

HOMELESS POLICY GROUP  
PINELLAS COUNTY  
January 13, 2006

The Homeless Policy Group for Pinellas County met in the Area Agency on Aging Conference Room, 9887 4<sup>th</sup> Street North, St. Petersburg, Suite 100, at 1:38 P.M. on this date with the following members present:

Kenneth T. Welch	Commissioner, Pinellas County
James Bennett	City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg
Carlen Petersen	City Council Member, City of Clearwater
John Doran	City Council Member, City of Clearwater
Patricia Gerard	Vice-Mayor, City of Largo
Andrew W. Guyette	Commissioner, City of Largo
Beverly Billiris	Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs
Rick Butler	Council Member, City of Pinellas Park
Don Shea	President/CEO, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, Inc.
Ron Dickman	Executive Director, Religious Community Services
Gary MacMath	Executive Director, Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care, Inc.
Sandra Lyth	Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless (PCCH)
Bonnie Collins	Consumer
Dr. Teresa Bradley	Vice-President of Medical Affairs, St. Anthony's Hospital
Patricia Mabe	President/CEO, Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc.
Joanne Olvera Lighter	Foundations Representative
Catherine Alexander-Ponder	Homeless Program Coordinator, Bay Pines/Veterans Administration
Janet Clark	Pinellas County School Board
Virginia Rowell	At-Large Member

Members Absent:

Ronnie Duncan	Commissioner, Pinellas County
Virginia Littrell	City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg
Beth Coleman	President, Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
Reverend Louis Murphy	Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church
Sid Klein	Police Chief, City of Clearwater
Bob Dillinger	Public Defender and Juvenile Welfare Board
Kathy Haynes	Director, Dunedin Housing Authority
Mark Holmgren	Executive Vice President, United Way of Tampa Bay
Karl Nurse	President, Council of Neighborhood Associations
Duke Tieman	President, South Clearwater Citizens for Progressive Action

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Others Present:

Sara Snyder	Director, PCCH
Lisa Jackson	Secretary, PCCH and Family Resources
Jeff Parker	Treasurer, PCCH
Bob Rowan	PCCH
Dave Vaughn	PCCH
Kip Corriveau	Religious Community Services and PCCH
Marcel Charpentier	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Carrol Roark	Pinellas County Community Development Department
Mike Dove	City of St. Petersburg
Stacy McNally	Public Defender's Office (Representing Bob Dillinger)
Luis Almodovar	Public Defender's Office
Rod Cyr	Juvenile Welfare Board
Tom Hanson	Juvenile Welfare Board
Tess Tomasi	St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) Inc.
Askia Muhammad Aquil	St. Petersburg NHS, Inc.
Courtney Orr	Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
Laron Barber	Le'Azon Technology Institute
Mary Brennan	Real Choice, Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services
Doug Leonardo	Westcare Florida
Tienne Davis	Still Standing
Michael Amidei	FLASH
Lara Cerri	St. Petersburg Times
Tom Henderson	Tarpon Springs

Staff Present:

Beth Eschenfelder	City of St. Petersburg
Jean Vleming	Programs Analyst, Pinellas County Human Services
Herb Marlowe	Consultant/Facilitator
Arlene Smitke	Deputy Clerk, Pinellas County Board Records

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Marlowe called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees; whereupon, those present introduced themselves.

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2. Adoption of Agenda Items

Upon motion by Mr. Dickman, seconded by Councilmember Petersen and carried, the meeting agenda, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, was adopted as presented.

3. Approval of the Meeting Notes of November 18, 2005 Meeting

Upon motion by Ms. Rowell, seconded by Mayor Billiris and carried, the notes of the November 18, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

4. 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

A. Approval of Final Draft

Referring to the draft plan, Ms. Eschenfelder explained minor changes that had been made to the visuals and distributed copies of the revised document to those requesting it. During discussion, Mr. Marlowe requested that Ms. Lighter address the use of the word *citizens* with a formal motion at the time of adoption of the plan.

Responding to query by Ms. Rowell, Ms. Vleming related that a letter of intent to submit the plan, dated November 29, 2005, was submitted to the Interagency Council on Homelessness; and that she will follow up to see whether an acknowledgement has been received.

Deviating from the agenda, Mr. Marlowe directed that Ms. Eschenfelder discuss the PowerPoint presentation prior to acceptance of the plan; and no objections were noted.

B. Local Government Presentations

Ms. Eschenfelder reviewed a presentation outline and PowerPoint slides, copies of which have been filed and made a part of the record, developed for use by group members in educating their communities regarding the 10-year plan to encourage adoption and/or support of the plan. Mr. Marlowe provided information regarding his cost and funding analysis; and responding to query by Commissioner Welch, indicated that the details of his analysis are contained in a report that is available on the group's website, [www.pinellascounty.org/homeless-policy-group](http://www.pinellascounty.org/homeless-policy-group).

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Thereupon, at the suggestion of Mr. Marlowe and on behalf of the groups that they represent, Ms. Collins moved, seconded by Ms. Lyth and carried, that the 10-year plan to end homelessness be adopted.

Upon Mr. Marlowe's call for discussion and amendments, Ms. Lighter moved, seconded by Ms. Lyth and carried, that the word *citizen* be replaced by another word throughout the document. During discussion, suggestions made by the members included the words *resident, homeless neighbor, and individual or family*.

Ms. Lyth moved, seconded by Ms. Rowell, that funding for the Executive Director and staff positions of the PCCH be moved to Key Initiatives and starred; whereupon, Councilmember Petersen proposed, as a friendly amendment, that the funding be moved to Immediate Plan Adoption; and the maker and seconder concurred. Following a brief discussion and upon call for the vote, the amendment carried unanimously.

Referring to "A Message from the Homeless Policy Group" on Page 3 of the document, Ms. Lighter moved, seconded by Mr. Dickman and carried, that Paragraph Two be amended to note that the process has been a catalyst to develop other policy groups to address various related issues.

Mr. Doran referred to best practices listed on Page 16 of the document and moved, seconded by Mr. Shea and carried, that the word *large* be stricken from the item regarding overnight shelters.

There being no further amendments, Facilitator Marlowe called for the vote; whereupon, *Opening Doors of Opportunity: A 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Pinellas County* was unanimously approved.

#### C. Submission to Interagency Council on Homelessness

Ms. Rowell moved, seconded by Mayor Billiris, that Pinellas County Government submit the plan to the Interagency Council on Homelessness on behalf of the various municipalities and entities represented in the Policy Group. Discussion ensued; whereupon, Mr. Marlowe clarified that for the purpose of the submission only, Board of County Commissioners Chairman Welch will act as chairman of the Homeless Policy Group; that all entities will be listed and given credit for having submitted a 10-year plan; and that subsequent endorsement letters will be requested. Upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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D. Public Ceremony – Unveiling of Plan

Responding to query by Mr. Marlowe, Mr. Charpentier indicated that HUD would like to participate in a public event to announce adoption of the 10-year plan. Discussion ensued; whereupon, Commissioner Welch suggested that the plan be reviewed and endorsements sought by local governments prior to a public event; and Ms. Lighter shared her experiences regarding a recent public event pertaining to financial literacy.

Vice-Mayor Gerard moved, seconded by Councilmember Petersen and carried, that a public event be held after formal endorsement of the plan by all bodies; and that staff may begin planning for the event, although no date will be set at this time.

During continued discussion, staff related that a recent article had generated calls from legislators and the general public regarding the plan; that interested individuals had been referred to the web site and provided with copies of the plan; and that the media has been provided with several contact names; whereupon, Commissioner Welch indicated that he will be available to the media, if necessary. At the request of Vice-Mayor Gerard, Mr. Marlowe indicated that copies of the plan will be provided to both mayors and city managers, along with a request for inclusion of a presentation by the Policy Group representative on an upcoming agenda. Chairman Welch suggested that the first presentation of the plan be conducted at a BCC workshop in February; and that members of the Homeless Policy Group indicate their endorsement of the plan by attending the BCC workshop, as well as the presentations to other entities; whereupon, Mr. Marlowe requested that group members provide their presentation dates to Ms. Vleming, who will distribute a calendar to the membership; and Mr. Charpentier volunteered the services of the Tampa HUD office for event planning purposes.

5. Future Plans for Homeless Policy Group

A. Leadership Network

At the request of Mr. Marlowe, PCCH officers Snyder, Jackson, and Parker joined the members at the table; whereupon, Mr. Marlowe conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, proposing that the Homeless Policy Group be transitioned to a Leadership Network to focus on policy issues and funding; and that the PCCH function as an Operations Network. He suggested that the Leadership Network be formalized by interlocal agreements and memoranda of understanding among the entities, and include officers or designees of the PCCH. During the presentation, various suggestions were made by the members.

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Following discussion and at the request of Mr. Marlowe, Mr. Shea moved, seconded by Vice-Mayor Girard and carried, that a Leadership Network for Homelessness be established; Dr. Bradley moved, seconded by Ms. Clark and carried, that a series of interlocal agreements be initiated with the public entities, which will then issue membership invitations to other groups; and Councilmember Petersen moved, seconded by Commissioner Guyette and carried, that staff be directed to facilitate the interlocal agreements.

Thereupon, Mr. Marlowe summarized the actions taken today and the events that will occur as a result of today's meeting; and comments were received from several members.

#### B. Future Meeting Schedule

Following a brief discussion, Ms. Eschenfelder announced that the next general meeting will be held on Friday, March 3, 2006, at 1:30 P.M. at the Area Agency on Aging office; and no objections were noted.

Mr. Marlowe announced that this is his last meeting as facilitator of the group, and thanked the members for their leadership and the opportunity to participate in the process.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 P.M.