

HOMELESS POLICY GROUP  
PINELLAS COUNTY  
September 9, 2005

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 1:41 P.M. on this 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
John Doran	City Councilmember, City of Clearwater
Patricia Gerard	Vice-Mayor, City of Largo
Rick Butler	Council Member, City of Pinellas Park
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
Elizabeth Gunderson	Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Tampa Bay
Karl Nurse	President, Council of Neighborhood Associations
Janet Clark	Pinellas County School Board
Virginia Rowell	At-Large Member

Members Absent:

Ronnie Duncan	Commissioner, Pinellas County
Carlen Petersen	City Council Member, City of Clearwater
Andrew W. Guyette	Commissioner, City of Largo
Beverly Billiris	Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs
Don Shea	President/CEO, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, Inc.
Beth Coleman	President, Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
Reverend Louis Murphy	Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church
Sid Klein	Police Chief, City of Clearwater
Dr. Teresa Bradley	Vice-President of Medical Affairs, St. Anthony's Hospital
Patricia Mabe	President/CEO, Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc.
Bob Dillinger	Public Defender and Juvenile Welfare Board
Kathy Haynes	Director, Dunedin Housing Authority
Joanne Olvera Lighter	Foundations Representative

September 9, 2005

Catherine Alexander-Ponder Homeless Program Coordinator, Bay Pines/Veterans Administration  
Duke Tieman President, South Clearwater Citizens for Progressive Action

Others Present:

Bob Lasher Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)  
Okey Ryan Apex Lending  
David Vaughn PCCH  
Jeff Parker Citizen  
Laron Barber LTI  
Mark Holmgren United Way  
Other interested individuals

Staff Present

Beth Eschenfelder City of St. Petersburg  
Howie Carroll City of Clearwater  
Cliff Smith Assistant Director, Pinellas County Human Services  
Jean Vleming Programs Analyst, Pinellas County Human Services  
Herb Marlowe Consultant/Facilitator  
MaryAnn Penhale 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.

2. Adoption of Agenda Items

Upon motion by Vice-Mayor Gerard, seconded by Mr. Nurse 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 August 5, 2005 Meeting

Upon motion by Councilmember Doran, seconded by Ms. Rowell and carried, the notes of the August 5, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

September 9, 2005

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Deviating from the agenda, Mr. Marlowe indicated that the next meeting is scheduled for October 7; that it will be a four-hour meeting; and that he will not be available at that time. Responding to query by Commissioner Welch, he indicated that staff could conduct the meeting in his absence; whereupon, Commissioner Welch related that he would be unavailable as well. Following discussion, Mr. Marlowe suggested that the meeting be held on Friday afternoon, October 14; Mr. Smith indicated that he would reserve the conference room for that time; and Ms. Eschenfelder suggested that Pinellas Park City Hall also be considered as a possible meeting site, subject to availability.

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Later in the meeting, Mr. Smith indicated that the conference room will be available on October 21 but not on October 14; and following discussion, Mr. Marlowe confirmed that a meeting will be scheduled for October 21 at 1:30 P.M. in place of the previously scheduled October 7 meeting.

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4. Public Leadership and Operations Network-Governance and Coordination Model

Mr. Marlowe conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the public leadership and operations network governance and coordination model, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and indicated that the report will be posted on the website in the near future; whereupon, he discussed the following:

- intervention focuses on behavior, policy, and social structure
- core competencies of service provision and policy making
- premise that homelessness is a cross-jurisdictional problem
- need for collaborative solutions
- public leadership needed to solve a public-good problem
- governance and management functions through use of a public management network comprised of multiple stakeholders

Mr. Marlowe discussed his recommendations for the formation of a public leadership network focusing on policy issues, which would be the transformation of the Homeless Policy Group; and a public operations network primarily addressing the issue of services, which would be a restructured PCCH. He indicated that the public leadership network would be established through interlocal agreements and memorandums of understanding,

September 9, 2005

would function in an oversight role, would be the formal submitter of various plans, would endorse a community funding plan, and would assess community progress; whereupon, he discussed membership from both the public and private sectors. He discussed the management structure of the proposed public operations network; and stated that it could act as an intermediary funder and address the issues of coordination and communication.

Responding to queries by the members, Mr. Marlowe discussed issues related to staff support for the proposed structures, the role of the public operations network in service delivery, the linkage between policy making responsibilities and funding, and the benefits of demonstrating high levels of intergovernmental cooperation. In response to queries and concerns expressed by Councilmember Littrell related to funding issues, Mr. Marlowe indicated that a separate report regarding the matter will be forthcoming; whereupon, he discussed various options for funding mechanisms.

Discussion ensued; and additional input was provided by Mr. Marlowe and the members regarding the following:

- cross-jurisdictional work needed to address issues
- public leadership and operations networks as a means to address homelessness
- Pinellas County and Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) as two major public funders controlling significant discretionary funding
- possible choice of a dedicated funding source
- public leadership network as an advocacy and strategy group in accessing funds from appropriate sources
- Health and Human Services Council as a formal link between Pinellas County and JWB in joint planning for funds
- potential to access more money and improve efficiency
- need for faith-based participation in membership
- transportation representation

Responding to query by Mr. Dickman, Mr. Marlowe indicated that at the October meeting, the Homeless Policy Group will make a decision regarding his recommendations or provide an alternative option; whereupon, Councilmember Littrell stated that she would like to see the report on funding and the full report supplied to the county; and suggested that the October meeting be utilized for an advanced discussion of the matters addressed today.

5. Subcommittee Reports  
Continuum of Services

Ms. Lyth conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding Goal Area 6 – Continuum of Services, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record; and discussed the themes of not duplicating existing plans, emphasizing existing essential services, and

September 9, 2005

focusing on the gaps in the current system. She referenced outreach and prevention measures, transitional housing, and the need to move people into permanent housing earlier; whereupon, she discussed challenges within the existing system, including the lack of data for planning and coordination and complex funding procedures; and outlined the following objectives:

- improve the homeless survey
- consider establishing homeless assistance centers
- use system navigators
- look at opportunities for consolidation and partnership
- consider a service-based transportation system
- address silo-funding barriers
- financially support an executive director of the homeless coalition

#### System Oversight and Evaluation – Temporarily Deferred

##### Miscellaneous

Ms. Eschenfelder referred to a one-page handout titled *Your Assignment*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and requested that the members return the requested information within the next week.

Responding to query by Mr. MacMath regarding the public leadership network, Mr. Marlowe indicated that endorsement of a community funding plan does not have to be accomplished in the next month but can be completed whenever the members are ready.

Ms. Vleming confirmed that she would post the complete report on the public leadership and operations network, and the Health and Human Services and funding strategies reports on the website early next week.

Mr. Nurse requested estimated figures regarding cost savings.

Ms. Gunderson related that this will be her last meeting and requested that the members consider Mark Holmgren as her replacement; whereupon, Vice-Mayor Gerard moved, seconded by Ms. Rowell and carried, that Ms. Gunderson's request be approved.

Mr. MacMath referred to cuts in federal spending for Medicaid case management and rehabilitation services and sought the members' assistance in addressing the issue with their federal representatives.

September 9, 2005

Ms. Eschenfelder announced that the Homeless Coalition will be hosting a fundraiser on Thursday, October 20 starting at 5:30 P.M. at Synovus Bank, 333 Third Avenue North, St. Petersburg.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 P.M.