

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
Citizens Advisory Committee on Health and Human Services
Meeting Date – September 11, 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)
Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock
Jill Hanson
Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson
Nate Nichols
Dr. Cynthia Smith
Debby Walters

Absent CAC Members:

Thomas Arnedos (2nd Vice-Chair)
Col. Michael Gauger

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Lt. Mike Kirschner
Brenda Gail Oakes
Houston Tate

Absent Ex-Officio Members:

Edward Holloway

Others Present:

Jon Van Arnam
Edward L. Rich
Tammy Fields
Renee Constantino
Claudia Tuck
Lorenzo Taylor
David Rafaidus
Linda Gordon
Lt. Mike Wallace, Palm Beach Sheriff's
Office, Violent Crimes Division
Lawrence Knight, Crossroads Church
Ken Paulson, Corporate Controller,
EBR Holding Ltd.
Karis Engle, Glades Initiative, Inc.

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
 - None
- E. Chair Comments

Dr. Richard Galeta – He asked for a moment of silence in honor of September 11, 2001.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Additions, Deletions, Substitutions

- None

B. Adoption of Agenda

- *Dr. Richard Galeta – Motion to move Agenda Item 4E to 4A and to change Agenda Item 4A to 4B; Agenda Item 4B to 4C; Agenda Item 4C to 4D; and Agenda Item 4D to 4E, and to Adopt the Agenda as amended.*
- *Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson – Seconded the Motion to move Agenda Item 4E to 4A and to change Agenda Item 4A to 4B; Agenda Item 4B to 4C; Agenda Item 4C to 4D; and Agenda Item 4D to 4E, and to Adopt the Agenda as amended.*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion to move Agenda Item 4E to 4A and to change Agenda Item 4A to 4B; Agenda Item 4B to 4C; Agenda Item 4C to 4D; and Agenda Item 4D to 4E, and to Adopt the Agenda as amended passed unanimously.*

3. REGULAR BUSINESS (Action Items)

A. Adoption of the CAC Regular Committee Meeting Minutes (August 14, 2008)

- *Sandra Chamblee – Motion to Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2008.*
- *Barbara Jacobowitz – Seconded the Motion to Adopt the CAC Regular Committee meeting Minutes of August 14, 2008.*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion to Adopt the CAC Regular Committee Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2008 passed unanimously.*

4. OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM 4A: **Presentation by the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office 'Violent Crimes Task Force' (Lt. Mike Wallace)**

Lt. Mike Kirschner – He introduced Lt. Mike Wallace, one of the principal executives in the Violent Crimes Division. Lt. Wallace works with the Violent Crimes Task Force and Operation Gangbuster Task Force. He has put together a concept plan and implementation of how to address gangs, guns, and violence in Palm Beach County. The task forces have the cooperation of local, county, state and federal agencies. Lt. Wallace is considered a foremost expert on gangs and does speaking engagements across the country.

Lt. Mike Wallace – The Palm Beach County Violent Crimes Task Force and also the Palm Beach County Gang Task Force work hand-in-hand to combat the gang issues in the County.

The long-term goals of the Violent Crime Task Force are to decrease the incidents of violence involving children, to reduce the availability of gangs to children, to provide safe alternatives to gangs, and to continue to dismantle gangs operating in Palm Beach County.

Historically there have always been gangs in Palm Beach County. Back in the 1960's, Sheriff Heidtmann was the first Sheriff to address gangs in Palm Beach County. Members of the Outlaws gang kidnapped and very brutally raped a woman. Sheriff Heidtman got a bulldozer, went to the headquarters of the Outlaws where all the motorcycles were parked, dug a large hole, and pushed all the motorcycles in the hole, covering them up with dirt. Not all of the Outlaws gang left, but Sheriff Heidtman set the tone for how he was going to come at them. Of course, the Sheriff's Office couldn't take that approach now.

- Gang membership and violent crimes by gangs has tremendously increased over the last five (5) years in Palm Beach County.
- There are approximately one-hundred and fifty (150) gangs in the County. The specific number of gangs is not really known.
- Of any given population anywhere in the United States at any time, one-percent (1%) of the population is either a gang member or affiliated with a gang. There are 1.3 million people in our County, so about 13,000 people are affiliated with or belong to a gang.
- Sixty-percent (60%) to eighty-percent (80%) of all violent crime is gang related. If a victim or a suspect is a gang member or affiliated with a gang, then it's a gang-related crime. Every crime committed by a gang member benefits the gang, even if it's just for reputation.

Not every gang member is the stereotypical a young Black male with baggy pants and a hat on sideways. There are Caucasian middle-aged men and women who are gang members.

The three (3) R's of gang mentality are: Reputation, Respect/Disrespect, and Retaliation.

- Everything a gang does is for 'Reputation'. There are gang members who commit violent crimes just to get the 'Reputation' or to join the gang.
- The most important thing is 'Respect' and with that goes 'Disrespect'. You might not even know it if you were disrespecting a gang member. Officers are taught that, just because someone is a gang member, it doesn't make them a bad person; just confused.
- 'Retaliation' means 'nothing goes unanswered'. The cycle is 'if they hit us, we hit them; they hit us, we hit them'.....it never stops.

Sheriff Bradshaw realized Palm Beach County has serious gang issues needing to be addressed. So a group of officers put together a strategy which is now being taught around the State. The strategy is called "Operation Gangbusters".

Operation Gangbusters was begun in January 2008 after a gang-related murder in Riviera Beach. The multi-agency Gang Unit knows who committed the murder, but no one will talk to law enforcement. The Gang Unit is still working on that case. Operation Gangbusters has resulted in:

- 2,800 arrests
- 4,000 citations
- 200 weapons seized
- 400 vehicles seized

The Palm Beach County Violent Crimes Task Force is overseen by and operates out of the Sheriff's Office. There are nine (9) full-time detectives from various law enforcement agencies, including the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

To date this year, the Violent Crimes Task Force has worked:

- One-hundred and two (102) investigated crimes – forty-five (45) cleared.
- Sixteen (16) homicides – five (5) arrests; five (5) pending.
- Forty-four (44) attempted homicides/aggravated batteries/aggravated assaults – Sixteen (16) arrests; four (4) pending.
- Fifteen (15) robberies/carjackings – ten (10) arrests.
- Clearance Rate for the Violent Crimes Task Force – fifty-eight percent (58%).

The Clearance Rate is impacted by the lack of cooperation. If the victim is dead, witnesses say they don't know anything and didn't see anything. If the victim is alive, the victim usually lies to the Task Force which sets law enforcement back on the investigation.

This year, the Violent Crimes Task Force also started to look at serial robberies. In one case, the Task Force saw from the surveillance tapes that it was the same group committing a series of robberies. The robbers were very professional, and it turned out they were all former military from Central America and South America. Multiple arrests have been made.

Sandra Chamblee – Is there anyone in the Glades full-time who is on the Violent Crimes Task Force? Is anyone assigned to work there?

Lt. Mike Wallace – No one is assigned to the Glades. The Violent Crimes Task Force takes all of the shootings out in the Glades because probably ninety-percent (90%) or more of the shootings are gang-related. Unless the Task Force knows for certain that a shooting is not gang-related, they investigate all shootings.

Lt. Mike Kirschner – The city police departments out in the Glades are now under the auspices of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Dr. Barbara Cox Gerlock – What are the average and the youngest ages of perpetrators?

Lt. Mike Wallace – Based on the forty-five (45) cases cleared to date, the average age is in the mid to late teens. The youngest arrested was age 12.

There are a number of lessons learned from investigations:

- Victims and witnesses do not cooperate.
- The majority of the Task Force's cases are in minority communities: Riviera Beach, the Glades, Boynton Beach, and Lake Worth.
- The majority of the investigators are white males which is an inherent problem in law enforcement.
- Having investigators from minorities is a must.
- The more the community sees the investigators, the more trust builds up.

The multi-agency Palm Beach County Gang Unit has ten (10) full-time detectives: Eight (8) from PBSO; one (1) from the Boynton Beach Police Department; and one from the Lake Worth Police Department. Currently, the PBC Gang Unit has two (2) major operations: Operation Deep 6, and Operation Laugh Now Cry Later.

Operation Deep 6 targeted the gang Top 6 which is a Haitian gang responsible for many shootings. The Top 6 gang began with six (6) guys from Lake Worth High School who were friends and were predominantly Haitian or Haitian-American. The Top 6 gang expanded into an estimated four-hundred (400) people. The Boynton Beach Mall shooting Christmas Eve was done by Top 6. It culminated with the triple homicide in the City of Lake Worth on March 27, 2008, which was the worst gang-related shooting in Palm Beach County – three (3) people were murdered and four (4) more people were shot.

The multi-agency Gang Unit went after Top 6 which had been the largest gang in Palm Beach County. Top 6 is not operating anymore due to RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) charges, and is on its way to being totally dismantled.

Operation Laugh Now Cry Later involved the multi-agency Gang Unit going after sets of the little groups within gangs in the Westgate area. With the SUR-13 gang, thirteen (13) was a very important number. The gang had its monthly meetings on the 13th, and everything revolved around that number. So the Gang Unit made 13 arrests on RICO charges on December 13th, at 6:13 a.m. Each of the gang members is pleading up to thirteen (13) years in prison. The Gang Unit made the SUR-13 gang know that it had also used the number 13 in Operation Laugh Now Cry Later.

In Operation laugh Now Cry Later, each gang member was arrested on two (2) different charges: RICO charges and conspiracy to commit racketeering. Those are the same charges that the FBI used when going after the Mafia. The State of Florida is fortunate to have a racketeering statute. The gang members arrested were told that they were looking at sixty (60) years in prison unless they started talking, and the gang members began 'ratting' everybody out. You cannot be in a gang and be a 'snitch' at the same time. The SUR-13 gang is totally dismantled and no longer exists.

One of the things that he speaks about is why do kids join gangs. There are a lot of families where both parents work outside the home. They are ‘latchkey’ kids who come home from school to an empty house and no one to pay attention to them. If kids are not given something positive to do after school, they are going to find something to do. PBSO spends \$90,000 for the Police Athletic League program which:

- Has over 800 kids attending.
- Keeps kids off the streets.
- Provides mentoring and tutoring.
- Gives kids something positive to do.

The County’s Youth Empowerment Centers are also a great way to give kids something positive to do. Unfortunately, the County may start cutting back the money for them.

David Rafaidus – Are senior citizen communities affected by gangs?

Lt. Mike Wallace – No place is immune from gangs because they go everywhere. The biggest thing about a gang is how they can make money, from selling drugs which is the easiest they can do, to burglaries, robberies, and human trafficking. And once the gang gets you into the U.S. they ‘own’ you; you are indebted to the gang, so you end up working for the gang or even prostituted by the gang.

The JAM (Juvenile Arrest & Monitoring) Unit used to fall under the judicial Community Service Division. In April 2008, Sheriff Bradshaw moved it under the Violent Crimes Division and the JAM Unit was reworked. The JAM Unit monitors the worst of the worst: gang members; kids on probation; and kids with weapons crimes. Currently in Palm Beach County there are roughly twenty-five hundred (2500) kids on probation. That is a lot. The youngest being monitored is age 11 and on his fourth or fifth robbery charge.

Sometimes parents won’t be parents and, while it’s not law enforcement’s job, somebody has to do it. When a juvenile offender is on probation and the Judge orders a 5:00 p.m. weekday and 7:00 p.m. weekend curfew, then the JAM Unit makes sure that those times are enforced. If the juvenile breaks probation then the JAM Unit will violate them. Unfortunately, no one has instilled discipline in some of these kids, but it needs to be done.

Barbara Jacobowitz – Have any parents been found to be involved in gangs?

Lt. Mike Wallace – We have one juvenile being monitored whose mother is one of the leaders of the 18th Street gang, which is a big gang. She is a ‘queen’.

Nate Nichols – He knows that Sheriff Bradshaw was very involved in and has encouraged cultural competency training. He hopes there’s nesting in a way that there is sensitivity around the various cultures. Also, he knows there is a lack of minority representation in law enforcement and there is still an advocacy to recruit. Are there the recruitment measures being taken to step that up?

Lt. Mike Kirschner – As to the second part of Mr. Nichols’ question, for the past 3 years,

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and Col. Michael Gauger have made it the highest priority to hire African-Americans, Haitian-Americans and Hispanic-Americans for sworn and non-sworn personnel positions. That priority continues. If you know of anyone who is a good candidate, they will receive the highest priority for recruitment and fast-track for hiring.

Nate Nichols – It is one thing to attend cultural competency training, it is another thing to practice behaviors that really are going to help.

Lt. Mike Kirschner – There is an aggressive training program done every year for cultural awareness and how to talk to people. There is a technique in law enforcement called verbal judo so that an officer can talk to a person and de-escalate that situation to prevent it going to a higher level. Extra steps are taken to train officers about the differences in various cultures, religions and other practices.

Dr. Cynthia Smith – She agrees that people need to be mindful of cultural sensitivity. As a school system principal, she has run some of the toughest schools in this County. She's had gang members on her campus, and has worked with the Violent Crimes Task Force. The Task Force has even contacted her to let her know that they have identified a gang member that they need to come and pick up. School centers are the perfect place for gangs to sell their contraband.

Brenda Gail Oakes – She is from the Juvenile Justice Commission and she works with the Youth Empowerment Centers. One of the things she recently learned is that Florida is the fastest growing State for gang involvement.

She has also noted that the JAM (Juvenile Arrest & Monitoring) Unit and the Police Athletic League are typically funded in other communities and states by a social services budget, not by the Sheriff's budget or another law enforcement agency's budget. The JAM Unit is only necessary because the State of Florida continues to cut the budget of the Department of Juvenile Justice as it has been doing for the last ten (10) years.

Lt. Mike Wallace – He provided his PBSO cell phone number which is (561) 662-1662. That cell phone is on 24-hours a day/7 days a week. If you need him for anything or have any questions, please call him.

Tammy Fields – Is there anything being done in the elementary and middle schools? She asked because she has a middle-school child and a high school child. There was a new drug program being done in the middle schools last year that had tremendous impact on her son.

Lt. Mike Wallace – There is a program called G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) which was an offshoot of D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). G.R.E.A.T. is taught by law enforcement officers and is a federally funded program. Education is extremely important, and truly starts with the parents. He thinks the school system should have gang resistance education programs, however law enforcement officers must be invited to a school to speak to the students. Parents can talk to the school board and the superintendent to set up a program in the schools.

One of the hardest things he had to do was inform a father that his 20-year-old son was murdered because he was in a gang. The father insisted his son was not a gang member. So he explained to the father all of the things that revealed his son was in a gang. When he finished, the father was in tears. The father didn't know his son was in a gang.

Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson – Does the Violent Crimes Task Force have a website about gangs?

Lt. Mike Wallace – They are in the process of doing something through the County and with the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC). They are trying to get the County to provide funds because the interactive website will cost about \$120,000.

Through the Florida Gang Investigative Association, the Sheriff's Office Gang Unit, and the Violent Crimes Task Force, they have put together a parent/teacher guide that is like a 'Gangs 101' booklet of about 30-pages. He will have Col. Mike Gauger bring copies with him to the October CAC Meeting.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He thanked Lt. Mike Wallace very much for his presentation.

AGENDA ITEM 4B: FAA Subcommittee Report (Thomas Arnedos)

[Recording Secretary's Note: Dr. Richard Galeta deferred this report to the next Executive Committee Meeting as Subcommittee Chair Thomas Arnedos was out of town.)

AGENDA ITEM 4C: DATA Subcommittee Report (Brenda Gail Oakes)

Brenda Gail Oakes – The DATA Subcommittee met and there was representation from the Health Care District, Treasure Coast Health Council, 211 Palm Beach Treasure Coast, and the Palm Beach County Health Department. The Children's Services Council and the United Way were also invited to participate but were unable to send representatives due to scheduling conflicts.

The DATA Subcommittee members looked at various markers, indicators, report styles, and format versus scope. An original of the Miami-Dade Report Card and other reports were passed around for the members to look at. David Rafaidus is hoping to either get more copies of their Report Card, or to obtain an electronic copy that he could e-mail to everyone.

The DATA Subcommittee members were assigned homework to look at the websites of different reports. The members were to also to determine what data their agency currently collects. Then, gaps in collected data can be identified.

The Subcommittee discussed whether it thought it could produce something comprehensive to include health services and human services. There was also acknowledgement that many of the markers and indicators were crossovers from health services to human services. Examples were crime, housing and transportation. There would be no way to separate out

those markers. Also discussed was whether there should be two (2) report cards; one on health, and one on human services.

The Quantum Foundation has recently organized a group of health funders and health related agencies. They are considering doing a report card focused totally on health services, and it would also be based upon the Miami-Dade Community Report Card. Like the DATA Subcommittee, the Quantum health services group is also considering bringing the staff of the Miami-Dade Health Council to West Palm Beach to do a presentation on their Report Card. She and David Rafaidus will be attending the next health services group meeting at the end of September. The DATA Subcommittee will meet soon after to try to decide how much collaboration there could be with the Quantum health services group.

Nate Nichols – Karen Deringer will represent the Childrens’ Services Council to the DATA Subcommittee.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He is hopeful the CAC can partner with Quantum Foundation on the report card.

AGENDA ITEM 4D: HHS Element Subcommittee Report (Barbara Jacobowitz)

Barbara Jacobowitz – As you know, the HHS Element Subcommittee is a little bit behind. It has been difficult to meet because David Rafaidus was off from work and then she was off. Nobody has volunteered as of yet to be the vice-chair of the HHS Element Subcommittee and she asked everyone to consider the vice-chair position.

She and David Rafaidus met and discussed that something different needs to be done with the HHS Element Subcommittee. By individual sections, the Element needs to be looked at in terms of what has been achieved, and what may need to be revised. She and David want to do that first, and then invite individuals to be a part the subcommittee to make the changes.

The other thing to be done is to decide on the type of citizen participation to gather citizen input. Whether to do focus groups, have a public hearing, or something else needs to be decided upon soon. What is decided upon will be brought before the complete CAC.

The HHS Element Subcommittee wants to work with whatever comes out of the other two subcommittees in terms of the data. So when the subcommittee makes revisions they will be able to say, ‘yes we have data to support making the revisions’.

AGENDA ITEM 4E: “Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County” (Claudia Tuck)

Claudia Tuck – The Ten Year Plan document was e-mailed to each CAC member. The Homeless Advisory Board will be presenting the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County to the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, September 23, 2008. The final document is very similar to the draft Ten Year Plan previously given to the CAC. She asked if there were any questions about the Ten Year Plan, and there were none.

Dr. Richard Galeta – He would like the Citizens Advisory Committee to endorse the Ten Year Plan and send a written endorsement to the Board of County Commissioners prior to September 23, 2008.

- *Nate Nichols - Moved that the Citizens Advisory Committee recommend approval of the “Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County” by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), and that the recommendation be put into a letter that would be sent to the Chairperson of the BCC.*
- *Debby Walters – Seconded the Motion made by Nate Nichols.*
- *No Discussion*
- *The Motion that the Citizens Advisory Committee recommend approval of the “Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County” by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), and that the recommendation be put into a letter that would be sent to the Chairperson of the BCC passed unanimously.*

Dr. Richard Galeta – He requested that David Rafaidus draft the recommendation letter.

Claudia Tuck – She does not yet have a time-certain for the presentation to the BCC on September 23, 2008. If she does get a time-certain, she will get that information out.

As an update, the Homeless Advisory Board will be meeting the week of September 15, 2008 to finalize the six committees working on the Ten Year Plan: The Community Outreach and Public Awareness Committee; the Facilities Committee; the Funding Committee; the Housing Committee; the Policy and Legislation Committee; and the Strategic Planning Committee. The committees will be comprised of members of the Homeless Advisory Board as well as members of the community.

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

- None

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

- None

AGENDA ITEM 4H: Good News Item(s)

Barbara Jacobowitz – The Third Annual Statewide Florida Diabetes Alliance for Prevention and Treatment Educational Forum is on Friday, September 19, 2008. Registration has been closed with one-hundred and twenty-five (125) attendees from around the State of Florida. CEU’s (continuing education units) are being provided for free. She and David Rafaidus will be making a presentation on public policy and discussing the Citizens Advisory Council and the Resolution.

Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson – She and Barbara Jacobowitz were in attendance at the League of Cities meeting when Dr. Richard Galeta was re-appointed to the CAC Board, and congratulated him on his re-appointment.

Renee Constantino – The Community Services Department’s Child Advocacy Board merged several months ago with the Palm Beach County Coalition for Children, Inc. She distributed information about the “Candidate Forum” where young people ask questions of candidates for the Florida Legislature. Attend if you can because the kids ask amazing things.

Debby Walters – The Future of Medicine through the Palm Beach County Medical Society will be having its second event on October 31, 2008. One of the areas they are really looking at is increasing coverage for the over 250,000 uninsured in Palm Beach County. An employer/employee survey was done asking questions from the employee’s perspective about why they are not taking healthcare coverage. She will send the information to David Rafaidus for distribution.

AGENDA ITEM 4I: Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- MAPP and Health Department’s Data Collection (October)
- DATA Subcommittee Update (October)
- Human Trafficking Task Force

5. ADJOURNMENT

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

Future Meetings:

CAC Regular Meetings (October 16, 2008; November 13, 2008)

CAC Executive or Reserved Meetings (October 23, 2008; January 29, 2009)

Minutes approved by the CAC Regular Committee on **October 16, 2008** by

Signature – Dr. Richard Galeta, Chair