

HOMELESS POLICY GROUP
PINELLAS COUNTY
JUNE 3, 2005

The Homeless Policy Group for Pinellas County met in the Area Agency on Aging Conference Room, 9887 4th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL, 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.
Patricia Gerard	Vice-Mayor, City of Largo
Virginia Littrell	City Council Member, City of St. Petersburg
Sandra Lyth	Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless
Virginia Rowell	At Large Member
Don Shea	President/CEO, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership
Kenneth T. Welch	Commissioner, Pinellas County

Members Absent:

Catherine Alexander-Ponder	Homeless Program Coordinator, Bay Pines/Veterans Adm.
Dr. Teresa Bradley	Vice President, Medical Affairs, St. Anthony's Hospital
Beth Coleman	President, Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
Ron Dickman	Executive Director, Religious Community Services
Bob Dillinger	Public Defender, Juvenile Welfare Board
John Doran	City Council Member, City of Clearwater
Ronnie Duncan	Commissioner, Pinellas County
Elizabeth Gunderson	Vice President-Community Impact, United Way of Tampa Bay
Kathy Haynes	Director Section 8, Pinellas County/Dunedin Housing Authority
Sid Klein	Police Chief, City of Clearwater
Patricia Mabe	President/CEO, Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc.
Gary MacMath	President, Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care, Inc.
Reverend Louis Murphy	Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church
Karl Nurse	President, Council of Neighborhood Associations, St. Petersburg
Joanne Olvera Lighter	President/CEO, Allegany Franciscan Foundation
Carlen Petersen	City Council Member, City of Clearwater
Duke Tieman	President, S. Clearwater Citizens for Progressive Action

Also Present:

Herb Marlowe	Consultant, Facilitator
Howie Carroll	Staff-Assistant Director Eco. Dev. & Housing, City of Clearwater
Beth Eschenfelder	Staff-City of St. Petersburg
Cliff Smith	Staff -Assistant Director, Pinellas County Human Services
Jean Vleming	Staff-Program Analyst, Pinellas County Human Services
Matt Alexander	Staff – Housing Manager, City of Largo
Amelia Preston	Deputy City Clerk, City of St. Petersburg

Guests:

Regina Alexander	VARO
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Michael Amidei	FLASH, PCCH
Laron Barber	Le'Azon Technology Institute
Marcel Charpentier	US-HUD-Tampa
Rod Cyr	Juvenile Welfare Board
Sonya R. Davis	Seniors Offering Services
Mike Dove	Deputy Mayor Neighborhood Services, City of St. Petersburg
Barbara Johnson	Human Services
Michael McCray	Volunteer, Make Friends
Michael Saathoff	Citizen
David Vaughn	PCCH
Jeff Parker	Citizen

1. Welcome and Introductions

Beth Eschenfelder announced that on Tuesday, June 28, 2005, they would be chartering a bus to travel to South Florida to visit homeless programs. She indicated that arrangements have been made and members will only have to pay for the hotel rooms. She informed them that she would need an RSVP from each of them and distributed a copy of the itinerary for the tour. Herb Marlowe called the meeting to order, welcomed the attendees, and asked everyone present to introduce himself or herself.

2. Adoption of Agenda items

Upon motion by Ms. Gerard, second by Ms. Clark 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 May 6, 2005 Meeting

Upon motion by Ms. Clark, second by Ms. Gerard and carried, the notes of the May 6, 2005 Meeting were approved as submitted.

4. Report on the 2005 Homeless Survey-Fred Fearday

Mr. Marlowe introduced Mr. Fred Fearday, LCSW, from Boley Center, who provided the task force with a PowerPoint presentation detailing the 2005 Homeless Survey. He stated that HUD and DCF mandated the survey. The survey revealed that they found 11% more homeless population than in 2004. He stated that they went to various sites such as motels, streets, day labor facilities, service sites, and schools and that most of the data were self reported. The survey reflected that 1,551 individuals had provided data. He highlighted that one thing they did this year as opposed to last year was a comparison to chronic vs. not chronic and it was determined that 54% reported that they had a chronic illness. Sandra Lyth inquired about the data that was revealed and requested clarification of the outcome of the data that was stated in 2004 as opposed to 2005. Mr. Fearday responded that they had additional people assisting with the data this year. Cliff Smith inquired how they determined the projected annual count.

Mr. Fearday stated that there is a formula provided by the State that is used to calculate this information. Mr. Bennett inquired about why hotels are used to provide rooms as opposed to

homes. Mr. Fearday stated that it's easier to get hotel rooms because home/apartment rentals often require a security deposit as well as first and last month's rents. Ms. Lyth stated that families that live in motels usually could scrape up enough money for hotels on very cold nights.

Ms. Rowell inquired about the State Office and how they reached their counts. Ms. Eschenfelder stated that they used the data that has been gathered through the County. Mr. Welch inquired about the 22,182 figure that was used. It was stated that this data reflected unique individuals. Mr. Fearday stated that the first and last name and date of birth information is used to reduce duplication. It was shared that there were only 17 duplications. Ms. Gerard inquired about the number of children that were reported and whether the data that had been provided was accurate. She suggested using the Police Department to assist in tracking some of the data.

5. Attainable Housing Subcommittee Report

Mr. Welch briefly reviewed the submitted report that highlighted attainable housing objectives, charges, solution measures, cost of homes and land within the city. He shared information on housing outlook, cost burden crisis, affordable housing solutions, attainable housing approach RPFDS, attainable housing goals and housing objectives, and stated they have a time line of fall 2006. His Committee came up with the requirement at the local level to require that when more than 30 units are to be built that the developer be required to provide some amount of affordable housing.

Ms. Littrell reviewed for the Committee the Housing First portion of the subcommittee work and stated it is a work in progress on related prevention strategies. She stated housing with support serves as an adopt-a-model to remove homelessness. She stated that they would need input from the rest of the subcommittees regarding strategies that will work and won't work so they can proceed as many of the Goal Areas overlap. She commented further on Attainable Housing, and asked if they had missed anything. Ms. Lyth suggested that they put brackets around the amount that is being considered in terms of family incomes. Mr. Welch asked if they should list labels/titles such as teachers, fire fighters, etc. ** During the taping of the meeting 30 minutes was not recorded from 2:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. (reason new equipment).** Mr. Bennett commented that a solution might be to re-open some of the facilities that have been closed. Ms. Littrell stated that the funding did not come back to the counties once the facilities were closed it remained at the State level. Mr. Butler commented on the "save our homes" cap which does not provide assistance for people that are in apartments. Ms. Gerard suggested separating out the young adults that have problems. Ms. Eschenfelder commented briefly on removal of barriers that the Committee had not had a chance to review. Mr. Anderson highlighted that transportation needs to be available for person seeking jobs.

He commented on the problem with people who have been to prison not being able to find housing and jobs. Ms. Rowell suggested changing "Affordable" to "Attainable". Ms. Clark commented briefly on the lack of ability to get identification of people who are homeless and in need of services for disability; stated that none of the facilities are in close proximity and they don't have transportation. It was suggested that a single application could be made available.

It was suggested that hospitals be included in the list of locations that homeless people come from. Ms. Vleming stated that nothing is coordinated. Ms. Eschenfelder asked that every one

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provide any additional input to her and the Subcommittee would like to report at the next meeting.

Mr. Smith reviewed the goals to overcome homelessness and the challenge. Ms. Eschenfelder commented briefly on the 10-Year Plan development timeframe and deadlines for goal proposals. She briefly highlighted those goals that had been identified and stated that Goal # 9 need to have members established. There was discussion that there will be overlapping of the different goals that have been set. Ms. Littrell thanked the Staff for a miraculous job.

Adjournment