

HOMELESS POLICY GROUP
PINELLAS COUNTY
October 21, 2005

The Homeless Policy Group for Pinellas County met in the Area Agency on Aging Conference Room, 9887 4th Street North, St. Petersburg, Suite 100, at 1:40 p.m. on this date with the following members present:

James Bennett	City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg
Rick Butler	Council Member, City of Pinellas Park
Beth Coleman	President, Clearwater, Chamber of Commerce
Janet Clark	Pinellas County School Board District 1
Ron Dickman	Executive Director, Religious Community Services
Ronnie Duncan	Commissioner, Pinellas County Commission
Patricia Gerard	Vice Mayor, City of Largo
Andrew Guyette	Commissioner, City of Largo
Mark Holmgren	VP-Community Impact, United way of Tampa Bay
Catherine Alexander-Ponder	Homeless Program Coordinator, Bay Pines/Veterans Adm.
Sandra Lyth	Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless (PCCH)
Gary MacMath	President, Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care, Inc.
Karl Nurse	President, Council of Neighborhood Associations
Joanne Olvera Lighter	Foundation Representative
Carlen Petersen	Council Member, Clearwater City Council
Virginia Rowell	At-Large Member

Members Absent:

Kenneth T. Welch	Commissioner, Pinellas County
Virginia Littrell	City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg
John Doran	City Council Member, City of Clearwater
Beverley Billiris	Mayor, City of Tarpon Spring
Don Shea	President/CEO, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership
Duke Tieman	President, S. Clearwater Citizens for Progressive Action
Reverend Louis Murphy	Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church
Sid Klein	Police Chief, City of Clearwater
Bonnie Collins	Integrated Health Plan, Inc.
Dr. Teresa Bradley	Vice President, Medical Affairs, St. Anthony's Hospital
Patricia Mabe	President/CEO, Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc.
Kathy Haynes	Director Section 8, Pinellas County/Dunedin Housing Authority
Bob Dillinger	Public Defender, Juvenile Welfare Board
Matthew Anderson	City of Largo, Housing Manager, Community Dev.Dept.

Guests Present:

Luis Almodovar	Public Defenders Office (representing Bob Dillinger)
Laron Barber	Leazon Technology Institute
Mary Brennan	Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services
Lisa Jackson	Family Resources
Paul Lackey	JWB
Stacy McNally	Public Defenders Office (representing Bob Dillinger)
Danielle Ricciardi	JWB
David Vaughn	PCCH

Staff Present:

Howie Carroll	Assistant Director Eco. Dev. & Housing, City of Clearwater
Beth Eschenfelder	Manager Social Services Planning, City of St. Petersburg
Herb Marlowe	Consultant, Facilitator
Amelia Preston	Deputy City Clerk, City of St. Petersburg
Cliff Smith	Assistant Director, Pinellas County Human Services
Jean Vleming	Programs Analyst, Pinellas County Human Services

1. Welcome and Introductions

Herb Marlowe called the meeting to order, welcomed the attendees, and asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of Agenda items

Upon motion by Ms. Lyth, second by Ms. 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 September 9, 2005 Meeting

Upon motion by Ms. Petersen, second by Ms. Rowell and carried, the notes of the Sept 9, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

4. Add on Items to the Agenda

It was asked that two items be added to the agenda: # 6 relating to meeting schedule and # 7 regarding a letter to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

5. Health and Human Services Coordinating Council/Governance Model for Homeless Services

Herb Marlowe provided a PowerPoint presentation beginning with the statement that everything is linked together. He commented on the honey-comb problem and the required solutions to homelessness where there is a need for the coordination of health, housing, issues of income, legal issues, transportation, multi dimensional, mutual accountability, personal responsibility, social responsibility, clinical skills, and public policy (elected officials).

Mr. Marlowe stated that there is no simple solution, and that it will take a very complex set of solutions because everyone has a different set of needs. He shared that the system will need to be linked to other systems such as housing and transportation; stated that no one organization can solve this issue and everybody has to be a part of the process in order to be effective.

In summary, he pointed out that homeless, health and behavioral health, housing, and economic well-being needs representation from hospitals and other entities. It was stated that administrative forum/funding, planning and policy are needed to determine how to make the plan work once it has been developed by the Homeless Policy Group. Information was shared that individual funders currently involved in the Coordinating Council component, the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB), are now drafting an interlocal agreement. Mr. Marlowe shared information on the redesign of the plan and the integrated plans. Karl Nurse suggested that everyone put away their egos and work together. Joanne Olvera Lighter asked for clarification on the funding sources and the spirit on the funding throughout the process. Mr. Marlowe stated that they would like to respect each organization that is willing to assist with funding this project. Ms. Lighter inquired if the County had committed to assisting with funding of \$130,000 support over a five-year period.

It was shared that United Way had agreed to assist with the Coordination Council project. Information was also shared that a survey had been performed countywide, which was represented very well. There was some discussion regarding Charter Review, which Ronnie Duncan shed some light on for the rest of the Group.

Mr. Marlowe shared that if they wanted JWB and the County to endorse the proposed plan that those individuals who seek funding support would need to make sure that they are consistent with the overall plan, which they would be willing to commit. Ms. Rowell inquired about the funding being effectively used since funding is limited. It was stated that four people indicated that they were willing to sit down and make a recommendation that needs to be brought back to the body for approval. Ms. Vleming gave a scenario that what is currently occurring might change once a plan has been developed. Mr. Bennett stated that when they started out, the 10-year plan was to be the guiding light. He asked if they were going to transcend or return to the structure that was already in place. Mr. Marlowe stated that what they have done is come together to develop a plan, which is great; now they need a mechanism to make this plan work. Mrs. Eschenfelder stated that there will be a leadership group that will review the 10-year plan. Ms. Petersen suggested that they come back in focus on what the group is supposed to be doing and determine how to finalize their 10-year plan. Discussion included comments from Ms. Lighter and Ms. Lyth regarding the proposed plan and the need for the focus to be on homelessness because more people are asking for assistance than what is available, as it related to poverty, housing, and mental health. It was stated that individuals come from child care, prisons, jail, health, evictions, foreclosures, domestic violence, youth runaways, chronic and episodic health and economically marginal to seek assistance.

Beth Eschenfelder provided a review of the 10-Year Plan to end Homelessness. References were made to shelter, traditional housing, supportive services, attainable, permanent solutions and recommendations for a general approach to health and human services, homeless governance and management homeless service system and funding.

Homeless governance and management would involve a Public Leadership Network, Public Operation Network, a proposed homeless system, open the back door, funding screens, and centralized section 8. It was stated that the challenge is not so much money, but land. Information was shared regarding funding options such as dedication of food and beverages taxes, dedication of one mill, and ½ cent sales tax. There are a various ways to go about coming up with the funds that are necessary. Mrs. Eschenfelder suggested that the next step be for the group to consolidate information about this process and the plan into a format that members will be able to take back to their respective organizations/governments for review and adoption. She gave some examples of things that could be done to make sure that everything was inclusive by looking at the whole plan and identifying an action on how to accomplish it. She stated that 40 objectives were reduced to 25 and stated that the changes will be posted next week on the County's website. She asked that everyone review the submitted plan summary; stated that the executive summary and the messages will be what the group would like to put out for the Community.

Ms. Petersen stated that information on the mobile home park being converted to condos has an impact on the homeless. Mr. Bennett commented on the apartment conversion to condos is also a problem and stated that each strategy will need an action plan.

Mr. MacMath inquired what they should consider as a time-line for getting the plan adopted. Ms. Vleming suggested that they consider taking the proposed plan to the other entities in January 2006. Ms. Lighter stated that there needs to be a marketing of the proposed 10-year plan and it was suggested that a broad philosophy of the plan serve to facilitate the opening of the PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Petersen suggested making the entities aware of the proposed plan by starting to educate them. It was stated that accountability should be considered. Mr. Duncan stated that they need to really consider the use of the penny as a funding source.

It was asked that everyone look at their calendars for the next meeting. It was suggested that November 18, 2005 from 12 to 4p.m. and the location will be determined at a later date.

There was brief discussion about the need to send a letter to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homeless regarding our community's effort to develop a 10-year plan. It was decided that Commissioner Duncan would get a letter drafted to submit on behalf of all the entities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.