

**Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board  
Meeting  
810 Datura Street WPB  
October 17, 2007**

**Core 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  
Dr. Ron Wiewora for Dwight Chenette, PBC Health District  
Stephen Faroni for Alan Abramowitz, Florida Department of Children & Families  
Elivio Serrano for Scott Badesch, United Way of Palm Beach County  
Mayor Thomas Masters, Riviera Beach  
Gaetana Ebbola, PBC Children Services Council  
Mr. Bill Graham, PBC School Board  
Judge Cory Ciklin, PBC Judiciary  
Dr. Alina Alonso for Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department  
Bernard Shulman, PBC Emergency Shelter Grant Board  
Lillian Tomeu for Mayor Donald Garrett, BelleGlade

**Core Board Members Absent**

Mayor Rita Ellis, Delray Beach

**Core Board Members Not Yet Designated**

Mayor of Boynton Beach  
Mayor of Boca Raton

**Business and Community Representative Nominees Present**

**Business Representatives**

Philip Lewis  
Bill Oberlink  
Susan Guillama  
Bill Washington, CPA

**Private Foundation**

Leslie Lily for Shannon Sadler Hull, CEO PBC Community Foundation  
Paul Gionfriddo, CEO Quantum Foundation  
Suzette Wexner, President, Palm Healthcare Foundation

**Formerly Homeless**

Michelle Carter  
Thomas Bell

**Faith Based**

Pastor Leo Abdella, Christ Fellowship Church

**Housing Authority**

Judith Aigen, Boca Raton Housing Authority

**Philanthropist**

Kerry Gallagher

**Members At Large**

Ezra Kreig

Rev. Andrew Sherman, St Gregory's Episcopal Church

**Not in Attendance**

David Zechman

Michelle Diffenderfer

Denise Tickle

David Gury

Jack Scarola

Stephen Johnson

**Others in Attendance**

Lela Jordan, City of West Palm Beach

Sgt. Mark Essary, PBC Sherriff's Department

Doug Pugh, Community Foundation

Dr. Ann Faraone, Palm Beach County School Board

Jenna Roland, PBC Sheriff's Department

Maite Reyes, Center for Independent Living Options

Gerry Demarais, Homeless Coalition

Chris Harris, 211, CMIS

Jenise Gibson, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission

**County Staff Present**

Jon Van Arnam, PBC County Administration

Tammy Fields, Assistant County Attorney

Leonard Berger, Assistant County Attorney

Edward Rich, Director, Community Services

Claudia Tuck, PBC Community Services, Director, Human Services Division

Georgiana Devine, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division

**Consultant Staff Present**

Mike Langton, Langton Associates

Krysten Bennett, Langton Associates

**Welcome:** Meeting called to order at 2 PM by Commissioner Jeff Koons, Chairperson.

**Introduction of all present**

**Opening Remarks made by Commissioner Koons-**

- Next month a County Attorney will bring a draft letter to seek authorization from this group that will allow funds to be secured for homeless services. This letter ensures the group is operating within the Sunshine Law guidelines.
- All of the Community and Business Representatives have been filled. The Core Members need to approve this slate.
- All seats on the Board have now been filled. Today, spoke with the cities of Boynton and Boca Raton. They have agreed to serve and will send a representative to future meetings.

Motion made to accept the slate of Business and Community members as presented. Motion made by Bill Graham and seconded by Gaetana Ebbole. Motion carried.

Motion made to accept the minutes as distributed in advance. Motion made by Phil Lewis and seconded by Bill Graham. Motion carried

### **Documentation required to begin Fund Raising**

Commissioner Koons advised that a letter was being drafted for review by the Board that would enable this group to fundraise within Sunshine Law guidelines. Commissioner Koons emphasized the importance of this letter is to allow for opportunities to secure funds for implementation of the Master Plan that this group will be generating. The fundraising will not support something that does not come out of this plan. We will plan our work and work our plan.

### **Report by Leonard Berger, Assistant County Attorney regarding Fundraising related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan**

- Fundraising needs to occur within Sunshine Law guidelines.
- It is important to avoid any situation even with private fundraising that there is even a remote potential for special private gain.
- Fundraising must be done with an understanding that it is not done in exchange for some special public action.
- Any fundraising done in relation to the Strategic Plan, needs to be done in a way that is very clear to the private section what the purposes of it are and what the expectations are.

### **Report by Jon Van Arnam**

- This committee is charged with creating a Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.
  - Under the plan, there will be recommendations that will cost dollars to implement.
  - Some recommendations will be for capital projects.
- The committee needs to be in a position to help to secure funding for future projects and to take advantage of funding opportunities that may come forward.
- Funds are not being sought for any specific project.
- If a project is identified and an opportunity comes available, we want to take advantage of it.
- Any fund raising that is done through the sanctions of this committee or by any individual of this committee is done in accordance with the strategic plan and within any legal limitations.

### **Revised Board Resolution**

Commissioner Koons reported the BCC approved the amendment to the resolution to allow for members of the Board to act as alternates on their behalf. Tammy Fields advised that the alternate needs to be a designated person not someone different each time.

### **Bylaws**

The Bylaws now reflect the changes noted above. Motion made to approve the Bylaws was presented by Phil Lewis and seconded by Thomas Bell. The motion carried.

### **Nominees presented to the BCC**

An agenda item will presented to the Board of County Commissioners to ratify the nominations for the Business and Community representatives at the November meeting.

## **Presentation**

A presentation on the State of Homelessness was made by Michael Langton. Mike noted that the Presentation will be emailed to all members tomorrow.

## **Comments as a result of the Presentation**

- Phil Lewis questioned the unmet need of only 24 emergency shelter beds. He further questioned if all the unmet needs numbers were not low.
- Georgiana Devine explained that the numbers are obtained by completing a survey with each homeless individual and asking them what they need. The numbers reflect the priorities expressed by the homeless. As a result, the numbers for emergency shelter were low because that is not their priority. Permanent Housing or having a place of their own is their priority.
- Discussion regarding the definitions of emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing used during the count was reviewed.
- Discussion regarding the Housing Inventory-definitions and an explanation of the process was reviewed.
- Rev. Sherman noted that he understands why the count is being done the way it is, but he does not feel that it is reflective of the current situation. The Point-in-Time Count numbers are rationally based, but laughable.
- Elivio Serrano questioned whether a statistical multiplier could be utilized to better depict the unmet need.
- Jodie Aiken noted the need to count other categories of need for permanent housing without the need for support.
- Ezra Krieg noted that Broward and Dade use the Point-in-Time Count and add a multiplier. We can learn more about how they do it.
- Commissioner Koons requested information on how the School District does the count.
- Dr. Ann Faraone noted that the School District uses the Mc Kinney Vento definition and counted 1470 children.
- Lela noted that we should use the methods that Broward and Dade use. We have been fighting over the numbers since 1997. We should join efforts with Broward and Dade and use the same system as they do to in completing the count.
- Gaetana Ebbole noted that what we are looking at is comments made by homeless on what they want which may not reflect the true need.
- Judge Ciklin noted that he sees at least 15-23 people a week that need services with very little repeat offenders.
- Commissioner Koons noted that a parallel Board is running with the Criminal Justice Commission to look at mental health, addiction and homeless issues. This is all tied together. We all need to work together on this.
- Gaetana Ebbole noted there are almost 7000 children a day on a waiting list for child care just in Palm Beach County.
- Phil Lewis questioned where the state priority on homeless issues. The state should have a committee on this.
- Claudia Tuck noted the state has an Office on Homelessness under DCF.
- Commissioner Koons noted the pending impact of tax cuts and that there is a complete disconnect between the state and local governments.
- Mayor Frankel discussed the problems that the city of WPB is dealing with. She advised they don't see a large number, but they see homeless mentally ill and substance abusers drawn to a service like meals or showers. Then they stay in the area and become disruptive. There is no place for them to go when the program closes. Businesses are trying to sell around the areas where homeless meals and showers are provided. They

defecate on the street and sleep in the parks. They throw the meal containers on the street. The Lord's Place now has an Engagement Center whose mission is to engage the homeless in receiving services. It is not just a meal or shower but a connection to services. Even small numbers make a difference we need to connect these people to services.

- Gaetana Ebbolle questioned how are we going to going to solve the problems that are driving this issue.
- Commissioner Koons noted in 2009 you will see a lot of energy devoted to health care. Need a better health and mental health system. We can't be successful until we address these issues. This goes along with the Criminal Justice System issues. There are going to have to be some tough choices made.
- Bill Graham suggested stating the head count is based on the federal definition and give it a presumption of correctness and let the School Board bring numbers we have file. This would allow us to do a cross check numbers and establish a range. All this information would then be on file and the group could proceed from there.

### **In Closing**

- Mike noted that this presentation was just the beginning of the education process on homelessness in Palm Beach County. Next month, we will have presentations from the Individual and Family Homeless Service Providers. Georgiana reviewed the various members of the Strategic Planning Sub-Committees that have been providing input such as law enforcement, homeless providers, funders, and Homeless Coalition.
- Gaetana noted that we need to look not just at gaps but, also we need to look at what is working and how successful the current programs are. Are we currently getting the most use of our resources? I don't want to see us operate from the current construct and just say we need to add more.
- Bernard Shulman noted the need to look at Best Practices being utilized across the nation. What systems are really working?
- Georgiana reviewed how the Strategic Planning Sub-Committees, over the past year, have been researching Best Practices.
- Paul questioned whether we should email our ideas for programs we would like to have evaluated.
- Gerry announced that the Homeless Coalition will be spotlighting Homeless Week which will include an Homeless Fair and Memorial at the Health Department on 45<sup>th</sup> Street from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM on November 16<sup>th</sup> with the Memorial to begin at 11:30 AM
- Mr. Rich announced that the Homeless Outreach Team is being spotlighted on Ch. 20.
- Nominee forms were completed last month, but we have since found out home addressed do not need to be include. If anyone wants to change their form, let Krysten know.
- Jennifer announced that a planning grant due November 1st is being sought to address issues such as mental illness, substance abuse and how these affect the Criminal Justice System.

### **Meeting Location**

- Meeting location requested to continue at 810 Datura Street WPB.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- Next meeting is November 28, 2007 at 2 PM

Meeting adjourned at 4:00PM.