

Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board Meeting

Human Services, North County Office, Conference Room

1440 Martin Luther King Blvd., Rivera Beach

March 19, 2008

Board Members Present

Judith Aigen, Housing Authority

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

Dr. Ann Faraone for Bill Graham, PBC School Board

Lois Frankel, City of West Palm Beach

Kerry Gallagher, Philanthropic Community Representative

John Green for Mayor Thomas Masters, City of Riviera Beach

Susan Guillama, Business Community Representative

David Gury, Business Community Representative

Stephen Johnson, Formerly Homeless Community Representative

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

Mayor Thomas Masters, City of Riviera Beach

Nancy Perez, Palm Beach County Judiciary

Jack Scarola, Business Community Representative

Elivio Serrano for Scott Badesch, United Way of Palm Beach County

Tom Sheehan for Tana Ebbole, PBC Children's Services Council

Dr. Ron Wiewora for Dwight Chenette, PBC Health Care District

Board Members Not Represented

Pastor Leo Abdella, Faith-Based Community Representative

Michelle Diffenderfer, Business Community Representative

Rita Ellis, City of Delray Beach

Paul Gionfriddo, Private Foundation Community Representative

Robert Kellman for Jerry Taylor, City of Boynton Beach

Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department

Bill Oberlink, Business Community Representative

Dough Pugh, Private Foundation Community Representative

Andrew Sherman, General Representative

Bernard Shulman, PBC Emergency Shelter Board

Lillian Tomeu for Mayor Donald Garrett, City of Belle Glade

William Washington, Business Community Representative

Suzette Wexner, Private Foundation Community Representative
David Zechman, Hospital Executive Representative

County Staff Present

Georgiana Devine, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division
Tammy Fields, County Attorney
Mary Quinlan, Court Administration
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

Others in Attendance

AVDA Representative
Rita Clark, Homeless Coalition of PBC
Kim Denmark, Walk Across America
Daniel Gibson, United Way of PBC
Yanick Gribkoff, Palm Beach County Health Department
Lori Hubner, Palm Beach County Health Department
Michelle Leigh Jacobs, CARP, Inc.
Daniel Ramos, Center for Family Services
Maite Reyes-Coles, Center for Independent Living Options
Rebecca Salter, Walk Across America
Kathy Spencer, Gulfstream Goodwill
Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place

Welcome

Meeting called to order without a quorum at 2:00 pm by Commissioner Jeff Koons. Introductions of the entire room were made. Phil Lewis suggested that item 10 on the agenda be moved up after item 5 and Commissioner Koons said that he had the ability to make an executive decision to move the agenda around. Commissioner Koons said that the board would approach the next process goal by goal and have a vote for a final adoption. The board would go through the goals and reach a consensus on which action steps to take. Quorum arrived and the meeting was called to order at 2:15 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2008, meeting. Motion made by Senator Phil Lewis and seconded by Ezra Kreig. Motion carried.

Resignation of Judge Cory Ciklin as Palm Beach County Judiciary Representative and Nomination of Judge Nancy Perez as Palm Beach County Judiciary Representative

Commissioner Koons cited the resignation of Judge Cory Ciklin and stated that his replacement would be Judge Nancy Perez.

Commissioner Koons said that he had received calls from the Palm Beach Post and wanted to give the board a heads up that if they were to receive a phone call from the Post or any other form of media that they should exercise caution. This particular reporter was writing an article on the homeless situation in Palm Beach County and his response is we are “going through the process.” He cautioned the board that everything that is said leads to another statement and the board needs to remain proactive on the process they are going through. The board wants action but to remember that the sunshine laws need to be obeyed and that whatever is said could be taken out of context.

Final Discussion and Amendments to Goals and Action Steps, Board Vote to Adopt Goals and Action Steps

Krysten Bennett walked the board through the process. The board decided it would go through the revised goals. Krysten had added scoring and the scoring had been placed back into the goals. Krysten led the discussion on goals 1-7 in order and asked for motions to approve.

Goal 1 - Motion to accept goal number 1 by Judith Aigen and seconded by David Gury. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal 2 - Motion to accept goal number 2 by John Green and seconded by Stephen Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal 3 - Motion to accept goal number 3 by Jack Scarola and seconded by Senator Phil Lewis. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal 4 - Motion to accept goal number 4 by Jack Scarola and seconded by Senator Phil Lewis. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal 5 - Motion to accept goal number 5 by Jack Scarola and seconded by Senator Phil Lewis. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place regarding goal number 5 by Lois Frankel on whether or not the Housing Authority fit into any of the categories for action steps a, b, and c. The Housing Authority was added to the list of supporting bodies for action steps a, b, and c.

Goal 6 - Motion to accept goal number 6 by Jack Scarola and seconded by Senator Phil Lewis. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal 7 - Motion to accept goal number 7 by Jack Scarola and seconded by Senator Phil Lewis. Motion carried. One nay vote.

Jon Van Arnam wanted the staff and consultants to have the ability to add partners and/or change them as needed since this is a 10 year plan, if a new entity came up or a current partner ceased to exist, the staff and consultants should have the ability to add and/or change the partner list.

Senator Lewis stated that he expected changes and that the plan would change within the process itself. Commissioner Koons stated that Ezra Kreig had made a good point by putting a face on the plan and asking for leadership from the start.

Ezra Kreig asked that the text within the outcome section match the goals and action steps and Krysten Bennett said that she would comply and make sure they were consistent.

Public Comment Period

Commissioner Koons opened the floor to public comment. Mayor Masters of Riviera Beach brought in a guest and made an introduction of Kim Denmark. Ms. Denmark has been walking across America in support of issues impacting the homeless and was in Riviera Beach on her way to West Palm Beach. Florida is her 16th state. Kim began her walk 78 months ago because she was tired of turning her head and ignoring the problem. She is on her 21st pair of walking shoes. She is looking for support in many areas, including partners who are business merchants to assist in refurbishing houses, lending houses, donating houses. She would like to continue to partner with public officials across the country. Kim's websites are www.KimDenmark.com and www.KimDenmark.org.

Michelle Jacobs of CARP expressed an interest in being included as a partner in homeless services.

Angela Bennedeeb also expressed an interest in being considered a partner. She is with an agency on domestic abuse.

Danielle Gibson of United Way of PBC suggested that the board review the national model in Seattle.

Diana Stanley of The Lord's Place confirmed that established best practices programs should be sent to Krysten Bennett as a clearing house.

The public comment section of the meeting ended. Senator Lewis made a motion to approve the overall goals and action steps and Ezra Kreig seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Senator Lewis wanted to publicly acknowledge Krysten Bennett's efforts in leading this project for the Board.

Review of Commission Presentation Outline

Krysten Bennett reminded everyone that the presentation of the goals and action steps to the County Commission would take place on Tuesday, April 15th by Bill Oberlink and Commissioner Koons. Commissioner Koons reminded everyone that the County Commission was told to cut 5% out of the budget and he really wanted the group to take a look at how to deal with the Commissioners and how as a group they can be convinced that the homeless situation is a serious issue – there is no choice from a community standpoint. They need to support this issue and these goals. Ezra Kreig asked if it was possible to get a talking paper of bullet items to use when addressing the Commissioners.

The question was asked – “What are we as an Advisory Board asking the Commissioners to do? Accept the report and direct the County staff to support the overriding goals?” Jon Van Arnam answered yes, we are asking them for a general endorsement and that the PBC Homeless Advisory Board be allowed to move to a final document and seek an ultimate adoption and acceptance by the City to be partners in this effort. He further stated that “It is a matter of education and understanding.”

There was additional discussion on the cost involved, the fact that it is a collaborative effort and a reiteration by Commissioner Koons that everyone should embrace it. There should be no assumptions that the PBC Commissioners know that the Advisory Board exists, what has been developed over the previous month and they should be asked to listen, be supportive and give their feedback.

Discussion of Potential Rescheduling of April 16th Meeting

Discussion took place regarding the need to meet on April 16th, despite a previous decision to cancel, in order to maintain momentum. A show of hands was given by those who would be attending the Commission presentation on April 15th, and it was determined that meeting to days in a row was not optimal. Instead it was decided to check on availability of another meeting space at the Governmental Center and potentially continue the meeting after the Commission presentation. Krysten Bennett will send a notice via e-mail to confirm.

Upcoming Meeting

- Next meeting is April 15, 2008 at 2pm

Meeting adjourned at 4pm.