

**HOMELESS POLICY GROUP MEETING
Pinellas County**

December 3, 2004

Members Present:

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| Kenneth T. Welch | Commissioner, Pinellas County |
| Susan Latvala | Commissioner, Pinellas County |
| Virginia Littrell | City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg |
| Carlen Petersen | City Council Member, City of Clearwater |
| Frank Hibbard | Vice Mayor, City of Clearwater |
| Patricia Gerard | Vice Mayor, City of Largo |
| Patricia L. Bailey-Snook | Council Member, City of Pinellas Park |
| Katie Cole | Interim President, Clearwater Chamber of Commerce |
| Ron Dickman | Executive Director, Religious Community Services |
| Gary MacMath | President, Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care, Inc. |
| Sandra Lyth | Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless |
| Bonnie Collins | Integrated Health Plan, Inc. |
| Okey Ryan | Interim Pres./CEO, Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc. |
| Joanne Olvera Lighter | President/CEO, Allegany Franciscan Foundation |
| Catherine Alexander-Ponder | Homeless Prog. Coordinator, Bay Pines/Veteran's Administration |
| Virginia Rowell | At-Large Member |

Also Present:

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| Cliff Smith | Assistant Director, Pinellas County Human Services |
| Jean Vleming | Programs Analyst, Pinellas County Human Services |
| Howie Carroll | Asst. Director, Clearwater Economic Development/Housing Dept. |
| Rod Cyr | Juvenile Welfare Board |
| Jane Walker | Daystar Life Center |
| Michael Cook | Caring & Sharing Center for Independent Living |
| Joshua Johnson | City of St. Petersburg |
| Mike Dove | City of St. Petersburg |
| Ronnie Duncan | Commissioner, Pinellas County |
| Jeff Parker | Citizen |
| Carl Brody | Pinellas County Attorney's Office |
| Cynthia Fox | 211 Tampa Bay Cares |
| P.A. Tyrer | Pinellas County Community Development |
| Beth Eschenfelder | City of St. Petersburg |
| Diane Bruner | City Clerk, City of Largo |

Absent:

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| James Bennett | City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg |
| Jean Halvorsen | City Commissioner, City of Largo |
| Beverley Billiris | Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs |
| Don Shea | President/CEO, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, Inc. |
| Rev. Louis Murphy | Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church |
| Sid Klein | Police Chief, City of Clearwater |
| Dr. Theresa Bradley | Vice President of Medical Affairs, St. Anthony's Hospital |
| Bob Dillinger | Juvenile Welfare Board/Public Defender's Office |
| Jacqueline Rivera | Executive Director, Clearwater Housing Authority |
| Elizabeth Gunderson | Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Tampa Bay |

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by consultant Herb Marlowe at the Florida Blood Services

Homeless Policy Group Meeting Notes
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Building, 10100 Martin Luther King Blvd., St. Petersburg, followed by introductions of those present.

2. Adoption of Agenda Items

It was the consensus of the group to adopt the meeting agenda as presented.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes from the Meeting of November 5, 2004

It was the consensus of the group to adopt the meeting notes from the November 5, 2004 meeting as submitted.

4. Nomination of a Housing Authority Representative

Ms. Rowell suggested the Director of the St. Petersburg Housing Authority, Debbie Johnson. Vice Mayor Gerard recommended Sylvia Costello, City of Clearwater. Ms. Rowell stated that Debbie Johnson was very active in the St. Petersburg community and made a presentation on homelessness to the St. Petersburg City Council. Vice Mayor Gerard stated that Ms. Costello has worked in housing for many years, with ten years on Project Self Sufficiency. The two nominees were ranked by a show of hands - 8 for Ms. Johnson and 4 for Ms. Costello - and it was decided that the group would ask Ms. Johnson first.

5. Overview of Government in the Sunshine by Carl Brody, Pinellas County Attorney's Office

Mr. Brody reviewed the provisions of the Sunshine Law and stated that the Homeless Policy Group fell within the requirements for an elected board, although the group was advisory in nature. He stated that the group's policy of rotating the taker of the minutes would be acceptable. Mr. Marlowe questioned whether the law would apply if discussions were social in nature, to which Mr. Brody stated that it would not, provided that the discussion did not include a position to be taken. Mr. Brody then reviewed the law as it applied to e-mails and recommended that someone be tasked with the responsibility for noticing meetings.

6. Report on November PCCH Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Mr. Marlowe stated that the PCCH Strategic Planning Committee will discuss items before they are brought to the Homeless Policy Group. He stated that the committee discussed barriers in terms of whether they were key barriers, real barriers or not really significant barriers. He reviewed the statistics related to the Barriers Poll. Council Member Bailey-Snook pointed out that new construction also displaced people. Mr. Dickman questioned the definition of "agencies", to which Ms. Fox stated that "agencies" was not defined. Mr. Smith stated that it would be any provider who serves the homeless. Ms. Lyth stated that some barriers compounded other barriers.

7. Presentation on Barriers - Michael Cook - Caring and Sharing

Mr. Cook distributed handouts on the Caring & Sharing Center for Independent Living. He reviewed the programs provided: barrier removal, transitioning from nursing homes and assisting organizations that provide homeless services.

Jane Walker - Daystar Life Center

Ms. Walker stated that Daystar provided emergency services to the poor. She discussed individuals' barriers to service and the barriers faced by provider agencies. She stated that the need for some form of identification was a huge barrier for individuals. Other barriers included local transportation, deposits for housing and knowledge of the system - staff needed to help people ask the right questions. She stated that one barrier to long term problem solving was the removal of funding from programs that are working when new programs were developed.

Mr. Marlowe stated that the Homeless Policy Group's goal was to bring community input to the group and that barriers to building community support also needed to be discussed. Commissioner Welch stated that the public should be educated on who the homeless really are. There was discussion regarding the need for community ownership of the problem and the lack of funding sources for services. Ms. Rowell stated that homeowners' associations and the education field lacked representation on the Homeless Policy Group. Council Member Littrell reported on recent funding activities in the City of St. Petersburg for homeless services. Mr. Marlowe stated that a proposal will be prepared to add to the group a representative from homeowners' associations and education.

8. Proposed Presentations Schedule

Mr. Marlowe stated that the schedule was still being worked on.

9. Proposed Site Visit Schedule

Mr. Smith stated that the schedule was distributed and questioned how the visits should be set up. Council Member Littrell suggested using the loop in St. Petersburg. Ms. Cole stated that the monthly meetings could be held in conjunction with the site visits. Ms. Eschenfelder questioned whether the visits should be full or partial days. Mr. Marlowe stated that he would work on the logistics of the site visits.

10. Other Business

Ms. Vleming stated that a revised membership listing and updated meeting schedule were distributed. She stated that the meetings at the Area Agency on Aging will resume with the January meeting. Ms. Eschenfelder questioned how input would be integrated into the strategic plan. Mr. Marlowe stated that the group would begin working on solutions to critical issues at the next meeting and have discussion about what others were doing. From there, he stated, the group would move toward strategy. Ms. Vleming suggested inviting Broward County to make a presentation, as they were able to obtain federal grant funding for their programs. It was the consensus of the group to do so.

Mr. Marlowe adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.