

Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board Meeting

Human Services, North County Office, Conference Room
1440 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Riviera Beach

February 18, 2009

Board Members Present

Pastor Leo Abdella, Faith-Based Community Representative
Judith Aigen, Housing Authority
Dr. Alina Alonso for Dr. Jean Malecki, PBC Health Department
Thomas Bell, Formerly Homeless Representative
Perry Borman, FL Department of Children & Families
Don Chester, Hospital Executive Representative – By Phone
Michelle Diffenderfer, Business Community Representative
Dr. Anne Faraone for Paulett Burdick (also in attendance), PBC School Board
Kerry Gallagher, Philanthropic Community Representative
Daniel Gibson for Wayne Cunningham, United Way of PBC
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
Bill Oberlink, Business Community Representative
Nancy Perez, Palm Beach County Judiciary
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
Michelle Carter, Formerly Homeless Representative
Jorge Camejo for Steve Abrams, City of Boca Raton
Tana Ebbole, PBC Children's Services Council
Rita Ellis, City of Delray Beach
Lois Frankel, City of West Palm Beach
Miriam Maldonado, Formerly Homeless Representative Nominee
Jack Scarola, Business Community Representative
Dr. Ron Wiewora for Dwight Chenette, PBC Health Care District

Board Members, Approved This Meeting

Paulette Burdick, PBC School Board
Dr. Gary Leopard, General Representative

County Staff Present

Georgiana Devine, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division
Tammy Fields, County Attorney
Carlos Serrano, Housing & Community Development
Claudia Tuck, PBC Community Services, Human Services Division
Jon Van Arnam, PBC Community Services

Consultant Staff Present

Mike Langton, Langton Associates

Others in Attendance

Rita Clark, Homeless Coalition of PBC
M. Croney, Veterans Health Administration
Caroline Kuehn, The Quantum Group
Maite Reyes-Coles, CILO
Paula Ryan
Marilyn Sands, CILO
Diana Stanley, The Lord's Place
Shawn Wilson, Housing Trust Group

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 2:08 pm by Commissioner Koons.

Approval of November 19th Meeting Minutes

Hard copies of the November 19th meeting minutes were distributed to everyone via email. Motion made to approve the minutes by Senator Lewis and seconded by Ann Faraone. Motion carried.

Nomination of New Member – Dr. Gary Leopard

Commissioner Koons introduced Dr. Leopard to the Board and distributed a copy of his resume. He is currently a pastor at St. John's Church. He is also a part time Chaplain at the VA Medical Center. Motion made by Bill Oberlink and seconded by Ezra Kreig. Motion carried.

Election of 2009 Officers (Vice-Chair, Secretary)

Nominations were made for Leo Abdella to serve as Vice-Chair and to re-elect Susan Guillama as Secretary. Motion made by Judith Aigen to accept both nominations and seconded by Bill Oberlink. Motion carried.

Presentation of Amendments to Bylaws

Mike Langton advised the Board that the amendment to the Bylaws would be postponed until the next Full Board meeting in May. He stated that the amendment was minor in nature – a change to 17 days from 18 days sent in order to stay "legal."

Presentation on Summer Camp Project by Ann Faraone

Ann Faraone asked for assistance with the Summer Camp Scholarship Program in the form of donations and community marketing. She stated this year marks the biggest spike in four years of homeless children and that 200 did not get served last year. She distributed pamphlets to all Board members and shared that there are a list of camps posted on the County's Web site. Both Ann and other members of the Board agreed to send out brochures to area businesses to raise support.

Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. Ezra Krieg – COPA (Community Outreach and Public Awareness). Ezra updated the Board on the Committee's primary responsibility which is to inform the community on the Ten-Year Plan and to get involved with other communities. He asked the Board what specific messages they wanted to send out to the Community as the University of Florida has a class program which is offering pro bono public relations services. Additionally, there are two student interns being offered at Palm Beach Atlantic to the Board this summer for marketing purposes and to get people involved.

Leo Abdella advised the Board that National Homelessness Awareness Month is in November and suggested complete Palm Beach County immersion within the community to bring awareness. He suggested possibly having a class as a public service to educate others. Ezra stated that possibly the interns could assist with scheduling and planning that and make it happen.

- b. Lillian Tomeu – Facilities. Lillian was excited as the Committee found that the facility restrictions were more relaxed than anticipated. She stated that Carlos Serrano did some research with HUD and found out that there were more options for the properties that the Facilities Committee had their eye on. At this time there are 1-2 great options and 6-7 more that are being explored. Lillian stated that it is an important goal to find a resource center for each area of the county. She said that there needs to be an ability to tie up the property and asked if it was possible to do a pre-contract to hold it as otherwise good property ends up getting lost.

Lillian discussed the two nice properties that are possibilities; one is the old Social Security building. Discussion took place regarding possibly keeping our interest under wraps in an effort to avoid others purchasing the property before us and reselling it to us at a higher price. She advised of another property in the Western Communities that's ready to go. Contact has been made with the owners and a meeting has been scheduled to look at the property in more depth.

Judith Aigen questioned the length of time we had to use the money. Lillian stated that we have 18 months however the clock had not yet started. Lillian stated that the Board of County Commissioners have committed \$100,000 to perform the due diligence required to look at all of the facilities.

Commission Koons approached a facility for single women consisting of 8 rooms which could house 16 women. Lillian questioned whether facilities and services will be matched to programs and Commission Koons stated that all of the committees would interface in order to make that happen.

- c. Bill Oberlink – Funding. Bill said that this Committee was in need of members. He said that the Board should be thinking of ways to obtain additional funding and potential additional funders. Commission Koons told Bill to get him the information on what the Funding Committee needs. Bill stated that a vehicle was needed to receive cash donations which was being worked on by Diana Stanley.

Motion was made by Bill Oberlink to add the Health Care District and Health Care providers as proposed partners in the Ten-Year Plan for Action 7C and seconded by Senator Lewis. Motion carried. Motion language read as follows:

Motion to add the Health Care District and Health Care Providers as Proposed Partners in the Ten-Year Plan for Action 7C to conduct a cost/benefit analysis to determine the economics of homelessness in Palm Beach County as it relates to the healthcare system, law enforcement, the education system, and the community at large.

Discussion took place regarding the mental health and substance abuse sides of homelessness and the potential for funding related programs.

- d. John Green – Housing. John distributed two housing inventory lists. The first was color assisted and the second was by tax credit. John said that he was determined to approach the owners of the facilities. He also said he would be meeting with the Housing Authorities to make units available through Section 8 to the homeless.

Shawn Wilson presented a proposal to pursue the development of a 50 unit rental project using tax credits. Motion was made by Leo Abdella to accept the proposal and Dr. Leopard seconded it. Motion carried.

Discussion took place on why there was a need for the motion and whether or not Mr. Wilson would benefit personally from the Board's approval. It was decided that no, he would not.

- e. Phil Lewis / Jack Scarola – Policy & Legislation. Senator Lewis stated that there were two motions adopted by the Board of County Commissioners that needed to be ratified by the Board. The first was a motion recommending the addition of the Florida Homeless Coalition's Legislative agenda items to be added to the BCC's 2009 Legislative Agenda. Motion was made by Senator Lewis to ratify both of the BCC's previously

adopted motions and seconded by Judith Aigen. Motion carried. Motion language read as follows:

Motion to recommend that the BCC add the Florida Homeless Coalition's Legislative agenda items to the County's 2009 Legislative Agenda.

The second was to amend the verbiage in the Ten-Year Plan for Action Item 7G. Motion was made by Michelle Diffenderfer and seconded by Ezra Kreig. Motion carried. Motion language read as follows:

Motion to amend verbiage in the Ten-Year Plan for Action 7G from "Advocate and assure at the local state and federal levels coordination of data reporting requirements" to "Advocate and promote at the local, state, and federal levels the use of uniform data reporting requirements following the development and approval of such requirements."

- f. Kerry Gallagher – Program Planning. Kerry Gallagher informed the Board that the Committee decided to meet more frequently and will now meet every two weeks instead of once a month. They are also inviting local reporting on youth and aging and the following will be women's issues. Kerry stated that the committee was fully staffed.
- g. Tom Sheehan – Strategic Planning. Jon Van Arman distributed a draft of a Quarterly Report for Committees reporting purposes to the Board for approval. Motion was made by Senator Lewis and seconded by Lillian Tomeu. Motion carried.

Jon commented on the five areas of planning – governance, communication, funding, planning, and facilities. He stated that the staff is researching other county programs for how they are set up in order use their models.

They announced that Committee Chairs meet immediately prior to each Full Board meeting.

Senator Lewis announced that he is no longer travel like he used to and, if needed, he would step down as the head of his Committee. Discussion took place and the decision was made that members of the Board would step in and assist with his travel needs.

Public Comment Period

Rita Clark of the PBC Homeless Coalition announced that there would be a Homeless Legislative Day scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th in Tallahassee and that the Homeless Coalition is coordinating for Palm Beach County representatives to attend. She also announced that there would be a Homeless Symposium in May and that activities and events should be

planned to acknowledge the progress of the Ten-Year Plan. Additionally, she said that they are trying to change the legislation to include the homeless in the language of the hate crime bill.

Diana Stanley of The Lord's Place attended the National Alliance on Family Homelessness. She stated that now is a critical time because of the need for rapid re-housing. She commented that the Stimulus Package included \$1.5 billion for re-housing.

Maité Reyes-Coles of the Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc. questioned whether or not the \$7.5 million budget could be used toward rehabilitating buildings to ensure handicap accessibility and if not, where would the funds to ensure accessibility come from? Jon Van Arnam said that yes, there is a line item in the plan for buildings to be renovated and that it has not been determined yet how much as no building has been purchased as of yet.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm