

Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board Meeting

Human Services, North County Office, Conference Room

1440 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Riviera Beach

July 16, 2008

Board Members Present

Pastor Leo Abdella, Faith-Based Community Representative
Judith Aigen, Housing Authority
Thomas Bell, Formerly Homeless Representative
Michelle Carter, Formerly Homeless Representative
Don Chester, Hospital Executive Representative
Dr. Anne Faraone for Bill Graham, PBC School Board
Kerry Gallagher, Philanthropic Community Representative
John Green for Mayor Thomas Masters, City of Riviera Beach
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
Michelle Padron for Susan Guillama, Business Community Representative
Nancy Perez, Palm Beach County Judiciary
Elivio Serrano for Scott Badesch, United Way of Palm Beach County
Tom Sheehan for Tana Ebbole, PBC Children's Services Council
Lillian Tomeu for Mayor Steve Wilson, City of Belle Glade
William Washington, Business Community Representative

Board Members Not Represented

Bob Anis, PBC Emergency Shelter Board
Perry Borman, FL Department of Children & Families
Jorge Camejo for Steve Abrams, City of Boca Raton
Michelle Diffenderfer, Business Community Representative
Rita Ellis, City of Delray Beach
Lois Frankel, City of West Palm Beach
Paul Gionfriddo, Private Foundation Community Representative
David Gury, Business Community Representative
Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department
Bill Oberlink, Business Community Representative
Jack Scarola, Business Community Representative

Andrew Sherman, General Representative
Suzette Wexner, Private Foundation Community Representative
Dr. Ron Wiewora for Dwight Chenette, PBC Health Care District
Vacant, Private Foundation Community Representative

County Staff Present

Susan Brown, PBC Community Services
Georgiana Devine, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division
Tammy Fields, County Attorney
Jenise Gibson, Criminal Justice Commission
Claudia Tuck, PBC Community Services, Director, Human Services Division
Jon Van Arnam, PBC Community Services

Consultant Staff Present

Krysten Bennett, Langton Associates

Others in Attendance

Alexandria Douglas Barblae
Kathleen Chapman, Palm Beach Post
Rita Clark, Homeless Coalition of PBC
David Claud, Center for Family Services
Matt Constantine, Adopt-A-Family
Daniel Gibson, United Way of PBC
Juanita Bryant Goode, Community Food Pan
Chris Harris, CMIS
Lori Hubner
Greg Jacobs, Miami City Mission
Dawn Krupa, Adopt-A-Family
Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by Commissioner Koons.

Approval of May 21, 2008 Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2008, meeting. Motion made by Senator Phil Lewis and seconded by Judith Aigen. Motion carried.

Approval of June 18, 2008 Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2008, meeting. Motion made by Senator Phil Lewis and seconded by Captain Jeff Lindskoog. Motion carried.

Resignation of David Zechman as Hospital Executive Representative

Motion made to accept the resignation of David Zechman as Hospital Executive Representative. Motion made by Senator Phil Lewis and seconded by Judge Perez. Motion carried.

Nomination of Don Chester as Hospital Executive Representative

Motion made to accept the nomination of Don Chester as Hospital Executive Representative. Motion made by Senator Phil Lewis and seconded by Leo Abdella. Motion carried.

Report on the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Strategic Planning Project by Jenise Gibson, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission.

A presentation was provided to all attendees. Commissioner Koons disclosed that he is the Chair of the Council. Commissioner Koons discussed the similarities between the Homeless Advisory Board and the Planning Council. Jenise Gibson discussed the history of the creation of the Council in June 2007. She stated that the Council was put together by the Board of County Commissioners to reduce the number of individuals with substance abuse disorders and mental health illnesses in local jails and state prisons and provide funding to counties so that they can plan, implement and/or expand initiatives.

Jenise briefly discussed the 19 original members of the Council as well as the addition of 6 memberships in April 2008. She stated that the Council's first task is to develop a strategic plan and identify ways to implement the program. They are working with a company called ANALYTICO (sp?) to accomplish this. It is the goal of the Council to parallel the HAB plan. There are members of the HAB that are also members of the Council and the Council is willing to accept any volunteers ready to help.

Commissioner Koons introduced Mike Rodriguez who is in charge. He also cited a study that the Supreme Court did regarding the history of mental health and suggested that it might be a good thing for everyone to become familiar with.

Discussion of Additional Edits to Ten Year Plan

Krysten Bennett discussed the changes to the plan; most significantly the new letter which Commissioner Koons is working on as well as the rewritten Executive Summary. The Board was given time to read through this section.

Ezra Kreig praised Krysten for her efforts and hard work putting this plan together. Tom Sheehan asked what other changes were made and Krysten identified changes made that she received various emails on. The Board was given time to go through each of these changes and note any additional comments.

Commissioner Koons stated that the goal is to be as inclusive as possible so if anyone was not happy with something to speak up now.

Public Comment Period

Diana Stanley from The Lord's Place thanked everyone for their hard work on the plan, especially Krysten and stated that she was excited to work the plan. She commented that a section should be included under the category "Underserved Populations" to include single women, without children, who are not pregnant, with no specific age bracket as currently there are no programs for them. Discussion took place regarding whether the use of the word "women" was too limiting and if the word "individuals" should be used in its place. It was determined that "single individuals" was more appropriate. Commissioner Koons asked for and received permission to include this change in the plan.

Rita Clark from the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County spoke and made the Board aware of the prevalence of hate crimes toward the homeless becoming an up and coming trend in South Florida. She said that Florida has ranked nationally for the past three years and that she has sent Krysten proposed language to include this trend in the report. Commissioner Koons asked for and received permission to include this change in the plan.

Bishop Hill from Westgate Tabernacle thanked everyone for their hard worked. He expressed a great deal of concern on actually getting the plan in place and for each member of the HAB to work it and raise the money it will take to get this done. He challenged everyone to figure out what it will take to bring the plan to completion.

Barry Silvers stood up and urged the HAB to work with and not against Westgate Tabernacle in order to restore the public's confidence in the Coalition.

Commissioner Koons reiterated the motion that was up for vote– to approve the plan as amended to include the additions to the plan as mentioned above. The motion was made by Senator Phil Lewis and seconded by Leo Abdella. Motion carried.

Additional discussion took place regarding a plan that Jon Van Arnam is coordinating to work with funders and change the processes to align together to queue funding sources together and establish a certification process. Commissioner Koons stated that this process would be controversial as the County would pull back on some things and put additional resources into other areas. The intent is to provide greater focus and intentionally about where the funds go.

Commissioner Koons asked Rita Clark to address the Board once again to discuss the grant that she is working on to obtain full time volunteers from Americorp to establish a storyteller type of program to allow the stories of the homeless to be told in their own words as well as leverage and mobilize resources available.

Discussion took place as to when the next visit of the HAB to the BCC should take place and whether or not it was better to go as a group or individually and if it should be to speak on specific topics of discussion. The Board was reminded that should a group wish to attend, the

Sunshine Law would be in effect and the meeting would have to be noticed. Commissioner Koons thought that no specific topics were necessary but that the members should simply update the BCC on what has taken place since the last face to face meeting.

Joyce and Frank Waller addressed the Board and advised that they are clergy who operate the Outstretched Hands Ministry in Riviera Beach. They are looking for a building (approximately 2,000-5,000 feet) to assist them in feeding the homeless, poor and needy. They want to establish a program for the homeless to enroll in order to live and work and become productive citizens. They imagine this program to be a 1-2 year program. They acknowledged that there was a similar service in Miami but they desired to have a larger facility in Palm Beach County. Commissioner Koons thanked them for their help. He encouraged them to check with Rita Clark to seek out resources.

Upcoming Meeting

- There is no upcoming meeting scheduled at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.