

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

Commission Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2009

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

Members Present:

Alex Martins, Honorable Belvin Perry, Jr., Cathy Jackson, Ed Timberlake, Gary Earl, John Hillenmeyer, John Quiñones, Bill Vagianos for Mayor Buddy Dyer, Donna Wyche for Mayor Richard Crotty, Michele Saunders for Bob Dallari, Robert H. Brown, Meg Crofton, Tracy Schmidt and Sister Elizabeth Worley

Members Absent:

Clarence Otis, Craig S. Miller, Jacob Stuart, Mark Brewer, Rasesh Thakkar and Sam Lupfer IV

I. Welcome

- Ed Timberlake called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
- Bob Brown commented on the posters on the walls and explained that the internal campaign team kicked-off United Way's campaign today.
- Mr. Timberlake welcomed Commissioner John Quiñones to his first Commission meeting.

II. Regional Updates

A. Osceola County

John Quiñones

- 20% of CF homeless population are in Osceola County
- 754 adults and children are homeless
- 1,900 person become each year homeless in Osceola County
- Osceola received a designation as an entitlement Community which will bring increased opportunity for funding support for the county and residents
- Housing and Shelter: Emergency shelter
 - Osceola County has no emergency family beds or beds for women and men who are homeless.
 - 52 Domestic Violence beds for those who need emergency shelter to escape violent situations.
 - The Transitional House, Inc (1993) - Located in St. Cloud
 - ❖ 80 Bed Veterans Program
 - ❖ Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and PTSD Treatment
 - Park Place Behavioral Health Services - Dedicated case manager who is specifically responsible outreach and case management for the homeless.
 - ❖ Case Management
 - ❖ Outpatient Medical Services,
 - ❖ Outpatient Therapy
 - ❖ Day Treatment
 - ❖ Inpatient Crisis Stabilization
- Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) - Services will start on October 1, 2009

- ❖ Osceola received \$1,041,569.00 to aid families who recently become homeless
- ❖ Families must be 50% or less of the medium income to be able to stay housed
- ❖ Osceola Social Services are working with community providers to ensure opportunities to move forward to identify shelter & care beds
- ❖ Section 8 housing support for qualified individuals
- ❖ SHP (Support Housing Program) are: Home ownership support, Rental properties, neighborhood stabilization program and CDBG
- Project Homeless Connect tentatively scheduled for October 23, 2009
- Will work with providers and other social services agencies to find solution to the problem
- Will continue find and secure funding for new and/or existing programs

B. Orange County

Donna Wyche for Mayor Richard Crotty

- **East Side Drop-In Center** – Received CDBG grant. Working to purchase a property or a vacant facility to be able to accommodate it as a Drop-In Center. Services yet to be determined based on voluntarism of a group of 12 churches. The county is certain that the center will be open by December 2010.
- **Phase II of CRC** - Orange County will be implementing Phase II of the CRC which focuses on the homeless.
- **Coalition for the Homeless Men's Pavilion** – The City will be meeting with the council on Monday, August 17th to choose an architect for this project. It will take 8 months of planning. There will be a Tri-Agency Agreement (The City, Orange County and the Coalition) for this project.
- **Rapid Re-Housing Grant** – The County received the \$ 1.3 Million from HUD and we will be working together with HFUW to provide services (i.e. deposit, rent, electricity etc). Services will start on September 2009.

C. Seminole County

Michele Saunders for Commission Bob Dallari

- County funding used to renovate the Men's Homeless Shelter, Women and Children's Homeless Shelter
- County provides Emergency Shelter Grant funding to 2 homeless shelters for their general operation and provides a limited amount of emergency financial and medical services.
- County has a Shelter + Care grant through HSN that is in its 4th year of the 5 year grant. Serving 22 chronically homeless people. Recently received a new Shelter + Care grant through HSN for a new 5 year cycle that will serve 11 more chronically homeless, including those with disabilities.
- County offers a Tenant Based Rental Assistance program to help individuals towards self-sufficiency.
- County funded the construction of the Heart to Heart facility that provides transitional housing to women with children who are recovering from substance abuse. This program is operated by The Center For Drug Free Living.
- County received Federal funding for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program that will provide financial assistance, case management services, housing relocation, legal services, credit repair assistance to those who are recently homeless due to the economic downturn or those individuals and families who are on the verge of homelessness.

- County received federal funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) which is funding to buy, rehab and either sell or rent foreclosed homes to the low to very low income eligible citizens.
- County provided the start up funding for the HOPE Team operated out of Seminole Behavioral Healthcare.
- County is partnering with the Health Dept and community nonprofits involved with medical care to increase access to medical and dental care.
- County is working to expand transitional housing for men.
- County is planning to use federal dollars to plan for and develop senior housing which will include housing for homeless seniors.
- Several nonprofits in Seminole County are working together to address the needs of the homeless and at risk of homelessness through more coordination and collaboration.
- County is participating in an upcoming Veterans Stand down focused to address the needs of homeless vets.

III. Jail Discharge

Ray Larsen

A. Homeless Court

- **57,000** Warrants outstanding for failure to pay / appear
- **\$925** per arrest for processing
- **\$90** cost per day (excluding: Health / Mental Health Services)
- **\$298** Court Costs / Fines
- Homeless persons for whom warrants are a barrier to success:
 - ❖ Employment
 - ❖ Benefits
 - ❖ Housing
 - ❖ Frequent Flyers
- Pinellas County - Public Defender has an agreement with St. Petersburg to withdraw warrants for failure to appear for local ordinance violations and default or contempt of court by consolidating court fines and cost by converting those fines to community services. There estimated savings has been \$2,141,033.
 - 2 Outreach Attorneys
 - Shelters and Drop-In Centers on regular schedule
 - 1 hour of Community Service = \$10.00
 - Funded by Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
- Judge Perry said the goal is by January 2010 to have Homeless Court here in Orlando were we can fine those with community services and give them tools to prevent homelessness.

B. Discharge Update

- Jail Discharge workgroup is working to develop an intake that better identifies homeless offenders when processed into jail.
- The Workgroup next focus will be on the medical needs of discharged homeless offenders.

IV. Healthcare

John Hillenmeyer

- **Discharge Update**

- Healthcare Committee is tackling many of the same issues focused on by the Jail Discharge Workgroup. The Committee will be convening the leadership of the major healthcare providers to identify barriers and develop solutions.

- **HOPE Team**

The HOPE Team is an outreach team to serve homeless individuals and families living on the streets, abandoned buildings, and in camps. The HOPE Team offers a variety of services to address the needs of homeless persons, designed to enhance a person's strengths in a healthy lifestyle.

- **Services Provided are:** assistance or referral to meet basic needs; access to primary medical and dental care; limited prescription co-pay assistance; access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, including detox; referral to housing programs; assistance in applying for benefits; transportation to social services appointment; and replacement of I.D. and social security card.
- Number of people served to date is 90.

V. Executive Director's Report

Ray Larsen

- **Advocacy Initiative**

- **Congressman Grayson's Office** – Ed Timberlake and Ray Larsen met with Ms. Deborah Booth, District Director for Congressman Grayson. Ray will follow up with grant writer to identify opportunities for funding.
- **Government Round Table** – The Commission convened a Roundtable of local government officials to discuss Homeless issues and to provide an opportunity to hear how each jurisdiction is employing HPRP Funding. The next Government Roundtable is being scheduled.
- **Orange County Corrections** – Ray Larsen met with Chief Tidell and his leadership staff to discuss issues regarding homeless offenders. The meeting led to agreements to continue cooperation and coordination.
- **Data Link Workgroup** - HUD has published HMIS Data and Technical Standards (HMIS Standards) that allow for the collection of standardized client and program-level data on homeless service usage among programs within a community and across all communities. The HMIS Standards ensure that every HMIS captures the information necessary to fulfill HUD reporting requirements while protecting the privacy and informational security of all homeless individuals.
- **Website** – We are in the process of creating a new CFCH website. The purpose of creating the website is to be able to create and update the website continuously.

VI. HSN Update

Cathy Jackson

- **2009 Continuum of Care application process begins August 24, 2009**

- \$5.8 million received in 2008
- Deadlines (tentatively) October 31, 2009, with decisions released in February 2010

- Gaps analysis completed in July; to be discussed at the August 25 Continuum of Care meeting
- HSN applying for 3 60-unit transitional housing apartment programs through State SAIL program in partnership with Atlantic Housing
- **Broadening HMIS implementation**
 - New data integration project to import “legacy system” captured data into HMIS
 - Salvation Army and Orange County Corrections first datasets to be added
 - Lake County, Flagler/Volusia County expressing interest in using HSN/HMIS system
 - HPRP funding data collection and reporting beginning in October 2009 for Seminole, Orange, Osceola and Orlando
- **Violence against the homeless survey to be complete by end of September 2009; report to be released by October 31, 2009**
 - Partnership with UCF and National Coalition for the Homeless
 - Debunk the “meanest city” myth; the “Florida has the most violent crimes against homeless in the country” myth.
 - Veterans Stand Down in Sanford on August 8, 2009
 - Veterans Stand Down in Orlando on September 26, 2009
 - Project Homeless Connect in Orlando on December 4, 2009
 - Tentative PHC event in late October with Discovery Church in Orlando

VII. Pathways Drop-In Center

**Nelson J. Kull, III
Lt. Deanne Adams**

Lt. Deanne Adams presented Nelson J. Kull, III, President & Executive Director of the Pathways Drop-In Center. The Pathways Drop-In Center started on 1993 in a 2 bedroom house with 15 members and serving only coffee and donuts. Currently in 2009, they have 3 properties for 6 residents, including 80 members, 2 full meals served daily and access to clothing, laundry services, computer use, TV and more.

VIII. Adjournment

There is no further business before the Commission. The next Commission Meeting will be on November 4th, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.