

Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board Meeting

Vista Center, Room 1W-47

2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

January 16, 2008

Board Members Present

Pastor Leo Abdella, Faith-Based Community Representative
Judith Aigen, Housing Authority
Scott Badesch, United Way of Palm Beach County
Thomas Bell, Formerly Homeless Representative
Perry Borman, FL Department of Children & Families
Jorge Camejo for Steve Abrams, City of Boca Raton
Michelle Carter, Formerly Homeless Representative
Michelle Diffenderfer, Business Community Representative
Dr. Ann Faraone for Bill Graham, PBC School Board
Kerry Gallagher, Philanthropic Community Representative
Paul Gionfriddo, Private Foundation Community Representative
Susan Guillama, Business Community Representative
David Gury, Business Community Representative
Stephen Johnson, Formerly Homeless Community Representative
Lela Jordan for Lois Frankel, City of West Palm Beach
Robert Kellman for Jerry Taylor, City of Boynton Beach
Jeff Koons, PBC Board of County Commissioners
Ezra Kreig, General Representative
Philip Lewis, Business Community Representative
Captain Jeff Lindskoog, PBC Sheriff's Department
Miriam Maldonado, Formerly Homeless Representative Nominee
Bill Oberlink, Business Community Representative
Jack Scarola, Business Community Representative
Thomas Sheehan for Tana Ebbola, PBC Children's Services Council
Bernard Shulman, PBC Emergency Shelter Board
Lillian Tomeu for Mayor Donald Garrett, City of Belle Glade
William Washington, Business Community Representative
Dr. Ron Wiewora for Dwight Chenette, PBC Health Care District

Board Members Not Represented

Cory Ciklin, Palm Beach County Judiciary
Rita Ellis, City of Delray Beach
Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department
Thomas Masters, City of Riviera Beach
Shannon Sadler Hull, Private Foundation Community Representative

Andrew Sherman, General Representative
Suzette Wexner, Private Foundation Community Representative
David Zechman, Hospital Executive Representative

Designated Alternates in Attendance, Not Representing a Board Member

Robert Anis, PBC Emergency Shelter Board

County Staff Present

Renee Constantino, PBC Community Services, Manager of Planning and Evaluation
Georgiana Devine, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division
Mike Rodriguez, Criminal Justice Commission
Carol Shaffer, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division
Claudia Tuck, PBC Community Services, Director, Human Services Division
Jon Van Arnam, PBC County Administration

Consultant Staff Present

Krysten Bennett, Langton Associates
Lisa King, Langton Associates
Mike Langton, Langton Associates

Others in Attendance

Susan Brown
Rita Clark
Rhonda Counes, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Sgt. Mark Essary, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Shelley Gottsagen, Homeless Coalition
Chris Harris, 211
Michelle Leigh Jacobs, CARP
Linda Lilly
Debra King, AVDA
Pat McNamara, Housing Partnership
Matte Reyes-Coles, Center for Independent Living Options
Marilyn Sands
Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place
Wendy Tippett, Adopt A Family of the Palm Beaches

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 1:10pm by Commissioner Jeff Koons.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Motion made by Jack Scarola and seconded by Senator Lewis. Motion carried.

Overview of Workshop Process

Commissioner Jeff Koons asked if everyone was okay with the process. Phil Lewis said survey helped ground where we're going. It was determined that the steps for the next three years should be prioritized. Commissioner Koons agreed and said that we will take what we have and measure the outcome. Commissioner also reminded everyone that the vote on the 29th is a resource issue. He said that Palm Beach County funders are coming together and direct money is coming in.

Questions/Comments as a Result of the Presentation

- Senator Lewis had a question regarding funds – 4 buildings, how much do they cost. Commissioner Koons said that it is important to know where the resources are, can we redirect them, how do we look at them and can we come back and take a look at them. Commissioner stated that he pulled \$500,000 out of contingency for dogs.
- The question arose as to whether a grant writer has been identified to search out possible grants. Commissioner Koons stated that some of the funders and non-profits are seeing who is coordinating with what groups in order to have the ability to identify shortfalls in the system and lobby the program in order to come out with a long range strategy. Commissioner said that he found out that if you get the planning right, the dollars will come. If your funders trust your process, they will become advocates but if they feel the process is flawed, it won't work.
- Mike Langton pointed out that Commissioner Koons made two key points; to vote no on Amendment 1 and that this is a process that's all about what you decide – what do you want the outcome to be, support and embrace the outcome. Mike also reminded everyone that pursuing dollars is what it's all about. Previously the group did not work together and now we need a cohesive plan to go after funding.
- Mike Langton explained how the breakout groups would work. There would be a facilitator, recorder to take notes and a resource person in each group. Each group would then come together and share with one another what was discussed and then the large group would work together to tie all 3 of the group ideas together.

Breakout Session (2 hours)

Attendees were broken into 3 groups to discuss agenda items, vote and then decide to amend or eliminate that item from the agenda.

Reporting Session One (45 minutes)

Mike Langton reconvened the groups into one large group. They discussed the overall agenda items and a show of hands was taken to leave the language as is, changing it from "to be effective" to "evidence based." Mike and staff combined the remaining goals. Large group discussion took place regarding these items.

Other Business

- Shelly from the Homeless Coalition shared that there will be a meeting on February 19th at the Salvation Army on Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard where the folks from Broward County will be sharing.
- Commissioner Koons announced the date of the next meeting as well as a workshop on March 25, 2008 with the Broward County Commissioners.

Questions/Comments as a Result of the Presentation

- The question was asked as to how, with the \$89 million cut last year and this year's cut of \$35 million, do we implement public policy. The answer came that the funders must sit down and divert the money; it must be eased into and in the long term the money must be separated. A member of the Senior County Staff suggested that lobbying to get the money into the policy would be an avenue as well.
- The intent of the workshop was reiterated – to figure out where we are, shape it up and get members familiar with the plan so that they can take it back to the Board for adoption at a later date.
- Scott Badesch voiced a concern that the case may not be made to the Palm Beach County Commissioners – why is it an economic investment in the community and what is the costs to us if we don't address these issues.
- The question arose as to whether or not a sub committee needs to be formed.
- Michelle Jacobs stated that the vast amount of homeless persons are substance abusers and she said that she doesn't see where that's addressed.
- Commissioner Koons said we need to put a face on homelessness that reflects the values of the Board.

Upcoming Meeting

- Next meeting is February 6, 2008 at 2pm

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm