

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COUNCIL
POLICY BOARD

April 20, 2007

The Health and Human Services Coordinating Council (HHSCC) Policy Board met in the Garden House at the Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, 5771 Roosevelt Boulevard, Clearwater, Florida, at 1:42 P.M. on this date with the following members present:

Karen Williams Seel	Chairman; Pinellas County Commissioner
Van Saylor	Vice-Chairman; Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB)
Ronnie E. Duncan	Pinellas County Commissioner
Susan Latvala	Pinellas County Commissioner
Irene Sullivan	Circuit Court Judge; JWB

Members Absent:

Jim Coats	Pinellas County Sheriff
Bernie McCabe	State Attorney; JWB
Kenneth T. Welch	Pinellas County Commissioner

Others Present:

Denise Groesbeck	Executive Director, HHSCC
Joe Baldwin	Senior Planner, HHSCC
Maureen Freaney	Bureau Director, Pinellas County Human Services (PCHS)
Cliff Smith	Assistant Director, PCHS
Jean Vleming	Program Analyst, PCHS
Carl E. Brody	Senior Assistant County Attorney
D. Gay Lancaster	Executive Director, JWB
Browning Spence	Director, Community Planning/Research, JWB
Herb Marlowe	Consultant/Facilitator
Arlene J. Kennare	Deputy Clerk, Pinellas County Board Records
Other interested individuals	

Welcome and Introduction of Joe Baldwin

Chairman Seel called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests; whereupon, Ms. Groesbeck introduced Joe Baldwin, the new HHSCC Senior Planner, and related that an Administrative Manager for the HHSCC has been hired and will attend the next meeting.

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Review and Approval of the Minutes of the February 16, 2007 Meeting

Upon motion by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Duncan and carried, the minutes of the March 16, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

Review of Revised Final By-Laws

Referring to the revised final By-Laws of the HHSCC, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, Chairman Seel noted that changes have been made in accordance with the action taken at the meeting of March 16, 2007; and suggested that the By-Laws be accepted; and no objections were noted.

Update on Administrative Forum

Ms. Groesbeck related that all of the individuals invited to participate in the Administrative Forum have accepted with the exception of Mayor Frank Hibbard, City of Clearwater, who has not yet responded. In response to query by Chairman Seel, Ms. Groesbeck indicated that letters have been sent to the participating foundations; and that she will follow-up with them next week to ascertain the names of their respective representatives. Ms. Groesbeck indicated that the initial meeting of the Forum, which will be a workshop conducted by Mr. Marlowe, has been scheduled for 2:30 P.M. on May 2, 2007 at the EpiCenter; and that eight of the 13 individuals invited to participate have indicated that they will attend.

Review, Discussion and Approval of List of Potential Members for the Health and Behavioral Health Network

Chairman Seel referred to the document titled *Proposed Health and Behavioral Health Network*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and called attention to the list of potential members. She noted that she thought it would be appropriate to add two HMOs that do business in Pinellas County; and discussion ensued wherein Mr. Marlowe suggested that one private HMO and one Medicaid HMO should be added; and Judge Sullivan suggested the addition of Cynthia Zarling, Ph.D., Director of Behavioral Evaluations for the JWB.

Thereupon, Judge Sullivan moved, seconded by Commissioner Latvala and carried, that the list be approved with the suggested changes.

Following further discussion wherein Chairman Seel and Commissioner Latvala agreed to serve on the Health and Behavioral Health Network, Commissioner Latvala moved,

seconded by Commissioner Duncan and carried, that the list be expanded to include the four largest physical health systems in the County.

During discussion, Mr. Marlowe referred to a letter in the members' packets specifying the Network's responsibilities; and noted that if there are no suggested revisions, it will be sent to the proposed participants; and no objections were noted.

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Later in the meeting, Chairman Seel noted that the mental health and/or substance abuse agencies to be invited to participate in the Health and Behavioral Health Network had not been specified. Following discussion, Mr. Saylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Latvala and carried, that Public Enrichment through Mental Health Services, Inc. (PEHMS) and Operation Par, Inc. be added to the list of proposed participants.

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Update on Status of Homeless Initiatives

Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless Executive Director and Homeless Leadership Network Staff Director Sarah Snyder conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Homelessness In Pinellas County, It Impacts All of Us*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record. Ms. Snyder related that the total homeless population in Pinellas County on January 29, 2007 consisted of 5,195 individuals; and that 3,974 were in a sheltered situation and 1,221 were living on the street. She noted that this is an increase of 10.5 percent over 2006; and that based on a formula used by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the projected annual number of incidents of homelessness in Pinellas County for 2007 is 20,764.

Ms. Snyder explained the continuum of care model used in Pinellas County; and noted that for a homeless individual the priority is to provide immediate temporary shelter; and that for a homeless family it is essential to use a Housing First approach, providing both shelter and services as quickly as possible in order to stabilize the family's living situation; and discussion ensued. Ms. Snyder referred to a list of homeless service providers in the County and explained the purpose and particular service of each.

Following discussion, Ms. Snyder reviewed the steps which have been implemented to date, as follows:

- o St. Petersburg Street Outreach Team in place for 12 months; caused an increase in the number of chronic homeless removed from the street and a decrease in time spent on the street.
- o New overnight shelter beds/mats opened in St. Petersburg and Clearwater.

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- Service provider CEOs meet quarterly.
- Business Advisory Council in place.
- Coordinated discharge planning to keep people from coming out of jail homeless.
- Pinellas County and four cities are funding staff and operations for the Coalition and Network.
- New local funding for homeless prevention programs in 2007.

Additional discussion ensued, wherein Ms. Snyder provided a list of priorities for the future, including the following:

- Additional emergency shelter beds.
- Emphasis on the back end (low-income housing; permanent supported housing).
- More prevention activities and funding.
- Strengthening of the continuum (mobile services that allow for housing first).
- Enhanced funding and full utilization of the Tampa Bay Information Network for accountability and tracking.
- Development and implementation of a universal, integrated, centralized intake system to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Providing vocational training to decrease the reliance on day labor jobs.
- A shelter certification program.

Future Meeting Dates

Chairman Seel suggested meeting quarterly, rather than bi-monthly; and discussion ensued wherein it was the consensus of the members that beginning in June 2007, meetings will be held quarterly; whereupon, following discussion, Ms. Vleming indicated that she would look into the availability of the EpiCenter and the Hospice.

Other Business

At the request of Judge Sullivan, Commissioner Latvala provided a brief update on issues currently before the Legislature in Tallahassee.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Seel adjourned the meeting at 3:08 P.M.