

Memo

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners
From: Commissioner Barbara Sheen Todd
Date: 11/1/2004
Re: Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Background:

President Bush has called upon communities throughout the nation to develop strategic plans to end chronic homelessness in ten years. This initiative, which has received bipartisan support, has been endorsed by both the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties. Special federal funding, through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Veterans Administration has and will continue to be made available to communities that have successfully implemented 10-year plans to end chronic homelessness. In addition, communities that presently receive HUD funding for homeless programs have been advised that HUD grants in future years will be determined, at least in part, by the efficacy and success of their 10-year plans.

Discussion:

On July 25, 2004 a meeting was held with representatives from the Cities of St. Petersburg and Clearwater to discuss how to begin the process of developing a 10-year plan. Several points were discussed and are detailed in the following bullets:

- The attendees agreed that a countywide ten-year plan would be the most effective way to address homelessness.
- The attendees recognized that participation by elected officials from Pinellas County, the City of St. Petersburg, the City of Clearwater and the City of Largo would be necessary to the success of the planning process and adoption of the plan by each jurisdiction.
- The County has hired a consultant to study the issue of homelessness. Much of the research and deliverables that the consultant will be providing can be utilized and incorporated in the development of the 10-year plan.
- The attendees at the meeting agreed to go back to their individual governing bodies to request approval to proceed with a countywide strategic planning process.

It is my recommendation that we join with the Cities of St. Petersburg, Clearwater and Largo in the creation and implementation of a 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness.

Thank you.