

# **Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board Meeting**

Governmental Center

301 N Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

**April 15, 2008**

## **Board Members Present**

Pastor Leo Abdella, Faith-Based Community Representative  
Judith Aigen, Housing Authority  
Dr. Alina Alonso for Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department  
Bob Anis for Dr. Bernard Shulman, PBC Emergency Shelter Board  
Scott Badesch, United Way of Palm Beach County  
Thomas Bell, Formerly Homeless Representative  
Perry Borman, FL Department of Children & Families  
Michelle Carter, Formerly Homeless Representative  
John Green for Mayor Thomas Masters, City of Riviera Beach  
Susan Guillama, 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  
Nancy Perez, Palm Beach County Judiciary  
Dough Pugh, Private Foundation Community Representative  
Lillian Tomeu for Mayor Donald Garrett, City of Belle Glade  
David Zechman, Hospital Executive Representative

## **Board Members Not Represented**

Jorge Camejo for Steve Abrams, City of Boca Raton  
Michelle Diffenderfer, Business Community Representative  
Tana Ebbola, PBC Children's Services Council  
Rita Ellis, City of Delray Beach  
Lois Frankel, City of West Palm Beach  
Kerry Gallagher, Philanthropic Community Representative  
Paul Gionfriddo, Private Foundation Community Representative  
Bill Graham, PBC School Board  
David Gury, Business Community Representative  
Robert Kellman for Jerry Taylor, City of Boynton Beach  
Miriam Maldonado, Formerly Homeless Representative Nominee  
Bill Oberlink, Business Community Representative  
Jack Scarola, Business Community Representative  
Andrew Sherman, General Representative  
William Washington, Business Community Representative  
Suzette Wexner, Private Foundation Community Representative

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

**County Staff Present**

Renee Constantino, PBC Community Services  
Georgiana Devine, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division  
Tammy Fields, County Attorney  
Ed Lowery, PBC Housing & Community Development  
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  
Mike Langton, Langton Associates

**Others in Attendance**

Sandrea Bouhon  
Monica Kalker Caruso, CILO  
Rita Clark, Homeless Coalition of PBC  
Flor Doylet, PBC Health Department  
Christy Evans, Legal Counsel, Housing Finance Authority  
Daniel Gibson, United Way of PBC  
Juanita Bryant Goode, CROS Ministries  
Judie Gibson, Homeless Coalition of PBC  
Chris Harris, 211  
Michelle Leigh Jacobs, CARP, Inc.  
Dorla Leslie, Center for Family Services  
Maite Reyes-Coles, Center for Independent Living Options  
Bryan Roe  
Marilyn Sands, CILO

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*Jane Thompson Memorial Chambers*

**Presentation to Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners**

Mike Langton, Bill Oberlink and Commissioner Koons presented the history and an overview of our long term 10 year plan to eradicate homelessness in Palm Beach County. The Commissioners seemed overall very supportive of the plan.

## *Relocate to McEaddy Conference Room*

### **Welcome**

Meeting called to order at 3:20 pm by Secretary Susan Guillama who said that we would wait for the formal parts of the meeting until Commissioner Koons and a couple of others joined who were still in the Board of County Commissioners' Meeting. Susan advised that the meeting would begin with the presentations.

### **County Agency Presentations**

**1. Community Services: FAA Program** by Renee Constantino, PBC Community Services. Ms. Constantino gave a PowerPoint presentation which has been distributed to all attendees.

**2. Community Services: Human Services** by Claudia Tuck, PBC Community Services, Director, Human Services Division. Ms. Tuck also had a PowerPoint presentation which was distributed to all attendees. She advocated for stronger case management.

**3. Health Department** by Dr. Alina Alonso for Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department. Dr. Alonso said that the PBC Health Department has a \$64 million budget which is the second largest in the state next to Miami-Dade. They operate 7 clinics throughout the county for all healthcare services. Her overview cited many statistics, such as:

- the program saw over 2,000 homeless people last year with over 3,500 services;
- 95% of all patients seen were below the poverty level;
- 40% were uninsured;
- 6% were Medicaid participants;
- 4% were migrant/seasonal workers;
- 11% were homeless;
  - 15% were living in transitional housing;
  - 50% were sharing homes with other families;
  - 14% were living on the streets.
- 22% were Hispanic;
- 37% were African American;
- 47% were Caucasian;
- 16% were of unidentified ethnicity.

There were no handouts.

Commissioner Koons and others joined the meeting at 3:40 p.m. They were given a quick recap by Susan Guillama as to what had transpired thus far in the meeting.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the minutes of March 19, 2008, meeting. Motion made by Senator Phil Lewis and seconded by Dr. Alonso. Motion carried.

The remaining presentations were given at that time.

**4. Housing and Community Development** by Ed Lowery, PBC Housing & Community Development. Mr. Lowery passed around a handout entitled "Homeless Advisory Board Presentation for the Department of Housing." He mentioned that PBC Housing & Community Development had lost 20% of funding due to federal budget cuts and expected to lose an additional 5% each year in the coming years.

**5. Housing Finance Authority** by Christy Evans, Legal Counsel, Housing Finance Authority. Ms. Evans gave a PowerPoint presentation which was distributed to all attendees. Questions arose regarding the amount of surplus funds, the number of units, dollars spent since its inception in 1979, and the names of the developers involved.

## **People Engaged in Active Community Efforts, Inc. (PEACE)**

Commissioner Koons handed out an interoffice memorandum dated April 9, 2008, from Shannon R. LaRocque-Baas, P.E., Assistant County Administrator. She is trying to find ways to create a Palm Beach County Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

## **Upcoming Meeting**

- Mike Langton reminded everyone that the next meeting is May 21, 2008 at 2pm at the Riviera Beach facility and additional presentations would take place at that time.

## **Public Comment Period**

None.

As a side note, Commissioner Koons wanted to commend and congratulate the Advisory Board for their attendance at the BCC meeting and that the significant number of attendees did make an impact on the Commissioners. He stated that it was beneficial and made a difference for the Commissioners to be able to "connect the dots of the homeless issues in Palm Beach County."

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.