

HOMELESS POLICY GROUP MEETING NOTES

October 8, 2004 1:00 p.m.

Area Agency on Aging Conference Room
9887 4th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

List of attendees is attached

Everyone present was asked to introduce himself or herself. The meeting was called to order at 1:17 p.m. A motion was made and seconded to accept the notes that were generated from the last August 27, 2004 meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Herb Marlowe served as facilitator and provided those members present with an overview of the purpose and development of the Homeless Policy Group. It was agreed that the primary goal was to develop and provide for the implementation of a ten-year plan to end homelessness county-wide.

Cliff Smith shared information about the County Task Forces for Human Services and Homeless issues. These include a series of needs assessment surveys, focus groups, and public forums to obtain information from the community. The objectives are to identify service needs, areas of service overlap and appropriate resources available to meet these needs. This includes the coordination of such resources.

It was reported that we have had excellent response from those individuals to be a part of the Policy Group, however, many were unable to attend today's meeting. It was the consensus of those present that they delay election of a chair or co-chairs. It was further agreed that the group would operate with consensus. The group would like to continue to schedule meetings for the first Friday of the month beginning at 1:00 p.m. For the time being, Area Agency on Aging seems to be a convenient location, but this will continue to be explored. It was agreed that responsibility for recording the meeting would rotate between the County, St. Petersburg, Clearwater and possibly Largo.

There was discussion regarding the development of 10 year plans and staff said they had been monitoring some of the plans that had been filed thus far with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homeless. They range in length from eight (8) pages to more than 100 pages. It appears that many of the plans are initially very broad in scope providing the entity additional time to work on the specific objectives, action steps, and time frames. Committee members requested staff to provide additional background information including best practices and some of the ten year plans already filed.

Mr. Marlowe reported on a recent visit to Miami where they have instituted a Miami/Dade Trust Fund based on a beverage tax that yields revenue of which 85% is dedicated to homeless services while the remaining 15 % goes to domestic violence. It was shared that Broward County utilizes a gas tax to assist in their homeless services. Various possibilities are being explored in Pinellas County.

Staff recommended some field visits to homeless services providers to further educate the Committee. This was met with enthusiasm and staff will proceed with planning. The Committee Members and Staff agreed to arrange special presentations that would expand their understanding of the breadth and depth of homelessness.

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Commissioner Ken Welch suggested that a website be created on the Pinellas County website so that participating members could access relevant meeting and information materials. Staff agreed to develop a webpage.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Homeless Policy Group Attendance List

Members:

Reverend Louis M. Murphy, Sr., Pastor Mt. Zion Progressive MBC
Gary MacMath, Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care, Inc., Executive Director
Ken Welch, Pinellas County Commission
Tish Elston, City of St. Petersburg Deputy Mayor/City Administrator
Tom Lange, Executive Director, Police Applicant Screening Service
Virginia Littrell, St. Petersburg City Council Member - District 4
Doug Leonardo, Vice President, Westcare Florida
Ronnie Duncan, President, The Duncan Companies Director
Dr. Teresa Bradley, Vice President, Medical Affairs St. Anthony's Hospital
Joanne Olvera Lighter, President/CEO Allegany Franciscan Foundation
Carlen Petersen, City of Clearwater, City Council Member
Katie Cole, Interim President, Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
Pat Gerard, Vice Mayor, City of Largo
Frank Hibbard, Vice Mayor, City of Clearwater
Elizabeth Gunderson, Vice President, Community Impact, United Way of Tampa Bay
Bonnie Collins, Integrated Health Plan, Inc.
Okey Ryan, Interim CEO, Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc.

General Public

Kelly Zoraida Brandon, Observer

Facilitator

Herb Marlowe, Consultant/Facilitator

Staff Support

Gay Lancaster, Chief Assistant County Administrator, Pinellas County
Marcia Crawley, Director, Pinellas County Communications Department
Jean Vleming, Pinellas County Human Services - Staff
Cliff Smith, Pinellas County Human Services - Staff
Virginia Rowell, City of St. Petersburg - Staff
Beth Eschenfelder, City of St. Petersburg - Staff
Howie Carroll, City of Clearwater Economic Development - Staff
Amelia Preston, City of St. Petersburg - Staff