

**Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board  
Meeting  
559 North Military Trail, WPB  
November 28, 2007**

**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  
Jorge Camejo for Steve Abrams, City of Boca Raton  
Michelle Carter, Formerly Homeless Representative  
Judge Cory Ciklin, PBC Judiciary  
Michelle Diffenderfer, Business Community Representative  
Gaetana Ebbola, PBC Children's Services Council  
Mayor Lois Frankel, City of West Palm Beach  
Kerry Gallagher, Philanthropic Community Representative  
Paul Gionfriddo, Private Foundation Community Representative  
Mr. Bill Graham, PBC School Board  
Susan Guillama, Business Community Representative  
David Gury, Business Community Representative  
Stephen Johnson, Formerly Homeless Community Representative  
Commissioner Robert Kanjian for Jeff Koons, PBC Board of County Commissioners  
Robert Kellman for Jerry Taylor, City of Boynton Beach  
Ezra Kreig, General Representative  
Philip Lewis, Business Community Representative  
Captain Jeff Lindskoog, PBC Sheriff's Department  
Mayor Thomas Masters, City of Riviera Beach  
Bill Oberlink, Business Community Representative  
Bernard Shulman, PBC Emergency Shelter Board  
Rev. Andrew Sherman, General Representative  
Lillian Tomeu for Mayor Donald Garrett, City of Belle Glade  
William Washington, Business Community Representative  
David Zechman, Hospital Executive Representative

**Board Members Not Represented**

Alan Abramowitz, Florida Department of Children & Families  
Mayor Rita Ellis, City of Delray Beach  
Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department  
Shannon Sadler Hull, Private Foundation Community Representative  
Jack Scarola, Business Community Representative  
Suzette Wexner, Private Foundation Community Representative  
Dr. Ron Wiewora for Dwight Chenette, PBC Health Care District

**Designated Alternates in Attendance, Not Representing a Board Member**

Robert Anis, PBC Emergency Shelter Board  
Dr. Ann Faraone, PBC School Board  
Lela Jordan, City of West Palm Beach  
Elivio Serrano, United Way of Palm Beach County

**Board Nominees Present**

Miriam Maldonado, Formerly Homeless Representative Nominee

**County Staff Present**

Renee Constantine, PBC Community Services

Georgiana Devine, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division

Jenise Gibson, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission

Kevin Johns, PBC Administration, Economic Development

Carol Shaffer, PBC Community Services, Human Service Division

Michelle Spangenberg, PBC Court Administration, Family Court

Chuck Suits, Aide to Commissioner Kanjian

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

Jon Van Arnam, PBC County Administration

**Consultant Staff Present**

Krysten Bennett, Langton Associates

Mike Langton, Langton Associates

**Others in Attendance**

Evelyn Abaeca, Families First

Gladys Barber, Noah Housing

Sandra Boulor, PBCCHP/DOH

LaClaire Bowdry

Suzanne Cabera, Housing Leadership Council

Mary Cauthen, YWCA

Barbara Cavanaugh, Office of the Attorney General

Nancy Chapin, Housing Partnership

Roxanne Childs, Families First

Matt Constantine, Adopt A Family of the Palm Beaches

Marie Duboulay, Housing Partnership

Karis Engle, Glades Initiative

Monica Escobar, The Lord's Place

Gary Fink, Housing Partnership

Daniel Gibso, United Way of Palm Beach County

Arteria Ginsburg, United Way of the Palm Beaches

Shelley Gottsagen, Homeless Coalition

Frances Grogg, Adopt A Family of the Palm Beaches

Chris Harris, 211

Diane Huff, 211

Roger Johns

Sherry Johnson, Community Caring Center

Judy Kennedy, United Way of Palm Beach County

Debra King, AVDA

Dawn Krupa, Adopt A Family of the Palm Beaches

Kitty Lanier, Adopt A Family of the Palm Beaches

Esaie Larose, The Lord's Place

Dorla Leslie, Center for Family Services

Alan Levine, Private Citizen and Advocate

Jen Loyless, Public Defender's Office/The Lord's Place Board  
Missie Malaney, The Lord's Place  
Lara Marek, Housing Partnership  
Elizabeth Marlowe, Housing Partnership  
Charmeine Marshall, Adopt A Family of the Palm Beaches  
Meredith Martin-Merritt, Adopt A Family of the Palm Beaches  
Derek McArthur, The Lord's Place  
Pamela McIver, The Lord's Place  
Pat McNamara, Housing Partnership  
Gibbie Nauman, The Lord's Place  
Jay Pastor, The Lord's Place  
Jan Phillips, The Lord's Place  
Anax Pompilus, PBC School Board  
Daniel Ramos, Center for Family Services  
Matte Reyes-Coles, Center for Independent Living Options  
Tomas Reyes-Coles, Stand Down  
Grace Richardson, Housing Partnership  
Rachel Robinson, AVDA  
Deanne Rogers, Adopt A Family of the Palm Beaches  
Greg Rydman, Salvation Army  
Kathy Serock, Children's Home Society  
Upendo Shebazz Phillips, United Way of Palm Beach County  
Renee Solis, Housing Partnership  
Rozanne Sonneborn, PBC Community Foundation  
Julie Swindle, Families First  
Bud Tamarkin, Palm Beach County Health Department  
Wendy Tippett, Adopt A Family of the Palm Beaches  
Cristina Trivino, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies  
Carrie Vaughn, Legal Aid Society  
Christine Walsh, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies  
Stephen Watson, ULC  
Barry Wau, Families First  
Margie Yansura

**Welcome:** Meeting called to order at 2:10 PM by Commissioner Robert Kanjian, Designated Alternate to Commissioner Jeff Koons, Chairperson.

### **Roll Call and Introduction of all Present**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the minutes of the October meeting and revisions to the minutes of the September meeting as distributed in advance. Motion made by Bill Oberlink and seconded by Phil Lewis. Motion carried.

#### **Replacement of Formerly Homeless Representative**

Motion made to accept the resignation of Denise Tickle as Formerly Homeless Representative and accept the nomination of Miriam Maldonado as her replacement. Motion made by Phil Lewis and seconded by Tana Ebbale. Motion carried.

## **Election of Officers**

Motion made by Scott Badesch to nominate Bill Oberlink as Vice Chair and seconded by Cory Ciklin. Motion carried.

Motion made by Jeff Lindskoog to nominate Susan Guillama as Secretary and seconded by Bob Graham. Motion carried.

## **Presentation**

A presentation entitled *Provider Recommendations to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County* was given by Georgiana Devine, Homeless Programz Manager, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division, Wendy Tippet, Executive Director, Adopt-A-Family, Diana Stanley, Executive Director, The Lord's Place, and Patrick McNamara, Executive Director, Housing Partnership.

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

- Phil Lewis commented that the current organization (meaning the Service Providers) is the perfect group to take on this project.
- Dr. Shulman asked for details regarding what *exactly* is needed by the business community. Wendy and Diana answered that the plan they have drafted is a template to address the groundwork, and that now is the time to find out what businesses think they *can* do to help.
- It was asked if there were recommendations on how to address the lack of insurance and medical services for the homelessness.
- Lara Barrett from the Housing Partnership asked about how the population of people who do not want to live in a structure will be addressed. Diana answered that in Denver, when chronic homeless who said they just wanted to live under the stars were given the keys to a home they were very happy. Pat stated that this population is a very small minority.
- It was asked how the plan presented would move from just being a plan to actual implementation and measurability.
- Roger Jordan, Adopt a Family, asked for further explanation of resource centers. Wendy emphasized the importance of case management and coordination from identification to case completion.
- Bill Oberlink asked the difference between the engagement center at The Lord's Place and the prosperity centers at the United Way. Diana answered that their engagement center is for those who are already homeless as opposed to homeless prevention. Diana stated that their research shows that HACs are not good for children.
- Scott Badesch asked about the impact of medical debt. Pat stated that there is a new group in town assisting with the issue and that many lenders are overlooking medical debt because it has become so common.
- Bernard Shulman summarized his vision of a resource center that would be that a homeless person could receive all services under one roof instead of going into one office, and then being sent (without transportation) to the appropriate place. He recommended looking at the Thousand Islands Center in California as a best practice.
- Kerry Gallagher asked if single women and veterans were considered in 'gaps' in housing. Single women without substance abuse issues not currently being served, but that Stand Down in Lake Worth was serving veterans well. The Providers believe that allowing a provider that is performing a service very well should be given ownership of that issue.

- Diana had everyone who participated in the process to date stand to be honored.

### **Presentation**

A presentation on the State of Homelessness was made by Dr. Anne Faraone of the Palm Beach County School Board's Student Intervention Services regarding how they address the needs of homeless children in the school system.

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

- Alan Levine asked for the number of homeless children. Dr. Faraone stated that they count both homeless and those in foster care awaiting placement for reporting purposes to Feds and State: approximately 1400. They continue to receive services even if their status changes.

### **Overview of Progress**

Mike Langton explained the process through which we had arrived at our current status. The Service Provider's Group held a workshop in March of 2006, the outcome of which was the decision to create the HAB. All Board positions are filled and the group has been provided a basic education on homelessness. The next step will be to take the action steps presented by the Service Providers, workshop ideas and come to a consensus. A show of hands as to how many members will or will not be able to attend the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> showed that only two members could not attend. It was decided to move forward with the meeting in order to maintain momentum in the process.

### **Additional Questions**

- It was asked what kind of public awareness and public education activities would occur. Mike Langton suggested that perhaps a public education and awareness committee should also be formed.
- Alan Levine stated that there have been multiple task forces to address this issue in the past with no results. He asked how much money the government was going to put into this project. Mike Langton stated that we should not assume that this group will fail because past groups have not made significant impacts, and that we've been systematic about putting the group together to ensure we are successful. It can not be said yet how much the government will have to put in, but he emphasized that other parties are going to have to participate as well. PBC will HAVE to put money in as they are the entity that initiated this project.
- There was a brief debate between Alan Levine and Lois Frankel regarding NIMBY.
- Commissioner Kanjian emphasized the idea of return in investment and the need to approach business participation with that perspective.
- Leo Abdella referenced the October minutes discussion of providing a letter in order to raise funds. Jon stated that the solicitation process has been drafted by the County attorney, but that because specific projects to be funded have not yet been decided upon, that to begin soliciting funds is premature. Jon asked that the members think about working as a group as a whole instead of individually and not to be aggressive on raising funds for the implementation of the Strategic Plan yet, but to instead encourage others to continue contributing to individuals service providers.
- Maggie Yansura suggested that the Public Relations community may be willing to come together to provide the services to create a public education campaign pro-bono.
- Ezra Krieg noted that Miami and Ft. Lauderdale weren't cited in the presentation and asked why PBC wasn't looking at the HAC model since it was being used successfully in

those locations. Diana stated that HAC are 10-year-old models. The providers looked at newer models like Denver, where new programs are working more effectively. Ezra asked if they objected to reaching out to Broward and Miami, to which Diana responded that they have no problem with collaboration, but that there was no need to go elsewhere for help because PBC had great resources already available.

- Bill Oberlink asked what roles business played in the programs they looked at – lots of strong partnerships with developers, contributions from businesses.
- Ron Hayes from Palm Beach Post noted that there were 7 goals with 57 action steps presented, but that only 24 of the action steps currently have funding available. He asked if any thought had been given to how the additional steps will be funded. This will be for the Board to determine.
- Paris Engel, Glades Initiative, asked about representation of the Glades area on the Board and in the implementation of the plan. The Mayor of Belle Glade and the Hospital Executive representative are both from the Glades area, and the proposed HRCs will cover N, S, E and W, including the Glades.
- Thomas Reyes-Cole, Stand Down, asked if the special needs of returning female veterans and also young men who went straight from high school into the military who have no experience in paying rent, etc. had been considered. Diana stated that she did not know if these unique populations had been considered, but that they will definitely be included from here forward.
- Mayor Frankel commented that she has been told of several instances recently where the 211 did not work. Diana Stanley, Wendy Tippet and a 211 representative stated that everyone is attempting to work together through the 211 system, but that waiting lists have caused issues recently.

### **Meeting Location**

- Meeting location requested to be at Clayton Hutchison, WPB.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- Next meeting is December 19, 2007 at 1 PM

Meeting adjourned at 4:00PM.