

**Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board  
Meeting  
301 North Olive, WPB  
July 25, 2007**

**Board Members Present**

Commissioner Jeff Koons, Palm Beach County (PBC) Board of County Commissioners  
Mayor Lois Frankel, West Palm Beach  
Captain Jeff Linskoog, PBC Sherriff's Department  
Judge Cory Ciklin, PBC Judiciary  
Dr. Ron Wiewora, PBC Health District  
Vice Mayor Brenda Montague for Mayor Rita Ellis, Delray Beach  
Alan Abramowitz, Florida Department of Children & Families  
Linda Roman for Scott Badesch, United Way of Palm Beach County

**Board Members Absent**

Mayor Thomas Masters, Riviera Beach  
Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department  
Mr. Bill Graham, PBC School Board  
Theresa Merwin, PBC Emergency Shelter Grant Board  
Gaetana Ebbola, PBC Children Services Council  
Mayor Donald Garrett, BelleGlade

**Board Members Not Committed**

Mayor of Boynton Beach  
Mayor of Boca Raton

**Others in Attendance**

Lela Jordan, West Palm Beach  
Sgt. Mark Essary, PBC Sherriff's Department

**County Staff Present**

Jon Van Arnam, PBC County Administration  
Claudia Tuck, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division  
Georgiana Devine, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division

**Consultant Staff Present**

Mike Langton, Langton Associates  
Monique Elton, Langton Associates

**Welcome**

Meeting called to order at 1:30 PM by Commissioner Jeff Koons.

**Introduction of all present**

In accordance with the resolution establishing the Homeless Advisory Board, Commissioner Koons was introduced as Chairman.

**Report from Commissioner Koons**

- Board will focus on concrete strategies for targeted programs and policies
- Top priority – Assessment Centers and Transitional Housing

- Assist in critical planning, advise the BCC and obtain community consensus
- Need to bring resources together
- Bring recommendations before BCC in January prior to FY 09 budget cycle
- Spoke to Todd Bonlarron, Legislative Affairs, and was informed that the state may have more funding available for homelessness in the next budget year.

### **Report from Jon Van Arnam**

- New Initiative not a continuation or a part of any previous committees.
- Mr. Weisman expects this group to be productive. Failure is not an option.
- Organized approach
- Everything open to discussion
- Open Minded with focus on different strategies
- Evaluate and map location of homeless concentrations
- Contact Mr. Van Arnam immediately if staff or consultant are not responsive
- Evaluate current resources

### **Comments made by Alan Abramowitz**

- Poverty is not a reason for DCF to shelter. Statutes support this.
- Prevention is less expensive than homelessness
- Presented results of MIT Study regarding Foster Home Placement, Jail and Teen Pregnancy
- Suggest including the Public Defenders Office on this Board

### **Comments made by Mayor Frankel**

- Recommended a count of homeless by locale
  - Claudia Tuck advised Point In Time Count of 1766 available by zip code

### **Report by Consultant**

- Reviewed reason for consultant and the consultant's role.
- Advised of consultant's experience and history over the past ten years with PBC regarding the issue of homelessness and Continuum of Care process and application.
- Advised Continuum of Care receives approximately 4.2 million dollars from HUD which is distributed among thirteen providers
- HUD requires a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness
- Advised Continuum of Care members formed a Writers Group to apply each year for the HUD grant. This group recognized a lack of strategic planning, focus and follow through.
- Continuum of Care identified Best Practices for targeted populations but lack of strategic planning impeded their development.
- Continuum of Care recommended a change in leadership from the Homeless Coalition to the Division of Human Services. Leadership changed in January 2006.
- Since January 2006, two Strategic Planning Workshops were hosted.
- Outcome of Strategic Planning workshops
  - Lack of Community Buy-In to problem
  - Lack of Strategic Planning – long range approach
  - Need High Level Body to force implementation
  - Need players who could raise private money
  - Demands for services are increasing while funding is decreasing

- Consultant hired in October 2006 to oversee creation of Advisory Board, draft Strategic Plan and oversee implementation of plan
- BCC approved concept of Advisory Board in December 2006 and Appointed Core Members by resolution in May 2007
- Diagram presented of Homeless Advisory Board and current committees and resources available to Board.
- Meeting Timeline was presented. Timeframes are fluid and flexible.

#### **Comments made by Commissioner Koons**

- By January 2008 need specific schedule and funding requests by FY 09 budget cycle.
- Need to expand the access to Point of Service through Prosperity Centers in targeted geographic areas.
- Need to expand health care services in targeted geographic areas.

#### **Comments made by Judge Ciklin**

- Need to involve the Mental Health Centers in this Board due to the number of mentally ill homeless and the lack of targeted housing for this population.
  - Consultant clarified providers' role in relation to Board – available to present and attend as needed, but not to be voting members.

#### **Potential Community and Business Representatives**

- Bud Kneipe
- Wayne Huizenga, Jr.
- Thomas Mullins, Pastor of Christ Fellowship
- Jewish Family Services
- Quantum Foundation
- Community Foundation
- Palm Health Care Foundation
- Jack Scarola
- Mr. L. Anderson
- Contact Dennis Grady for recommendations

#### **Action Needed**

- Core members and Consultant identify and contact potential Community and Business Representatives
- Core members contact the non-committed core members
- Consultant contact Core members not in attendance regarding meeting and recommendations for Community and Business Representatives
- Mr. Van Arnam to extend a request to the Board of County Commissioners soliciting recommendations for the Community and Business Representatives

#### **Upcoming Meeting**

- Next meeting is anticipated for mid-September

Meeting adjourned at 2:30PM.