

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: June 16, 2009 () Consent (X) Regular () Ordinance () Public Hearing

Department

Submitted By: Community Services

Submitted For: Division of Human Services

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to receive and file: a status report on the implementation of the action steps in the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County.

Summary: On September 23, 2008, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, a strategic planning document containing 63 specific goals and action steps designed to address and end homelessness in Palm Beach County. The Homeless Advisory Board is accountable for tracking and reporting the progress in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the strategic plan. Each of the action steps was assigned to one of seven committees: Policy and Legislation, Housing, Community Outreach and Public Awareness, Program Planning, Funding, Facilities, and Strategic Planning for planning and implementation. The status report documents current progress in implementation of the Plan. Countywide (TKF)

Background and Policy Issues: The Homeless Advisory Board is a 36-member County advisory board created in May 2007. The impetus for developing this Board stems from the federal mandate that communities implement plans to end homelessness and a desire of the Board of County Commissioners to achieve consensus on dealing with this multi-faceted and complex problem. The Homeless Advisory Board served as liaison to the BCC in the development of a ten-year strategic plan to end homelessness and continues this role as the plan is implemented. The Division of Human Services provides staff support to this Board.

Attachments:

- 1. Status Report on the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County
2. Progress of Implementing Committees Document

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Recommended By: [Signature] 6/11/09
Department Director Date
Approved By: [Signature] 6/15/09
Assistant County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenue	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	* _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget: Yes _____ No _____

Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Dept. _____ Unit _____ Obj. _____
 Program Code _____ Program Period: _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:

* This agenda item has no fiscal impact.

MSL 6/10/09
 88 6/10/09 OFMB m CN 6/11/09
 6/11

Jim J. Jacobson 6/12/09
 Contract Dev. and Control

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature] 6/15/09
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director



Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness
in Palm Beach County, Florida



Adopted by the Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board on July 16, 2008
Adopted by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners on September 23, 2008



Implementation Committees

- Following the Plan's adoption by the Homeless Advisory Board in July 2008, and the subsequent adoption by the Board of County Commissioners in September 2008:
 - SEVEN working committees were developed to take ownership of the implementation of the Plan's Goals.
 - Committee membership includes leadership by Homeless Advisory Board members with strong representation from the Homeless Service Provider Community and the Community At-Large.



Implementation Committees

Community Outreach and Public Awareness

Ezra Krieg, Chair

Facilities

Lillian Tomeu, Chair

Funding

Leo Abdella, Chair

Housing

John Green, Chair

Policy and Legislation

Phil Lewis and Jack Scarola, Co-Chairs

Program Planning

Kerry Gallagher, Chair

Strategic Planning

Tom Sheehan, Chair



The Plan's Seven Goals

- **Goal 1:** Develop a Universal System for Intake/Assessment and Enhance Client Information Management Systems
- **Goal 2:** Provide Interim Housing Services for Homeless Individuals/Families
- **Goal 3:** Coordinate Partnerships and Resources for Homeless Services
- **Goal 4:** Improve Access to Homeless Services with Outreach and Education
- **Goal 5:** Prevent Individuals and Families from Becoming Homeless
- **Goal 6:** Secure a Stable Stock of Affordable/Accessible Housing
- **Goal 7:** Provide System Oversight and Evaluation of the Ten-Year Plan



Goal 1: Develop a Universal System for Intake/Assessment and Enhance Client Information Management Systems

Universal Intake System

- The Program Planning Committee has developed a Universal Assessment Tool and a training module to be provided prior to implementation. Four homeless service providers will begin piloting the tool in July 2009.
- The Program Planning Committee is currently developing Universal Intake Procedures to be implemented by all local homeless service providers.



Goal 1: Develop a Universal System for Intake/Assessment and Enhance Client Information Management Systems

Homeless Resource Centers

- The Funding Committee worked with the service provider community, other Homeless Advisory Board members and County staff in support of the \$7.5 million apportionment of the County's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to be set aside for the purchase and renovation of the County's first Homeless Resource Center(s).
- The Facilities Committee has identified three available properties with potential for use as Homeless Resource Center(s). These properties are currently under detailed review by County staff.
- The Community Outreach and Public Awareness Committee is anticipating the call to begin an anti-NIMBY campaign, once a location is selected.



Goal 2: Provide Interim Housing Services for Homeless Individuals/Families

- The service provider community continues to provide critical interim housing options to a growing population of homeless individuals and families.
- The Program Planning Committee advocated for new ARRA Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds(ESFP) to be allocated for Interim Housing in support of proposed the Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-housing Project.



Goal 3: Coordinate Partnerships and Resources for Homeless Services

Dedicated Funding Stream

- The Funding Committee is researching various mechanisms that communities have used to provide single, dedicated sources of funding for homeless services throughout the Country. If the establishment of a new tax or funding mechanism that requires public referendum is deemed appropriate, inclusion on the November 2010 ballot is the goal.
- Examples of dedicated funding mechanisms include, but are not limited to:
 - Bed, restaurant or other taxes
 - Incentives for early property tax payments
 - Donation meters
 - Recycling deposits



Goal 4: Improve Access to Homeless Services with Outreach and Education

Public Awareness

- The Community Outreach and Public Awareness Committee is studying Best Practices nationwide to identify campaigns to be implemented in Palm Beach County. The Committee is working with a local University on the campaign development and implementation.
- Early efforts include the coordination of the community's homeless service agencies to ensure the greatest impact of activities during November's National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week.



Goal 5: Prevent Individuals and Families from Becoming Homeless

- The Program Planning Committee continues to research Best Practice Models related to housing programs and homeless prevention for underserved and currently not-served populations such as unaccompanied youth, youth aging out of foster care and single women.
- An SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Program has been established as a joint effort between Human Services and the United Way as a method to expedite SSA disability applications. More than seventy-five case workers have been trained and eight SOAR cases have already been approved.
- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) funds made available in the Recovery Act are being utilized to further homeless prevention activities outlined in the Plan.



Goal 6: Secure a Stable Stock of Affordable/Accessible Housing

- There are currently over **12,000** foreclosed-upon homes in Palm Beach County. During April of 2009, **2,846** Palm Beach County homes were in some stage of foreclosure proceedings.
- Ensuring the availability of affordable and accessible housing is integral to the success of the Ten-Year Plan.



Goal 6: Secure a Stable Stock of Affordable/ Accessible Housing

- The Housing Committee developing a comprehensive list of existing affordable housing resources in Palm Beach County.
- They are also working to engage local Housing Authorities to include homeless individuals and families as a preference in the distribution of Section 8 vouchers.
- Additional funds from the County's Neighborhood Stabilization Program allocation are being utilized to purchase and renovate abandoned and foreclosed properties for use as affordable housing.



Goal 6: Secure a Stable Stock of Affordable/ Accessible Housing

- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) funds made available in the Recovery Act are being utilized to further Housing activities outlined in the Plan in the form of Rapid Re-Housing.
- A grant was awarded by a local foundation to create a Housing Specialist position to increase access to safe and affordable housing in support of the HPRP Rapid Re-housing Project.



Goal 7: Provide System Oversight and Evaluation of the Ten-Year Plan

- The Strategic Planning Committee is researching governance options for the legal entity that will oversee the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan moving forward, and potentially its' dedicated funding stream.
- In collaboration with the Funding Committee and County staff members, they are also in the process of applying for funds from local Foundation sources to hire a new staff position whose responsibilities will be solely related to the Plan's implementation.



Goal 7: Provide System Oversight and Evaluation of the Ten-Year Plan

- The Strategic Planning Committee is working to finalize an agreement with a local Foundation to serve as a temporary fiscal conduit to receive contributions to fund the Plan's implementation.
- Staff is working with a consultant to develop an analysis of cost savings created with the Ten-Year Plan.



Thank You

The Homeless Advisory Board and the many dedicated individuals and organizations who support the Ten-Year Plan thank you for your continued commitment to ending homelessness in Palm Beach County.



Ten-Year Plan To End Homelessness in Palm Beach County, Florida Progress of Implementing Committees – May 2009

Community Outreach and Public Awareness

- Studying nationwide Best Practices related to Community Outreach and Public Awareness that could be duplicated in Palm Beach County
- University of Florida student developing a public relations campaign for the Ten-Year Plan aimed toward a target market and utilizing target messages
- Palm Beach Atlantic University marketing students will serve as summer interns, to assist with creating a comprehensive plan for November's National Homeless and Hunger Awareness Week
- Anticipating the directive to develop an anti-NIMBY campaign related to the Homeless Resource Center, once the first site is determined

Facilities

- Created inventory of potential properties available for use as the County's first Homeless Resource Center
- Committee members conducted individual site reviews of multiple properties and streamlined list of properties recommended for continued review
- Three properties are currently under detailed review by County staff

Funding

- Obtained a verbal commitment of \$250,000 from an anonymous private donor, awaiting finalization of Community Foundation account to accept deposits
- Reaching out to local private foundations for funding to hire a staff person dedicated to the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan (in collaboration with Strategic Planning Committee)
- Lobbied for a portion of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to be earmarked for the purchase and renovation of property for use as a Homeless Resource Center
- Established a liaison to the Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure that NSP funds are continuing to support efforts to further the Ten-Year Plan
- Lobbying for any and all entities eligible for Recovery Act funding to utilize said funds on projects that will further the Ten-Year Plan
- Researching options for creating a dedicated funding stream to fund the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan

Housing

- Reviewed, updated and developed a current list of existing affordable housing resources
- Reviewed national best practices regarding Housing Authorities including homeless as a preference
- Invited Public Housing Authorities to attend Housing Committee Meeting(s) and Homeless Advisory Board Meeting(s) to engage in establishing set asides for homeless individuals/families
- Identified national and local policy issues for the Policy and Legislative Committee to consider related to Housing Authorities preferences for homeless and advocating for full funding allocation for existing vouchers
- Reviewed the development of a housing project utilizing tax credits

Policy and Legislation

- Participated in Homeless Legislative Day in Tallahassee on March 25th
- Working with the Palm Beach County judicial system representatives on an advocacy plan for increased enforcement of child support laws
- Creating a committee of local law enforcement agencies to address the need for consistency in standard operating procedures for handling homeless individuals and families
- Researching the potential to create an Ad Valorem Tax Waiver for property owners who rent property to homeless individuals and families

Program Planning

- Developed a Universal Assessment Tool and a training module to be provided prior to implementation
- Will begin piloting the tool with four homeless service providers beginning July 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009.
- Developing Universal Intake procedures to be implemented by all homeless service providers
- Researched and identified best practices for employment training programs targeted for homeless
- Researched and identified best practice models for underserved or not-served target populations identified in the Ten-Year Plan such as unaccompanied youth, youth aging out of foster care and single women
- Identified existing beds for youth currently not being utilized. Recommend the development a new innovative program, Life Skills Institute for Unaccompanied Youth
- Identified a gap in beds for pregnant teens. Recommend expanding existing Transitions Home for pregnant teens ages 16-21. Currently have 7 beds for teens and 7 children. Expand by 4 beds for teens and 4 children.
- Identified a gap in beds for youth aged 18-25 that includes youth exiting foster care and youth aging out of other children's programming. Recommend expanding bed capacity by 40 beds utilizing existing Independent Living Programs
- Identified a gap in beds for youth aging out of mental health systems. Recommend implementing a 10 bed program for disabled youth with Mental Health/ Substance Abuse issues utilizing the low demand Safe Haven model
- Researched programs for Pregnant Women and Women with No Children and recommend implementation of Rapid Re-Housing Programs for these target populations
- Researching the need for substance abuse treatment beds for women.
- Identified the need to maximize utilization of existing SHP beds for all target populations
- Participating in the research of a common eligibility tool/software programs for accessing benefits/resources
- Participated in the research of SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Training as a method to expedite SSA disability applications
- Participated in the establishment of a SOAR Steering Committee and SOAR Training for Homeless Service Providers

Strategic Planning

- Developed a reporting system for use by all committees to assist in reporting progress to the Board of County Commissioners
- Approved the new bylaws of the Homeless Housing Alliance, which included the establishment of an Executive Committee for the organization, for approval by the Homeless Advisory Board on May 20th
- Reaching out to local private foundations for funding to hire a staff person dedicated to the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan (in collaboration with Funding Committee)
- Researching governance options for the legal entity that will oversee the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan, and potentially its dedicated funding stream