

Homeless Policy Group  
Pinellas County  
February 4, 2005

The Homeless Policy Group for Pinellas County met at St. Vincent De Paul Society South County, 401 15<sup>th</sup> Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida at 2:30 p.m. on the date with the following members present:

Kenneth T. Welch	Commissioner, Pinellas County
Virginia Littrell	City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg
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
Beth Coleman	President, Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
Gary MacMath	President, Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care, Inc.
Joyce Pritchett	PCCH, YWCA of Tampa Bay
Bonnie Collins	Consumer
Dr. Teresa Bradley	Vice President, Medical Affairs, St. Anthony's Hospital
Kathy Haynes	Director Section 8, Pinellas County/Dunedin Housing Authority
Catherine Alexander-Ponder	Homeless Program Coordinator, Bay Pines/Veterans Adm.
Janet Clark	Pinellas County School Board, District 1
Virginia Rowell	At Large Member

Members Absent:

Ronnie Duncan	Commissioner, Pinellas County
Jean Halvorsen	Commissioner, City of Largo
Beverley Billiris	Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs
Patricia L. Bailey-Snook	Council Member, City of Pinellas Park
Don Shea	President/CEO, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership
Ron Dickman	Executive Director, Religious Community Services
Reverend Louis Murphy	Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church
Sid Klein	Police Chief, City of Clearwater
Patricia Mabe	President/CEO, Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc.
Bob Dillinger	Public Defender, Juvenile Welfare Board
Elizabeth Gunderson	Vice President-Community Impact, United Way of Tampa Bay
Joanne Olvera Lighter	President/CEO, Allegany Franciscan Foundation
Karl Nurse	President, Council of Neighborhood Associations, St. Petersburg
Duke Tieman	President, S. Clearwater Citizens for Progressive Action

Also Present:

Herb Marlowe	Consultant, Facilitator
Cliff Smith	Staff -Assistant Director, Pinellas County Human Services
Jean Vleming	Staff -Program Analyst, Pinellas County Human Services
Beth Eschenfelder	Staff -City of St. Petersburg
Howie Carroll	Staff -Assistant Director Eco. Dev. & Housing, City of Clearwater
Mike Dove	Deputy Mayor Neighborhood Services, City of St. Petersburg
Jeff Parker	Citizen
Okey Ryan	Apex Lending
Mary Russell	Pinellas County School Board

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Marlowe called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees which was followed by a self-introduction of those present.

2 Adoption of Agenda Items

Upon motion by Ms. Petersen, seconded by Commissioner Welch and carried, the meeting agenda, a copy of which will be filed and made a part of the record, was adopted as presented.

3. Approval of the Meeting Notes of January 7, 2005 Meeting

Upon motion by Ms. Petersen, seconded by Ms Gerard and carried, the notes of the January 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

4. Nomination of New Board Members

Mr. Marlowe announced that they had some new members being nominated to include: Kathy Haynes, Beth Coleman to replace Katie Cole, and John Doran to replace Mayor Frank Hibbard. Upon motion by Ms. Gerard seconded by Commissioner Welch and carried, to approve the three nominate appointees to the Board. Mr. Marlowe advised that Joanne Lighter would be leaving Allegany Franciscan thus creating another potential board vacancy for the Foundation seat. He commented briefly regarding her expertise and discussion ensued regarding retaining her as a committee member. The group agreed that she should remain on the committee.

Mr. Marlowe advised that he had received a formal request from the League of Women Voters who would like to participate in the process. Related discussion followed inquiry as to existence of any other at large positions available and the need to create additional seats. Upon motion by Ms Rowell, seconded by Ms. Clark and carried, decision was made not to expand the number of seats that currently exist on the Board. Council Member Littrell commented that perhaps the League of Women Voters or any other interested individuals could serve as observers or on related task groups as work progresses without the need to enlarge the board. A motion was made by Dr. Bradley, seconded by Commissioner Welch, and carried to allow the League of Women Voters and/or others to be observers but not appointed to the Board.

5. Group Discussion: Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless Strategic Plan Strengths and Weakness? What is missing? How can it be improved?

Comments shared by Dr. Bradley reflected that the proposed analysis needs to be a more ambitious plan and needs a broader set of perspectives in terms of customers and homeless persons themselves; a broader set of Strategies; a much more focused mission, strong representation and a reduction in the fragmentation. In addition, she expressed a need for some entity to be in charge of that, and felt that the accountability of the plan is insufficient.

Gary MacMath observed that the plan as written reveals some technical errors that create some gaps and mismatched work. He suggested that the plan needs to put into proper sequence and differences in writing style should be addressed to create more uniformity and consistency. He recommended that the plan be re-evaluated and updated where needed as the research relied upon at the time it was written might be outdated. He recommended that the Policy Group build on the assets of the local community leaders and county officials serving on the committee and encouraged them to be creative in their way of thinking.

Council Member Littrell stated that the proposed strategic plan is a good planning process, but was unsure that it is appropriate for their charge. She indicated that she would like to see the Policy Group create the mission, individual goals and strategies for achieving them. She felt it was critical to establish specific benchmarks, define and develop needed resources, and expect accountability on reaching the goals. She also shared that over a time period, this group is the one responsible for taking the plan to the Community for buy-in and expressed how very important it is that they be very vocal in getting this plan to the public.

During open discussion, Pat Gerard stated that she would not like to see what has been put together discarded. Carlen Petersen suggested building from what has been presented; she also felt that the group needs to share this information with the other officials throughout the County. She stated that the task force members that drafted the proposed plans are experts and felt interaction between the two groups was important and recommended that the task force members work on the individual sections and provide it to the Policy Group for evaluation and feedback. Housing will be the first portion to be reviewed with subsequent topics done separately.

Council Member Bennett stated that he wanted to be able to lobby for funding to assist with this project which will need adaptability to be adequately funded. Mr. Marlowe stated that the task force is currently working on a survey of public funding to homeless programs and have about a 90 % response and are examining the results for any overlaps. It was suggested that they incorporate the amount of public funds also being spent for jail costs, emergency responses, etc., and look at other national studies to ensure that collected data that will be accurate. Council Member Bennett inquired about the homeless census for 2004. Beth Eschenfelder advised that this information would not be available until around May of this year.

6. Planning Assumption Questions – Herb Marlowe

Mr. Marlowe commented on the process that could be used to develop the plan. He stated that the first step to be undertaken involved the education/information phase and how to dispute unfavorable information. The process will be development driven.

7. Developing the 10 Year Plan

Mr. Marlowe received input from the Group on the following:

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Responses</u>
Will all land assessment grow?	Yes
Will the County growth by 10,000 per year?	Yes
There would be 100,000 more people in the County	
Should they assume that the affordable housing would need some type of assistance?	Yes
Is there a need for increase jobs in the County?	Yes

(1) Increase resources dedicated to emergency rental/mortgage assistance, response yes (100%)

(2) Establish initiative to maintain affordable rental housing, response yes, consider as strategy (100%).

(3) Develop policies, ordinances and incentives to promote attainable housing (ownership or rental), response yes, consider as strategy (100%).

(4) Expand permanent supportive housing (enriched service housing), response yes, consider as strategy (100%).

It was stated that an expansion of permanent housing for homeless persons should be continued. Upon a motion by Joyce Pritchett, seconded by Virginia Rowell, and carried to recommend that programs provided by Boley should serve as a strategy for preventing homelessness.

(5) Link smart growth initiatives to attainable housing, response yes, consider as strategy (84%), No (5%) table for further discussion (11%).

(6) Expansion of home ownership programs, response yes, consider as strategy (89%), No (5%) table for further discussion (5%).

(7) Employer assisted housing, response yes, consider as strategy (95%), No (0%) table for further discussion (3%).

(8) Expand workforce supported housing efforts modeled St. Pete approach, response yes, consider as strategy (95%), No (5%) table for further discussion (0%)

(9) Establish Housing Land Trust, response yes, consider as strategy (47%) No (26%) table for further discussion (26%).

(10) Develop a Housing Trust Fund, response yes, consider as strategy (68%), No (16%) table for further discussion (16%).

Cliff Smith announced that the next meeting would include a presentation by Camille Franzoni from Broward County to discuss HHOPE, the innovative housing first model implemented in their county. The meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2005 at the Area on Aging site. Mr. Marlowe stated that the input on the issues identified as possible strategies will be further researched to see what additional information is available to assist the Group in determining in what direction to proceed. Cliff Smith stated that they would like to start working on the plan at the next meeting by presenting for consideration some introductory material on formatting the initial draft.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.