

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

Human Services, North County Office, Conference Room  
1440 Martin Luther King Blvd., Rivera Beach

**May 21, 2008**

## **Board Members Present**

Pastor Leo Abdella, Faith-Based Community Representative  
Judith Aigen, Housing Authority  
Bob Anis for Dr. Bernard Shulman, PBC Emergency Shelter Board  
Thomas Bell, Formerly Homeless Representative  
Perry Borman, FL Department of Children & Families  
Michelle Diffenderfer, Business Community Representative  
Tana Ebbole, PBC Children's Services Council  
Dr. Anne Faraone for Bill Graham, PBC School Board  
Lois Frankel, City of West Palm Beach  
Paul Gionfriddo, Private Foundation Community Representative  
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  
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  
Nancy Perez, Palm Beach County Judiciary  
Dough Pugh, Private Foundation Community Representative  
Tom Sheehan, PBC Children's Services Council  
Dr. Ron Wiewora for Dwight Chenette, PBC Health Care District

## **Board Members Not Represented**

Scott Badesch, United Way of Palm Beach County  
Jorge Camejo for Steve Abrams, City of Boca Raton  
Michelle Carter, Formerly Homeless Representative  
Rita Ellis, City of Delray Beach  
Kerry Gallagher, Philanthropic Community Representative  
David Gury, Business Community Representative  
Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department  
Jack Scarola, Business Community Representative  
Elivio Serrano, United Way of Palm Beach County  
Andrew Sherman, General Representative  
William Washington, Business Community Representative

Suzette Wexner, Private Foundation Community Representative  
Mayor Steve Wilson, City of Belle Glade  
Vacant, Hospital Executive Representative

**County Staff Present**

Georgiana Devine, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division  
Tammy Fields, County Attorney  
Mary Quinlan, Court Administration  
Claudia Tuck, PBC Community Services, Director, Human Services Division  
Jon Van Arnam, PBC County Administration

**Consultant Staff Present**

Mike Langton, Langton Associates

**Others in Attendance**

Frank Babich, VA  
Sandra Boulon, PBC Healthcare District  
Judy Brustad, Palm Healthcare Foundation  
Rita Clark, Homeless Coalition of PBC  
Matt Constantine, Adopt-A-Family  
Daniel Gibson, United Way of PBC  
Paul Giordano, Gulfstream Goodwill  
Juanita Bryant Goode, CROS Ministries  
Mitchell Gould, Gulfstream Goodwill  
Chris Harris, 211  
Lori Hubner  
Shelby King, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office  
Missie Malaney, The Lord's Place  
Marietta Moreno  
Michelle Padron, Quantum Foundation  
Daniel Ramos  
Maite Reyes-Coles, Center for Independent Living Options  
Tomas Reyes-Coles, Stand Down  
Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place  
Shawn Wilson, Housing Trust Group

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**Welcome**

Meeting called to order at 2:07 pm by Commissioner Koons.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2008, meeting. Motion made by Senator Phil Lewis and seconded by Doug Pugh. Motion carried.

## **Discussion Regarding Hospital Executive Vacancy**

Mike Langton advised that the previous hospital executive moved and therefore there was a vacancy. He asked for suggestions from the Board. Senator Lewis suggested we look at Bethesda. Leo Abdella suggested Don Chester at St. Mary's.

## **Funder Presentations:**

**1. Florida Department of Children and Families, Circuit 15** by Perry Borman. Mr. Borman gave a PowerPoint presentation which was distributed to all attendees. He stated that not many people know that DCF has offices for homelessness however they are not located in Palm Beach County. Tom Pierce in Tallahassee is in charge of the strategic planning for homelessness. Additionally, it is important to note the opportunities available in Palm Beach County as some applications are due in July. For example, there is \$22 million available in funding for substance abuse which can also cross over to homeless persons.

Senator Lewis asked if the money available was state or local money and Perry advised that it was state money. When asked if there was a growing demand, Perry advised that yes, there was an increase in food stamps by 23%. He also stated that there are approximately 100,000 families eligible for food stamps in Palm Beach County alone that are not getting it.

Miriam Maldonado asked if the income guidelines had changed and Perry said that it depended upon whether or not the Farm Bill passed. If it does, then yes. If it does not, then no, the income guidelines will remain the same. Ezra Kreig asked if it would be a benefit for the community to partner together to access additional dollars from state DCF. Perry said that yes, it doesn't hurt to be more collaborative.

Commissioner Koons stated that Perry used to run the Food Alliance and that the Food Alliance would be a new focus for the Board. He said that currently Palm Beach County has 8,000 acres of farmland and we need to start thinking about what the Board can do.

**2. Health Care District of Palm Beach County** by Dr. Ron Wiewora. Dr. Wiewora is the Chief Medical Officer of the Health Care District and acting CEO of Glades General. Dr. Wiewora also had a PowerPoint presentation which was distributed to all attendees. He stated that the homeless enter the Palm Beach County Health Care District system through either trauma or aeromedical services. The Health Care District is responsible for two trauma centers – St. Mary's and Delray Medical Center – and one hospital – Glades General. He said there is a RN at ever school in the county and that for some children this is their only access to medical care. The Health Care District also runs one licensed nursing home, the Edward J. Healey Center, and partner with Caridad Clinic.

When asked if the homeless are traced via SSN, Dr. Wiewora said yes. He also stated that there is a homeless declaration that they must fill out to be entered into the system and to receive follow-up care. However the form is not federally mandated; it is only done locally.

Commissioner Koons said that we need to focus on the where and when for more clinics as the issue of access to health care is big. People have to be healthier, Palm Beach County needs a teaching hospital and the clinics need to get built. Another problem is that the different divisions don't meet as often as they should to establish ways to work together. There also cannot be any sharing of information intra-departmental due to HIPAA.

**3. Children's Services Council** by Tana Ebolle and Tom Sheehan. A PowerPoint presentation was provided to all attendees. Commissioner Koons disclosed that he is on the Board of the Children's Services Council. There is a significant amount of data stating that young children (i.e., birth to 3 years old) are significantly impacted by their environment. Tana stated that some states project their future prison rates on the amount of 3rd graders who do not enter 4th grade.

Tom went through the previous system in place for children. Judge Perez asked how the CSC finds people and Tom stated through hospital liaisons, OB offices and other agencies. He said that they have people out there looking for mothers so that they can have access to prenatal care.

Tana stated that one of the ideas out there is to begin giving every newborn a Palm Beach County Student ID number. She also stated that an estimated 33% of mothers served are diagnosed with clinical depression. Palm Beach County is the only county in the state who led with quality improvements. The centers are now rated a 3, 4 or 5 on a scale of 0 – 7. This year they are facing budget cuts of \$7.5 million with anticipated budget cuts of \$11 million over the next several years. Tana said that they see this as an opportunity to get "sharper, cleaner and clearer."

**4. School District** by Ann Faraone. Ms. Faraone provided all attendees with a brochure on school based strategies "Florida Homeless Education" and a copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be emailed to all members. Ms. Faraone runs a fairly new department (3 years) called Student Intervention Services which focuses on homeless students and their families. They are fully funded by grants. She said that there is a stigma surrounding the word "homeless" and they are finding that most people like to use the phrase "displaced families" which became popular after Hurricane Katrina. She said that they are noticing an increase in situational poverty which includes families displaced due to home foreclosures. Senator Lewis asked if there has been an increase in the past 6 months. Ann said yes, and that the biggest challenge is that there is no parent interaction. They are either too embarrassed to express a need or, as the informal feedback is suggesting, leaving the county due to the high cost of living. She thinks that the numbers are greatly underreported.

**5. United Way** by Dan Gibson. Mr. Gibson provided a PowerPoint presentation to all attendees. Mr. Gibson said that they have established a "Community Cares Fund" which is funded solely by undesignated contributions to the United Way. He said that all funding

decisions of the United Way are based on volunteers and that this year marks the first time in 5 years that Palm Beach County has received an increase in FEMA dollars.

**6. Community Foundation** by Doug Pugh. Mr. Pugh provided all attendees with a copy of his PowerPoint presentation. He stated that the Community Foundation grants 501(c)(3) organization with small grants of up to \$10,000. They also have competitive grants available of up to \$55,000

**7. Allegheny Franciscan Ministries, Inc.** was unavailable for the meeting.

**8. Quantum Foundation** by Paul Gionfriddo. Mr. Gionfriddo promised to email around the presentation in an effort to be more “green.” He stated that the Quantum Foundation was formed in 1995 with proceeds from the sale of JFK Hospital. It is a private foundation which limits its grants to Palm Beach County 501(c)(3) organizations with 75-80% of going to health related issues. Quantum’s primary interest is access to care which is why it aggressively supports the building of federally qualified health centers. Because of this, Quantum has granted \$450,000 to Caridad Centers over three years.

**9. Palm Healthcare Foundation, Inc.** by Judy Brustad in for Suzette Wexner. There was no PowerPoint presentation. Judy stated that Palm Healthcare was formed from a conversion of the sale of Good Samaritan and St. Mary’s Hospitals. They have 2 basic funding approaches: 1) responsible grant making, and 2) initiatives. They have 5 basic funding areas: 1) access to care, 2) quality of care, 3) technology, 4) policy, and 5) workforce. She said that there are two major issues surrounding the healthcare workforce: 1) MD shortage, and 2) RN shortage. Judy also said that they are a part of a nation-wide pilot for geriatric monitoring devices. She said that historically Palm Healthcare has supported RNs and is working with PBCC to achieve diversity in the RN workforce. She said that recently \$200,000 was granted to Palm Beach County Medical Society for hazmat supplies for healthcare emergency response.

### **Public Comment Period**

Rita Clark reminded everyone of the Homeless Symposium to be held at Palm Beach Atlantic College on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- The next meeting is June 18, 2008. Krysten Bennett is working on and hopes to have a copy of the draft report available for this meeting.
- Mike Langton said that they will elaborate on the subcommittees which everyone will be broken into at the next meeting.
- Jon Van Arnam said there are 4 permitted by the Bylaws but they would like to see 6:
  - Strategic Planning and Best Practices;
  - Policies and Legislation;
  - Funding
  - Advocacy & Public Awareness
  - Housing; and

- Facilities.

Mike said that we need to start educating the public that the Homeless Advisory Board is working NOW and not waiting 10 years. The 10 year plan is to end homelessness, not begin the process of.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.