

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

“Regular Committee Meeting”
MINUTES

CAC Members Present:

Dr. Richard Galeta (Chair)
Barbara Jacobowitz (1st Vice-Chair)
Sandra Chamblee (Glades Representative)
Col. Michael Gauger
Jill Hanson
Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson
Debby Walters

Absent CAC Members:

Thomas Arnedos (2nd Vice-Chair)
Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock
Nate Nichols
Dr. Cynthia Smith

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Brenda Gail Oakes
Edward Holloway

Absent Ex-Officio Members:

Lt. Mike Kirschner
Houston Tate

Others Present:

Edward L. Rich
Claudia Tuck
Dr. Roland Williams
David Rafaidus
Linda Gordon
Karis Engle, Glades Initiative, Inc.
Scot Kannel, The Arc of the Glades
Jamie Estremera-Fitzgerald, Area
Agency on the Aging

Agenda Items

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call – Linda Gordon – 8:37 a.m.
- B. Disclosures
 - None
- C. Public Input on Agenda Items
 - None
- D. Staff Information Updates

David Rafaidus – He conveyed that Jon Van Arnam’s mother died earlier this week. A card to be signed by Citizens Advisory Committee members to Jon is being circulated during the meeting.

Dr. Richard Galeta – On behalf of all CAC members, he extended his deepest condolences to Jon Van Arnam and his family.

E. Chair Updates

- None

2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

A. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions

- None

B. Adoption of the Agenda

- *Barbara Jacobowitz – Motion to Approve and Adopt the Agenda.*
- *Sandra Chamblee – Seconded the Motion to Approve and Adopt the Agenda.*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion to Approve and Adopt the Agenda passed unanimously.*

3. **REGULAR BUSINESS (Action Items)**

AGENDA ITEM 3A: Adoption of CAC Regular Committee Meeting Minutes (July 10, 2008)

- *Sandra Chamblee – Motion to Approve and Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2008.*
- *Barbara Jacobowitz – Motion to Approve and Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2008.*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion to Approve and Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2008 passed unanimously.*

AGENDA ITEM 3B: FAA Subcommittee Report (Work Plan) – Executive Committee Recommendation (Dr. Richard Galeta and Debby Walters)

Dr. Richard Galeta – The CAC Executive Committee met this morning and approved the FAA Subcommittee’s Work Plan.

Debby Walters – The FAA Subcommittee has had two (2) meetings.

The long-term task (end product) is to develop a Palm Beach County (PBC) Community Report Card similar to the one done by Miami-Dade County. The PBC report card would look at where the issues are for both health and human services. If the FAA Subcommittee’s Work Plan, including the PBC report card, is approved by the full Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), then the Work Plan may be presented by the to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for its approval.

As to the FAA Subcommittee's short-term goal, the subcommittee members need to understand the whole funding process; how the RFP is developed; who is currently being funded and what are they being funded for. The subcommittee also needs to know what the funding cycle activities and deadlines are so that the CAC can really have a role within the funding process.

One issue that came up recently is the Funders Collaborative. It is not understood what the Collaborative is all about. The FAA Subcommittee has asked David Rafaidus to contact Jon Van Arnam about preparing a narrative describing the Funding Collaborative and what its goals are, and about doing a presentation. It's well known that private funders may each operate differently because of the way the individual funders are set up. Do the Florida Sunshine Rules apply?

The medium-term goal is to have an annual report. Until the FAA Subcommittee gets to the end product of a PBC Community Report Card, the medium-term goal is to have an annual report timely prepared prior to the time the BCC actually allocates monies to the providers. The subcommittee will depend a lot on the Data Subcommittee and the Public Participation/Element Subcommittee.

Dr. Richard Galeta – At the Executive Committee Meeting earlier, all of the subcommittee Chairs agreed that they are on the same page with the long-term goal of a Palm Beach County Community Report Card on health and human services. The CAC Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the FAA Subcommittee's Work Plan.

- *Barbara Jacobowitz – Motion to Adopt the FAA Subcommittee's Work Plan and direction which is also recommended by the Chair of the Public Participation/Element Subcommittee, Barbara Jacobowitz, and by the Chair of the Data Subcommittee, Brenda Gail Oakes.*
- *Sandra Chamblee – Seconded the Motion.*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion to Adopt the FAA Subcommittee's Work Plan and direction which is also recommended by the Chair of the Public Participation/Element Subcommittee, Barbara Jacobowitz, and by the Chair of the Data Subcommittee, Brenda Gail Oakes, passed unanimously.*

AGENDA ITEM 3C: CAC/HHS Membership Statues (David Rafaidus)

David Rafaidus – This morning, the CAC Executive Committee made a recommendation to forward to the CAC Regular Committee that Dr. Richard Galeta and Jill Hanson be re-nominated to serve as CAC members for another term of office. Both Dr. Richard Galeta and Jill Hanson have expressed verbally and in writing their wishes to be reappointed.

- *Debby Walters – Motion that the CAC Regular Committee concur with the CAC Executive Committee's recommendation to re-nominate Dr. Richard Galeta and Jill Hanson for another term as members of the Citizens Advisory Committee.*

- *Barbara Jacobowitz – Seconded the Motion that the CAC Regular Committee concur with the CAC Executive Committee’s recommendation to re-nominate Dr. Richard Galeta and Jill Hanson for another term as members of the Citizens Advisory Committee.*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion that the CAC Regular Committee concur with the CAC Executive Committee’s recommendation to re-nominate Dr. Richard Galeta and Jill Hanson for another term as members of the Citizens Advisory Committee passed unanimously.*

4. OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM 4A: CAC/HHS Web Page

David Rafaidus – The Citizens Advisory Committee Brochure now includes the World Wide Web (www) Link for the CAC. The link site includes copies of adopted meeting minutes, CAC Regular Meeting and Executive Committee meeting dates and times. The specific Web Page Address is:

<http://www.pbcgov.com/communityservices/citizenadvisory.htm>

AGENDA ITEM 4B: Member Comments on Non-Agenda Item(s)

Dr. Richard Galeta – The October Regular CAC meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2008 which is Yom Kippur. Would the CAC like to change the date of the meeting? The meeting could be moved to Thursday, October 2nd or Thursday, October 16th.

David Rafaidus - Thursday, October 23rd is a CAC Reserved meeting date so that date is a possibility also.

- *Jill Hanson – Motion to reschedule the Thursday, October 9, 2008 Regular CAC meeting to Thursday, October 16, 2008.*
- *Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson – Seconded the Motion to reschedule the Thursday, October 9, 2008 Regular CAC meeting to Thursday, October 16, 2008.*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion to reschedule the Thursday, October 9, 2008 Regular CAC meeting to Thursday, October 16, 2008 passed unanimously.*

Brenda Gail Oakes – She asked that Claudia Tuck give the CAC a quick update on what is going on with the Homeless Advisory Board.

Claudia Tuck – The Homeless Advisory Board made some changes to the ‘Ending Homelessness Plan’ that were ‘clean-up’ changes, and not major. The ‘Ending Homelessness Plan’ is basically the same as was previously provided to the CAC. The consultant to the Homeless Advisory Board is finalizing and printing it. The Plan will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at their meeting on September 23, 2008.

There are six (6) committees that will be working under the Homeless Advisory Board: Funding; Facilities; Strategic Planning; and Legislative & Policy, plus two (2) other committees. A lot of the work will be done by the committees which are now being formed. The homeless providers have been invited to join the committee(s).

Dr. Richard Galeta – At one of the previous CAC meetings, Jon Van Arnam had asked that the ‘Ending Homelessness Plan’ come through the CAC for its comment. Would that be possible at the September CAC meeting?

Claudia Tuck – The draft Plan can certainly be reviewed by the CAC at the September CAC meeting. The Plan is about 100 pages, and she suggested that it be e-mailed to CAC members. She will e-mail the document to David Rafaidus for e-mail distribution.

Relative to Westgate Tabernacle, the hot-teams have been going to Westgate every week since February 14, 2007. Initially, there were about twenty-five (25) families and twenty (20) to thirty (30) individuals that were helped by the hot-teams. In the beginning of May, the deputy sheriff who accompanies the hot-teams asked if the hot-team visits could be cut back because there were only one or two individuals and, maybe, one or two families per month who wanted assistance. Not very many people who are at Westgate have wanted to leave. When the hot-teams go to Westgate, on average there are about fifteen (15) individuals and five (5) to seven (7) families there. She met with Bishop Hill and the administrator, Stephen Johnson, and they agreed that it was not necessary to have weekly hot-team visits. Westgate said they would call Human Services for hot-teams if they needed more assistance, and Westgate is also aware that they can call 211 for the homeless help line day or night. As has been in the news, a tent has been added to the Westgate Tabernacle property. They have not seen an increase in the census, though the hot-teams are not there 24-hours-a-day. Hot-teams are again going every week to Westgate, instead of every other week. When the hot-team went to Westgate the previous week, no one wanted placement. Westgate Tabernacle is still in the process of appealing the court ruling to close the homeless shelter.

Edward Holloway – He asked if the numbers of homeless veterans are increasing.

Claudia Tuck – She said they have not seen a significant increase of homeless veterans as of yet. There is also a homeless outreach team from the VA Hospital that the hot-teams work with in helping veterans.

Col. Michael Gauger – He is very familiar with the Homeless Outreach Program. A lot of resources have been dedicated to try to solve the homeless problem. There is a large group of people who absolutely refuse any type of help and are still categorized as homeless. They’re drug addicts and alcoholics and mentally ill people, and sometimes a combination of the two. It’s frustrating because we want to help them, but they don’t want any part of it. We won’t be able to change that group of people, and a lot of people don’t understand that.

Claudia Tuck – Those who refuse help are about seventy-five percent (75%) of the homeless.

Col. Michael Gauger – Bishop Hill at Westgate Tabernacle has a great program and has done so well because it is where the hospitals and mental health centers have ‘dumped’ patients. However, Westgate has no program oversight, or funding and expenditure oversight. That is why Palm Beach County needs a true homeless center with oversight.

Claudia Tuck – There is a Homeless Assessment Center for individuals at CARP (Comprehensive Alcoholism Rehabilitation Programs, Inc.) which is a 20-bed facility. In the County, there are about one-hundred (100) beds available at any time in the emergency shelter program, so there are places that the homeless can go. It is a choice to continue to do what has led to one’s homelessness versus deciding to end it. There is one person who was picked-up last year that they had placed fifteen (15) times since 1995. And now that person has been in a program for over a year, and he has a car and an apartment. He had hit his ‘bottom’. Each person needs to hit their own ‘bottom’. As long as there is a place where they can be taken care of co-dependently, they are not going to be forced to make a change.

Brenda Gail Oakes – Col. Gauger talked about the chronic homeless. Is there an increase in family homelessness because of home foreclosures?

Claudia Tuck – Human Services is seeing more homeless families come to their offices. You don’t see a lot homeless families out in the community because they try to ‘double-up’ with another family or they may live in their car. They are not going to readily let themselves be found because they are afraid they will lose their children. Those are reasons why homeless families are hard to count during the ‘bed and gas’ count. The Engagement Center at The Lord’s Place is open now where families can walk in to get assistance. The Engagement Center helps both individuals and families who are homeless. The Center for Family Services is also seeing an increase of homeless families needing help. There are FAA programs with funding for hotel/motel beds to provide emergency shelter for families while a case manager is working with the family for more permanent housing.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He has invited David Rafaidus and the three (3) subcommittee chairs to the League of Cities meeting on Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Boynton Community Center. The League has asked for an update on the Citizens Advisory Committee Work Plan and the subcommittees. Anyone able to attend is welcome.

AGENDA ITEM 4C: Public Comments on Non-Agenda Item(s)

- None

AGENDA ITEM 4D: Good News Item(s)

Dr. Richard Galeta – Mr. Rich, any good news?

Edward L. Rich – I just said to myself: “Five-months left to go.”

AGENDA ITEM 4E: Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Update by the Data Subcommittee and membership ratification
- Update by the Public Participation/Element Subcommittee and membership ratification

- Update by the FAA Subcommittee and membership ratification
- CAC comments on the Homeless Advisory Board's finalized plan to end homelessness in Palm Beach County
- Co-Presentation on the PBSO 'Gang Task Force' (Det. Byron Smith) and on human trafficking (FBI agent)
- Presentation by the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office 'Violent Crime Task Force'
- MAPP and Health Department
- 211

5. ADJOURNMENT

- *Sandra Chamblee – Motion to Adjourn the CAC Regular Meeting*
- *Barbara Jacobowitz – Seconded the Motion to Adjourn the CAC Regular Meeting*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion to Adjourn the CAC Regular Meeting passed unanimously.*

Future Meetings:

CAC Regular Meetings: September 11, 2008; October 16, 2008

Executive or Reserved Meeting Dates: September 25, 2008; October 23, 2008

Minutes approved by the CAC Regular Committee on _____, 2008 by

Signature – Dr. Richard Galeta, Chair