

HOMELESS POLICY GROUP
PINELLAS COUNTY
May 6, 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 1:37 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
Janet Clark	Pinellas County School Board
Bonnie Collins	Integrated Health Plan, Inc.
Ron Dickman	Executive Director, Religious Community Services
John Doran	City Councilmember, City of Clearwater
Ronnie Duncan	Commissioner, Pinellas County
Patricia Gerard	Vice-Mayor, City of Largo
Elizabeth Gunderson	Vice President of Community Investment, United Way of Tampa Bay
Sandra Lyth	Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless
Karl Nurse	President, Council of Neighborhood Associations
Carlen Petersen	City Council Member, City of Clearwater
Virginia Rowell	At-Large Member
Robin Saenger	Commissioner, City of Tarpon Springs (sitting in for Mayor Beverley Billiris)

Members Absent:

Beverly Billiris	Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs
Dr. Theresa Bradley	Vice President of Medical Affairs, St. Anthony's Hospital
Beth Coleman	President, Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
Bob Dillinger	Public Defender and Juvenile Welfare Board
Jean Halvorsen	City Commissioner, City of Largo
Kathy Haynes	Director, Dunedin Housing Authority
Sid Klein	Police Chief, City of Clearwater
Joanne Olvera Lighter	President/CEO, Allegany Franciscan Foundation
Virginia Littrell	City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg
Patricia Mabe	President/CEO, Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc.
Gary MacMath	President, Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care, Inc.
Rev. Louis Murphy	Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church
Catherine Alexander-Ponder	Homeless Program Coordinator, Bay Pines/Veterans Administration
Don Shea	President/CEO, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, Inc.
Duke Tieman	President, S. Clearwater Citizens for Progressive Action
Kenneth T. Welch	Commissioner, Pinellas County

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Also Present:

Howie Carroll	City of Clearwater
Beth Eschenfelder	City of St. Petersburg
Doug Leonardo	Westcare Florida
Jeff Parker	Citizen
Bob Rowan	Homeless Coalition
Okey Ryan	Apex Lending
Cliff Smith	Assistant Director, Pinellas County Human Services
Jean Vleming	Programs Analyst, Pinellas County Human Services
Barbara Sokolowski	Deputy Clerk, Pinellas County Board Records
Other interested individuals	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Eschenfelder called the meeting to order, welcomed the attendees, and announced that in the absence of Herb Marlowe, she would be facilitating the meeting; whereupon those present introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of Agenda Items

Upon motion by Ms. Petersen, seconded by Mr. Doran 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 April 1, 2005 Meeting

Upon motion by Ms. Rowell, seconded by Commissioner Duncan and carried, the notes of the April 1, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

4. Approval of New Board Member

Commissioner Duncan moved, seconded by Ms. Petersen and carried, that Pinellas Park City Council Member Rick Butler be appointed as a replacement for Patricia Bailey-Snook; whereupon, Ms. Eschenfelder indicated that announcements by the members would be made at this time.

Ms. Lyth announced that the Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless presented the annual award for Community Leadership to Council Member Virginia Littrell, Council Member James Bennett, and Public Defender Bob Dillinger; and that Special Service

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Awards were received by Don Shea and Herb Marlowe; whereupon, Ms. Eschenfelder added that Bob Rowan also received a Special Service award.

Mr. Parker announced that arrangements are being made for an overnight trip to Miami to tour its homeless assistance center; that the proposed date for the trip is June 28 and 29; that each attendee would be responsible for their own accommodations; and that a sponsor is being sought to cover the cost of \$1,500.00 for a bus for transportation; whereupon, Ms. Eschenfelder indicated that on the return trip, if scheduling permits, the group would stop in Broward County to visit the homeless assistance centers and to learn about the county's police outreach program.

5. Attainable Housing Sub-Committee Report

Ms. Petersen referred to the *Draft Pinellas County Plan to End Homelessness, Affordable Housing, "Housing First" & Prevention*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and stated that the group has broadened its scope, and is focusing on affordable housing, housing first, and prevention; whereupon, she reviewed the goals and objectives outlined in the draft document. In response to query by Ms. Rowell relative to the minimum wage figure, Mr. Carroll stated that he would check whether or not the new minimums were used. In response to queries and comments by Mr. Nurse regarding mobile home parks, the number of mobile homes being eliminated, and whether remaining parks are resident- or developer-owned, Ms. Petersen stated that each municipality would have those figures; whereupon, Ms. Eschenfelder indicated that the matter would be researched.

Ms. Eschenfelder inquired as to whether the group was comfortable with the format utilized by Ms. Petersen's group, and no objections were noted; whereupon, she noted that the Affordable Housing Subcommittee has been changed to Attainable Housing Subcommittee; and stated that based on the work the subcommittee did, a format has been developed for use by other work groups that will be e-mailed to the members. Ms. Eschenfelder reported on a meeting with a Hillsborough County representative relative to homeless strategies and planning.

6. Developing the 10-Year Plan; Adoption of Goals Statements; and Sub-Committee Assignments

Ms. Eschenfelder referred to the *10-Year Plan/Draft Goal Statements*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and enumerated nine plan elements:

- ◆ Ending Street Homelessness
- ◆ Prevention
- ◆ Permanent Solutions - Housing

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- ◆ Permanent Solutions - Income
- ◆ Coordination/Partnership
- ◆ Continuum of Services
- ◆ Removal of Barriers
- ◆ Funding
- ◆ Evaluation

She indicated that the goal statements listed under each element are in draft form; and that the members' task for the day would be to revise, edit, finalize and adopt the goal statements; whereupon, she proposed that work groups be formed to decide whether the statements need revision or are acceptable as presented; and that members select an element most closely aligned with their interest and area of expertise and join that group. Ms. Eschenfelder invited the guests to participate, and requested that each member who is absent today be selected and included in an appropriate group.

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At 2:08 P.M., the members separated into work groups to review their chosen goal statement.

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At 2:18 P.M., Mr. Butler entered the meeting.

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At 2:25 P.M., Ms. Eschenfelder resumed the meeting and welcomed Mr. Butler; whereupon, he introduced himself.

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A group discussion ensued during which each work group reported their findings relative to the goal statement reviewed, following which, the goal statements were revised and changes included:

- ◆ Ending Street Homelessness
Engage people living in places not meant for human habitation.
- ◆ Prevention
Combined with Permanent Solutions - Income
Prevent homelessness through comprehensive strategies including life and employment skills, training, early intervention, and discharge planning.
- ◆ Permanent Solutions - Housing
(no change to objectives).

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- ◆ Permanent Solutions - Income Combined with Prevention.
- ◆ Coordination/Partnership
Develop and strengthen coordination, collaboration, and innovation among community partners to end homelessness.
- ◆ Continuum of Services
Enhance the continuum of services to better assist homeless people to find shelter and/or housing; and develop a plan to return to self-sufficiency, or to assist those who are unable to become completely independent due to physical or mental disabilities.
- ◆ Removal of Barriers
Identify and remove barriers to breaking the cycle of homelessness and preventing future homelessness.
- ◆ Funding
To develop a diversified revenue stream to fully fund the ten-year plan.
- ◆ Evaluation
Progress will be measured, success will be evaluated, and continuous investment will be made for improvement (to be addressed further).

Following the group discussion and in response to query by Mr. Dickman, Ms. Eschenfelder requested that Ms. Lyth take the adopted draft goals to the Homeless Coalition for feedback to be presented at the next Homeless Policy Group meeting; whereupon, Mr. Dickman moved, seconded by Ms. Petersen, that the amended goals statements be adopted. Further discussion ensued with input by Mr. Leonardo regarding two large groups expected to impact the homeless population - veterans and those currently institutionalized in hospitals, jails, and prisons, and Ms. Eschenfelder regarding affordable/attainable housing; whereupon; upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Eschenfelder indicated that a staff person would be assigned to each group, or subcommittee, formed today; and that the subcommittees would present their proposals at regular meetings of the main group; whereupon, discussion ensued regarding a time line for the reports and it was determined that staff would be kept informed of the dates in order to advertise and coordinate the subcommittee meetings; and that the meeting to review the complete plan would be a four-hour morning meeting;

7. Meeting Schedule Changes

The July meeting will be held on the 15th and the September meeting on the 9th, and members will be notified should the location be changed.

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 P.M.