

Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care
Membership Meeting
May 3, 2010
FWB Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

Attendees were Martin Fancher, Seventh Day Adventist Church; Donna Morgan and Glenn Porter, Bridgeway; Lenore Wilson, Lydia Barton, CC Fearson, Stephanie Yelverton, Della Goodson, Opportunity Inc. ; Emily Agricola, Catholic Charities; Roger Peadro, First Christian Church; Randy Fleming and Pat Franklin, DCF; Yvonne Franklin, First Presbyterian; John Parrott, Cynthia Hall, HOPE; Pat Ell, OCSD; Richard Enos, First Baptist; Beth Norton, NWFSC; Bill Garvie, Continuum; Lisa Jo Spencer, Fleet Spencer; Lynn Stephens OWCCS; Chris Levebre, 7th Day Adventist; Yvette Torry, S4P; Mike Anderson, City of Fort Walton Beach; Tom and Denise Buscavage, Community of Christ Church; Anthony Sawyer, Sharing and Caring; Rebecca Spencer, Salvation Army, Charles Sansom, Family of Faith, Jackie Pilcher, Pelican Real Estate/Krewe of Chameleons.

Martin Fancher called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Consent agent passed as presented. Lenore Wilson introduced our guest speaker, Beth Norton. Nursing instructor at

Beth has been working with the homeless many years. Definition of homeless was given. Homeless persons are stressed in some areas and don't pay attention to their medical needs. Three million individuals are homeless over the course of one year. Beth developed healthcare protocol for homeless people. All of these protocols were implemented at the Waterfront Rescue Mission. These protocols can be used anywhere in the country. The National Health Care for the Homeless Council reviewed these protocols and endorsed these and suggested all homeless shelters, soup kitchens adopt these.

Lenore Wilson covered Strategic Planning. She will write the Challenge Grant local request for proposal this week. The discussion moved forward to setting goals for Continuum. Topics covered were:

- Provide emergency shelter that will take burden off of churches during cold nights. Crestview opened 103 times this winter and FWB opened 50 times. Work with local governments to find locations for these shelters. Fresh Start is supposed to get a building for transitional housing. Referrals can be made to other charities. Catholic Charities is still exploring opening the women and children's shelter.
- HMIS should be active to all this summer. The League of Women Voters are going to interview all of the agencies who work with people in the community. Crisis Line via Bridgeway is a good source of information. Workforce Development Board also is a great resource.
- We are still on track to get a Vet Center here. Work with Public Housing to apply for more housing for veterans. Continue the Vet Stand Down each year.
- Get all of our service providers to adopt the health protocols that Beth developed. Dental Care is also a priority.

Committees: Emergency Shelter Grant, Lisa Jo Spencer, Lydia Barton, John Parrot, Yvonne Franklin, Bill Garvie, Richard Enos, and Charles Sansom.

Transitional Housing: Mary Ann Helfrich, Emily A, Debbie Buchanan, Pat Franklin,

Day Services: Bill Garvie, Ginny Barr, Stephanie, Donna Morgan, Lin Mack

Vets: Randy, Roger Fleming, Robert Vandenburg, Harvey Fearson, Kathy Magness, Della

Health: Beth Norton, Carrie Ziegler, Jim Wilson, Lydia Barton, Mary Ann Helfrich, Ginny Barr, Anthony Sawyer

Directors Report: Challenge Grant dollars need to know if agencies need the existing dollars and if not these funds can be reallocated. Need that by the June meeting. Children in Crisis has completed 80% of Opportunity Home.

Lydia said that everyone here has been overwhelmed for utility bills. Mary Anne at Fresh Start has a grant coming from United Way for utilities, rent and mortgages (one month). Funds should be thereby the end of May. Educate people to change out the filters in their air handlers. Tutoring at Opportunity Place T, W, H from 4-6. Vets appreciation for Vietnam vets Wednesday, May 5 at Saint Mary's. National Day of Prayer is Thursday May 6 FWB Auditorium.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.