

**HOMELESS POLICY GROUP MEETING  
Pinellas County**

August 5, 2005

**Members Present:**

Kenneth T. Welch	Commissioner, Board of County Commissioners
Carlen Petersen	City Council Member, City of Clearwater
John Doran	Council Member, City of Clearwater City Council
Patricia Gerard	Commissioner, City of Largo
Andrew Guyette	Commissioner, City of Largo
Beverley Billiris	Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs
Rick Butler	Council Member, City of Pinellas Park
Ron Dickman	Executive Director, Religious Community Services
Miriam Williamsfor MacMath	Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care, Inc.
Sandra Lyth	Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless
Bonnie Collins	Consumer
Dr. Teresa Bradley	Vice President - Medical Affairs, St. Anthony's Hospital
Elizabeth Gunderson	Vice President, Community Impact, United Way of Tampa Bay
Janet Clark	Pinellas County School Board Member
Virginia Rowell	At Large Member

**Also Present:**

Herb Marlowe	Facilitator
Cliff Smith	Assistant Director, Pinellas County Human Services
Jean Vleming	Programs Analyst, Pinellas County Human Services
Beth Eschenfelder	City of St. Petersburg
Howie Carroll	Asst. Director, Clearwater Economic Development/Housing Dept.
Mike Dove	City of St. Petersburg
Okey Ryan	Apex Lending
Victoria Pakadne	Citizen
Michael Amidei	FLASH
Leo Plenski	Bay Pines Mobile House
Marcel Charpentier	U.S. HUD
Dave Vaughn	Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless
Karla Conway	Work Net
Doug Leonardo	Westcare
Charles Plarcon	Golden Lantern
Leonard Schmiege	Citizen
Diane Bruner	City Clerk, City of Largo

**Absent:**

Ronnie Duncan	Commissioner, Board of County Commissioners
Virginia Littrell	City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg
James Bennett	City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg
Don Shea	President/CEO St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, Inc.
Rev. Louis Murphy	Mt. Zion Progress Baptist Church
Beth Coleman	President, Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
Sid Klein	Chief, Clearwater Police Department

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Patricia Mabe	President/CEO Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc.
Bob Dillinger	Juvenile Welfare Board, Public Defender's Office
Kathy Haynes	Director of Section 8, Pinellas County/Dunedin Housing Authority
Joanne Olvera Lighter	Foundations Representative
Catherine Alexander-Ponder	Homeless Program Coord., Bay Pines/Veteran's Administration
Karl Nurse	President, St. Petersburg Council of Neighborhood Associations
Duke Tieman	President, South Clearwater Citizens for Progressive Action

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 pm by consultant Herb Marlowe at the Area Agency on Aging Office, 9887 4th Street North, Suite 100, St. Petersburg, followed by introductions of those present.

2. Adoption of Agenda Items

Motion was made and seconded to approve switching Items 4 and 6. Approval was unanimous.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes from the Meeting of July 15, 2005

Motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Mayor Billiris, to approve the meeting notes of July 15, 2005. Approval was unanimous.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Member Gerard presented the report from the Preventing Homelessness and Increasing Income Subcommittee. She stated that the group focused on the 34% who were first time homeless. She reviewed the challenges and barriers to preventing homelessness, including limited resources, lack of knowledge of resources, the "shelter first" mentality, high rates of repeat homelessness and discharges from jails and treatment centers. She stated that many young people and children ran away from agencies and required intense services. Ms. Eschenfelder stated that discharge planning was another big factor. Member Gerard stated that it boiled down to case management. Member Dickman stated that there were an estimated 160 first time homeless each week, which did not include kids aging out of the foster care system.

Member Clark presented the report from the Coordination & Partnership Subcommittee. She stated that over 140 public and private entities were working on homelessness and that new partners needed to be created.

NOTE: Dr. Bradley arrived at 2:03 pm and Member Guyette arrived at 2:10 pm.

Mr. Smith asked whether the business leadership council was apart from the Homeless Policy Group (HPG). Member Rowell explained that the HPG had wide representation, while the business leadership council would focus on increasing the involvement of the business community in addressing homelessness. She stated that it was extremely important that a key business person be approached for business representation. Member Welch stated that a hands on liaison or spokesperson was needed. Ms. Eschenfelder stated that Don Shea would set up a meeting to brainstorm ideas and that names of potential spokespersons should be brought to the meeting. Ms. Rowell suggested one spokesperson for north county and one for south county.

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5. Governance/Leadership Model for the Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless

Mr. Marlowe asked whether the HPG was willing to be the governing group. He stated that stakeholders must be brought together to work on the complex problem of homelessness and 1) build a plan; 2) blend funding; and 3) coordinate activities through the governing group. Mr. Smith stated that the Coalition had officers but no board. There was discussion regarding funding. Mr. Marlowe stated that there were significant gaps in coordination.

NOTE: Member Clark left the meeting at 2:40 pm.

Member Dickman stated that the Coalition needed to be restructured. Member Lyth stated that the Coalition members wanted to maintain a role and that planning assistance was needed for individual providers.

4. Homeless Policy Group Membership Issues

Mr. Marlowe asked whether the group wanted to add any other members at this point. Ms. Vleming stated that some members have not attended any meetings and that members of the community have expressed interest in joining the group. Member Rowell stated that the base group has developed rapport and that staff support has been excellent. She stated that it would be impossible for new members to start up at this point and that she did not support adding additional members. Dr. Bradley stated that the group should represent all voices in the community. Dr. Bradley stated that the law enforcement community needed to be included in the group. Decision was to maintain group as is since initial work is almost complete and re-visit this topic if the HPG is to transition to a "governing" type entity.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.