the Children’s Services Council (CSC) staff went to El Sol to meet with President John Richmond and his staff. The CSC’s focus is the zero (0) to five years of age population. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the focus and direction of the Children’s Services Council. El Sol has been doing some parenting-education classes that are supported by the CSC. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the funding for parenting-education is nested in the Jupiter community. However, Jupiter has one of the smallest populations in the County and that led the CSC to do an analysis of the situation. The analysis showed that the CSC may not be providing parenting-education to the right population. The classes at El Sol will continue with the caveat that there is a specific population that the CSC will provide parenting-education to. He wants everyone to be aware that the CSC will continue to support El Sol in terms of parenting-education classes.

Jill Hanson – While the parenting-education classes may have provided a large percentage of services at El Sol, she believes that the population of Northern Palm Beach County is underserved in terms of all social services. El Sol is a very needy population and, together with the remaining population, perhaps should be looked at long-term regarding social services. She hopes that the CAC will keep an open mind to El Sol.

She is proud of what El Sol has done with limited resources. The volunteers are the main resource and give over one-thousand (1,000) hours of work per month to El Sol. That would be equivalent to about five (5) full-time employees and would represent close to \$200,000 over the course of a year.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – She commended Jill Hanson and El Sol on the report that was provided and for the holistic plan put into practice at El Sol.

AGENDA ITEMS 4D: Member Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Col. Michael Gauger – The Drug Court has been extremely successful in dealing with substance abusers and mentally ill, but its funding is in serious jeopardy. The State Legislature has denied the State Attorney from using some of its fines and forfeitures to help pay for the Drug Court. Those monies have been cut and this year the Sheriff’s Office is only able kick in some money from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Without future funding, the Drug Court program may be lost and that just adds to homelessness. Maybe something Jon Van Arnam and the County Commissioners need to look at is that if a program like the Drug Court is not funded, then there is a jail bed cost of \$23,000 per inmate per year, and a cost of up to \$100,000 per inmate per year if the inmate is HIV Positive.

Jon Van Arnam – The statistics about the Drug Court are very positive. Over ninety-percent (90%) of the people who go through the Drug Court do not re-offend for five (5) years. About a week ago, the BCC did hear a presentation on the Drug Court as part of the Chief Judge’s presentation. The Chief Judge described some possible opportunities to generate additional revenue. Hopefully, there will some combination of funding and/or new revenue that will allow the Drug Court and other good programs to continue.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – The CAC advocates for health and human services and the welfare of the community. Is there any way that the CAC can have some kind of impact on

reversing the cycle of budget cuts that has started? It seems to her that there should be a hue and cry going out from the population. Recently, the City of West Palm Beach got a nineteen-dollar (\$19) increase for water utilities, then Florida Power and Light wants to raise its fees, and the cost of gasoline keeps going up. This County is not going to be a nice place to live if we don't start doing something.

Jill Hanson – She thinks that may be true. People that voted for the last property tax fiasco that passed, have had no idea of what the impact is going to be on social services. What's coming up is even worse.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He is concerned that the impact will not be seen by people before the ballot question. There is going to be a tremendous impact all the way across all lines.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – So what can we do?

Dr. Richard Galeta – Is there anything the CAC can do at this level concerning the impacts?

Nate Nichols – He doesn't think anyone is exempt from the tax cuts. The community may need to be impacted to see the reality of what has occurred. The Children's Services Council is anticipating between \$12 Million and \$14 Million in budget cuts. He sees another three (3) to five (5) years of the same kind of year-to-year budget cuts. What really is the role that this group can take to really advocate?

Jill Hanson – The Work Plan states, "The CAC is recognized as the County spokesperson on Health and Human Services issues."

Dr. Richard Galeta – The CAC can certainly write a letter to the County Commission.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – She thinks the CAC needs to go beyond that because the legislators of the State of Florida are the ones responsible. The people don't know what the legislators did because nobody told them what it was going to be like. We're not going to see the impact because the budget goes into effect in October and the election is in November, so who is going to be hurting that much. Somehow or another the picture has got to be drawn.

Tammy Fields – Since the CAC is appointed by the BCC, your recommendations go to the BCC. If you want the BCC to go to the legislature, that really should go up through them.

Jill Hanson – Her suggestion is to have the Chair of the CAC, or someone on the Committee, do an op-ed [opinion-editorial] piece to be published in the Palm Beach Post and/or the Sun-Sentinel on behalf of the CAC.

Brenda Gail Oakes – Can the CAC do that without going through the County?

Tammy Fields – An op-ed could be done by an individual who could identify him/herself as being a member of the CAC. She doesn't know that it is a problem for the CAC to be taking positions; the Committee just needs to let the rest of County administration know the positions it's taking.

Jon Van Arnam – He thinks the question is, “Can an op-ed piece be signed by, and as the Chair of, the Citizens Advisory Committee on Health and Human Services?” He does not see a problem with that. If the CAC wants to do more, for example a letter to the legislative delegation expressing concern about the budget cuts, that type of thing should go up through the BCC.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – So could the CAC members e-mail David Rafaidus with their thoughts and maybe they could be compiled into a letter by Dr. Richard Galeta to send to the newspaper.

Jill Hanson – If the CAC wants to go through the BCC and ask them to take a position on the budget cuts with the State legislature, it is probably a good idea to begin now for the next session.

Dr. Richard Galeta – Let’s e-mail our thoughts/suggestions to David Rafaidus prior to the May 22, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting so that they can be shared at the meeting.

Brenda Gail Oakes – She asked everyone to include the recommended cuts that are going to affect their department when sending in the comments. Let people know the specific impacts. Personalize the letter because it has to affect the public personally for them to care.

David Rafaidus – Since there is no consensus on the time for the May 22nd Executive Committee meeting, he will send out possible times for the meeting on that date.

Also, a color copy of the Miami-Dade Community Health Report Card was included in the packet to CAC members.

Sandra Chamblee – She is unable to attend the June CAC meeting because she will be in Detroit at the HIV Prevention Conference.

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

- None

AGENDA ITEM 4F: Good News Item(s)

Sandra Chamblee – She noted that CAC member Nate Nichols was recently honored as one of the fifteen (15) Most Powerful African-Americans in South Florida.

Nate Nichols – He said he humbly accepted the honor. However he doesn’t know what the word “powerful” is all about. He said he just does what he can do to make a difference.

AGENDA ITEM 4G: Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- MAPP Presentation
- FAA Focus Group Summary (Renee Constantino)
- Work Plan (2008/2009) End Products, Time Frames and Staff Role (Edward L. Rich and Renee Constantino)
- Possible Modifications to the Element

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

- *Sandra Chamblee – Motion to Adjourn the CAC Meeting.*
- *Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson – Seconded the Motion to Adjourn the CAC Meeting.*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion to Adjourn the CAC Meeting passed unanimously.*

Future Meetings:

CAC Regular Meetings: June 12, 2008; July 10, 2008

Executive or Reserved Meeting Dates: May 22, 2008; June 26, 2008

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

ADOPTED