

**Central Florida Commission on Homelessness**  
(Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties & The City of Orlando)

**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**May 13, 2009**

**Heart of Florida United Way**  
**Dr. Nelson Ying Center, Orlando, FL**

**Members Present:**

Ed Timberlake, Mayor Buddy Dyer, Mayor Richard Crotty, Shannon McAleavy for Meg Crofton, Mark Brewer, Cathy Jackson, Honorable Belvin Perry, Jr., Gary Earl, Tracy Schmidt and Sister Elizabeth Worley.

**Members Absent:**

Sam Lupfer IV, John Hillenmeyer, Alex Martins, Craig S. Miller, Jacob Stuart, Clarence Otis, Robert H. Brown, Michele Saunders for Bob Dallari and Rasesh Thakkar

**I. Welcome**

- Ed Timberlake called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
- Mr. Timberlake informed that 211 are getting calls from people that have never asked for assistance before. These are first time people into the system, which is unsettling numbers facing the trauma of homelessness.
- On Monday, May 11, 2009, Mayor Dyer and Mayor Crotty made a very historic announcement at the Coalition for the Homeless. The City of Orlando and Orange County worked together to get grant money to the juvenile for about \$6 Million dollars for the Coalition to be able to design and build a new men pavilion that will go on the property.
- The stimulus package that the Government announced in February for about \$800 Billion Dollars, some of that includes money directed for homelessness. Approximately, \$5 Million Dollars has been allocated over the next couple of years to the City of Orlando, Orange, Osceola and Seminole in the areas of homelessness, housing and rapid re-housing. Mayor Crotty reported to the Commission the Orange County was also implementing Phase II of the CRC which focuses on the homeless. He also indicated that Orange County was identifying funding for a Drop-In Center in East Orange County to serve the homeless with a particular focus on those dwelling in camps.
- Introduced the Destiny Foundation. The Destiny Foundation has been engage with other partners in the communities around moms and children and ways to prevent homelessness among that specific population.

**II. Commission Committee Updates**

**A. Finance**

**Tracy Schmidt**

- Mr. Schmidt informed that they are in the wrap up stage of a comprehensive data on homeless expending in the three (3) counties areas. The purpose of the survey is to collect regional data on sources and uses of funding for homeless services.
- Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Brewer and the Finance Committee are working together to endeavor new sources of revenues of homelessness in other parts of the country to

bring new and recurring funding to implement the 10 Years Plans. The Finance Committee will report to you in August 2009.

**B. Supportive Services**

**Cathy Jackson**

• **Drop In Center Profile**

Cathy Jackson, Chair of the Supportive Service Committee presented a PowerPoint on the Homeless Prevention Center Model. Please refer to the attached PowerPoint presentation.

• **Point In Time Count**

Cathy Jackson presented the 2009 Point in Time Report for Orange, Osceola, Seminole Counties and the City of Orlando. Please refer to the attached PowerPoint presentation.

• **IDignity**

**Mayor Dyer**

City of Orlando, Mayor Buddy Dyer and members of his Senior Staff continue to provide assistance with FL ID cards, Driver's License, Birth Certificates and Social Security Cards to the area's homeless citizens. IDignity has provided assistance to more than 18,000 individuals and continues to aid more than 250 people a month. In another note, Mayor Dyer is working with the Legislature to try to come up with a way that prison system provides ID cards or drivers license to inmates that are about to come out of prison.

**C. Healthcare**

**Ray Larsen**

John Hillenmeyer, Chair of the Health Committee was not present at meeting.

- Ray Larsen provided with a brief report for the Healthcare Committee. The HOPE Team has hit the ground and begun its work in Seminole County, Sanford area. The HOPE team includes a health outreach worker and a mental health outreach workers whose goal is to provide a health services to those people who are living in the streets or in camps.

- The committee is working on two other projects: Developing a system to collect data on the homeless who are accessing healthcare (i.e. Emergency Room) and costs for the treatments; and developing a discharge policy guideline that will coordinate network of service providers to implement those discharge plans. We will provide the guideline this summer.

**D. Housing**

**Ray Larsen**

• **Coalition for the Homeless**

○ **Rapid Re-Housing Grant**

The Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-Housing dollars that is part of the stimulus package that came to our communities, each jurisdiction have been busy in creating plans to use those dollars amount to prevent individuals and families in our region an opportunity to overcome those financial barriers and to get them into housing. The Coalition for the Homeless received \$1.3 Million Dollars for housing grant to move homeless into housing.

**E. Prevention**

**Gary Earl**

• **Indicators of Homelessness**

Mr. Earl informed that the Prevention Committee is designing a regionally system for the prevention of homelessness. This system will be identifying individuals and

families who are in danger of becoming homeless and providing them the accurate services and resources.

- **Training**

The Committee is also developing a checklist that will be used to evaluate the vulnerability of a person or family to become homeless. An on-going project has been to focus on prevention of homelessness for those being discharge from jail. These offenders were homeless when they were arrested and a significant number suffers from mental illness and/or addiction.

- **Jail Discharge Workgroup Report**

Ray Larsen presented a CFCH regional meeting presentation. Please refer to the attached PowerPoint presentation.

Ensure that all at-risk individuals for homelessness have a housing plan upon release from jails or correctional facilities.

**Motion was presented** - Commission agreed to adopt recommendations of the Jail Discharge Workgroup as action steps to be taken to ensure that at-risk individuals for homelessness have discharge plans upon release from jail to prevent homelessness.

### **III. Destiny Foundation**

**Scott George**

The Destiny Foundation provides the resources and tools that help local families fight hunger and prevent homelessness through food and clothing assistance, crisis care and medical treatment at a Campus that provides hope. The programs offered are:

- The Food Outreach serves an average of 260 families each day. The visits Year-to-Date is 23,342.
- The Compassion Outreach Center serves an average of 70 clients each day and offers 29 different assistance services.
- The Compassion Thrift Center serves about 150 clients everyday.
- The People Client serves 198 children during the month of April. The average age of children is less than 4 year old.

Destiny Foundation announced its newest program, a Drop-In Center focused on the needs of women and children called Hope Central.

### **IV. Closing Comments / Discussions**

There is no further business before the Commission.

### **V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.