

Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board Meeting

Human Services, North County Office, Conference Room
1440 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Riviera Beach

November 19, 2008

Board Members Present

Pastor Leo Abdella, Faith-Based Community Representative
Judith Aigen, Housing Authority
Bob Anis, PBC Emergency Shelter Board
Thomas Bell, Formerly Homeless Representative
Perry Borman, FL Department of Children & Families
Michelle Carter, Formerly Homeless Representative
Don Chester, Hospital Executive Representative
Michelle Diffenderfer, Business Community Representative
Dr. Anne Faraone for Bill Graham, PBC School Board
Kerry Gallagher, Philanthropic Community Representative
Bill Graham, PBC School Board
John Green for Mayor Thomas Masters, City of Riviera Beach
Susan Guillama, Business Community Representative
Stephen Johnson, Formerly Homeless Community Representative
Robert Kellman for Jerry Taylor, City of Boynton Beach
Ezra Kreig, General Representative
Philip Lewis, Business Community Representative
Bill Oberlink, Business Community Representative
Elivio Serrano for Scott Badesch, United Way of Palm Beach County
Tom Sheehan for Tana Ebbola, PBC Children's Services Council
Lillian Tomeu for Mayor Steve Wilson, City of Belle Glade
William Washington, Business Community Representative

Board Members Not Represented

Jorge Camejo for Steve Abrams, City of Boca Raton
Rita Ellis, City of Delray Beach
Lois Frankel, City of West Palm Beach
Shannon Sadler Hull, Private Foundation Community Representative
Jeff Koons, PBC Board of County Commissioners
Captain Jeff Lindskoog, PBC Sheriff's Department
Miriam Maldonado, Formerly Homeless Representative Nominee
Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department
Nancy Perez, Palm Beach County Judiciary
Jack Scarola, Business Community Representative
Dr. Ron Wiewora for Dwight Chenette, PBC Health Care District

Board Members Resigned Since Last Meeting

Paul Gionfriddo, Private Foundation Community Representative
David Gury, Business Community Representative
Andrew Sherman, General Representative
Suzette Wexner, Private Foundation Community Representative

County Staff Present

David Brandt, Housing Finance Authority
Georgiana Devine, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division
Tammy Fields, County Attorney
Jenise Gibson, Criminal Justice Commission
Marcela Carneiro Millett, Court Administration
Mary Quinlan, Court Administration
Carlos Serrano, Housing & Community Development
Jon Van Arnam, PBC Community Services

Consultant Staff Present

Krysten Bennett, Langton Associates

Others in Attendance

Suzanne Cabrera, Housing Leadership Council
Rita Clark, Homeless Coalition of PBC
Mark Essary, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Barry Miller
Maite Reyes-Coles, CILO
Sandra Boulon, Health Department
Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place
Shawn Wilson

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 2:03 pm by Bill Oberlink who also chaired the meeting. Krysten performed a roll call.

Outstanding Items from October Agenda (Meeting Cancelled):

Approval of September 17th Meeting Minutes

Hard copies of the September 17th meeting minutes were distributed to everyone via email. Motion made to approve the minutes by Tom Sheehan and seconded by Bill Oberlink. Motion carried.

Establishment of Program Planning Committee

Bill Oberlink asked that the Board follow a recommendation made to establish a Program Planning Committee. Motion made by Tom Sheehan and seconded by Leo Abdella. Motion carried.

Approve Committee Membership Slate (To Date)

Bill asked for the adoption and a vote to approve the Committee Membership Slate as it stands to date. There was discussion about adding specific names to the committees. Senator Lewis made the motion to accept the roster as is and Lillian Tomeu seconded it. Motion carried.

Ratification of Action Step Assignments to Committees

Additional discussion took place regarding the addition of specific names to committees. Lillian Tomeu suggested that if someone is added to the committee roster then the committee chair will keep the staff informed and announce any changes as part of the committee reports and their official nomination and participation can be ratified at the next scheduled full Board meeting. Tom Sheehan made the motion to accept the assigned action steps as revised with the suggestion of the members of the Board and Senator Lewis seconded it. Motion carried.

New Business - Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. Ezra Krieg – COPA (Community Outreach and Public Awareness). Ezra stated that two meetings have been held to date. The members have reviewed the action steps and during the second meeting a number of people from various community organizations were brought in to get a sense of what those organizations are doing and how they judge their own success. COPA's first mission is to get information to the community on the Ten Year Plan. The next COPA meeting will focus on detailing the strategies for the plan.
- b. Lillian Tomeu – Facilities. Lillian stated that the committee has had two meetings to date. The majority of the first meeting was focused on the opportunities at hand and the potential for the kind of facilities available. During the second meeting, the members focused on various aspects including where intakes took place in an expedited manner as people have no place else to go. Good news was received on funding as the County Commissioners were to vote in favor of this funding at an upcoming Commission meeting. Lillian stated that support at the meeting by the HAB members was needed. Additionally, the list of potential facilities was whittled down and a determination was made that if the funding was used wisely, there could be as many as 3-4 intake centers located in different areas of the county.
- c. Bill Oberlink – Funding (presented last). The Funding Committee participated in a HUD meeting which Michelle Carter attended and discussed the \$7.5 million for resource centers. Leo stated that it was the committee's responsibility to become knowledgeable about the communities to encourage organizations to apply for funds.
- d. John Green – Housing. The Housing Committee also met twice to date. The first of which concentrated on an overview of the committee purpose and who else should be involved. They worked on prioritizing the different tasks associated with the action steps.

- e. Kerry Gallagher – Program Planning. This committee also has met twice to date. The committee has spent a lot of time discussing the separation of families with children from individuals/singles and the housing and programs needed in order to make this distinction. There are strong proponents for having them combined and equally strong proponents for keeping them separated.
- f. Tom Sheehan – Strategic Planning. Discussion on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program with the cities of West Palm Beach and Boynton Beach took place. The committee wants to establish a uniform reporting format. The staff met with Miami-Dade programs researching best practices. A suggestion was made to try and eliminate as much overlap as possible in programming.

The Committee also made the recommendation made that the chairs of each committee meet one half hour prior to each full Board meeting and the consensus was reached that the chairs would strive to meet in advance.

It was at this point that Senator Lewis reminded everyone that the Florida Legislative session was reconvening soon and that all members of the Board should be prepared for their general session.

Jon Van Arnam discussed the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and explained a bit about the program to the other members of the Board. He suggested that the full Board recommend and pass a motion to support the allocation of the \$7.5 million from the NSP to develop and establish (or acquire) at least one more homeless resource center which would be in line with the Ten Year Plan and that the Board encourage the other municipalities to do the same. Motion was made by Senator Lewis and seconded by Tom Sheehan. Motion carried. Motion language read as follows:

Motion to request that the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners set aside \$7.5 million of the County's allocated Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funding to create Regional Homeless Resource Centers as is consistent with the approved Ten Year Plan of the Homeless Advisory Board to end homelessness in Palm Beach County.

A second motion was made by Tom Sheehan and seconded by Senator Lewis regarding the combined NSP funds of the cities of West Palm Beach and Boynton Beach. Motion carried. Motion language read as follows:

Motion to request that the City of West Palm Beach and the City of Boynton Beach implement the portion of their Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds that are required to be used for individuals and families whose incomes are below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI) to advance the needs of the homeless population by actions consistent with the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County, which they participated in drafting.

Jon Van Arman stated that the Board of County Commissioners approved these two motions yesterday in advance of the PBC HAB meeting believing that they would be approved by our Board at today's meeting.

Review of Attendance Policy

A review of the Attendance Policy was given by Krysten Bennett. She stated that the Attendance Policy of the Board states that members can be removed for a lack of attendance and that members who missed three consecutive meetings or have attended less than two-thirds of the scheduled meetings could be considered to be off the Board. Designees are qualified as representation of your attendance the meetings.

Krysten was asked if the Board had contacted members who have missed previous meetings and the answer was not yet. She stated that there have been a number of formalized resignations and that there are currently 4-5 open seats. She stated that core members of the Board were defined by position (i.e., the Head of United Way) and the second group of members was open for the Board to appoint. The staff will put together a list of vacancies so that if the Board members want to make recommendations, they could and the Board could then be discussed and voted on the recommended persons. A number of names were discussed as potential members. Senator Lewis recommended that prior to anyone being appointed, the staff should review where we are with vacancies and contact potential nominees to ensure their commitment prior to appointing them. A recalculation of attendance started in January and is based on the calendar year.

Future Meeting Dates of Full HAB (February, May, August, November 2009)

Krysten Bennett also advised that all future meetings for 2009 would continue to be scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month; February 18th, May 20th, August 19th and November 18th.

Public Comment Period

Shawn Wilson of Housing Trust spoke about the need to build affordable housing. He urged the Board to take a portion of the dollars and link that to private development and SAIL funds.

Rita Clark of PBC Homeless Coalition spoke about National Hunger Month.

Senator Lewis suggested that the editor of the paper should be put on the Board to help with any marketing assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm