

**OKALOOSA WALTON HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE/
OPPORTUNITY, INC.**

FWB Chamber of Commerce Building

June 1, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Ginny Barr (MHA), standing in for Chairman Nate Smith. Those present included:

Jackie Pilcher, OI Board; Janice Thomas, DCF; Randy Fleming, DCF; John Parrot, HOPE; JoAnn Gorsach, St. Simon's; Bill Garvie, FWB; Jan Palmgren, St. Simon's; Maryann Helfrich, Okaloosa Coalition; Debbie Buchanan, Children in Crisis; Tom Buscavage, Crestview Community of Christ; Gloria Battle, St. Simon's; Marietta Scheer, MHA; Lyn Mack, S4P Synergy; Carrie Ziegler, OCHD; Renee Crosby, Liberty Tax; Roger Peadro, First Christian Church; Butch McKay, OASIS; Jim Godwin, Pizza Pirate; Pat Franklin, DCF; Nate Smith; Yvonne Franklin, First Presbyterian Church; Lisa Jo Spencer, FWB Chamber; Judy Byrne Riley, WDB, Lenore Wilson, Executive Director.

The minutes were approved as presented. The Treasurer's Report was given by Ginnie Bar and approved.

Ten key items of the Annual Strategic Plans were presented individually and put up for vote for inclusion.

- 1) Make Opportunity Place fully functional, through securing funding and program management; *moved by Riley, seconded by Barr; passed unanimously*
- 2) Support veterans through a stand-down (complete with grant) and expansion of shelter beds for veterans; *moved by Battle, seconded by P. Franklin; passed unanimously*
- 3) Expand HMIS into a full, case management tool as well as a data tracking tool; *moved by Pilcher, seconded by Fleming; passed unanimously*
- 4) Expand Opportunity Health to cover more days of the week, add dental facilities; *moved by Battle; seconded by Pilcher; passed unanimously*
- 5) Support Children in Crisis in its efforts to provide transitional housing for youth aging out of foster care; *moved by Riley; seconded by Fleming; passed unanimously*
- 6) Support FRESH Start/ Okaloosa Coalition on the Homeless in any efforts to increase transitional housing for homeless working families; *moved by Pilcher, seconded by P. Franklin; passed unanimously*
- 7) Utilize Opportunity Place to expand supportive services such as access to mainstream benefits, case management, clothing closet and food pantry; *moved by Riley, seconded by Pilcher; passed unanimously*
- 8) Utilize homeless prevention/ rapid rehousing funds to help up to 150 families stabilize their housing situation; *moved by P. Franklin, seconded by Fleming; motion made to delete "up to 150" from the item; passed unanimously with deletion.*
- 9) Link with Jobs Plus and other recipients of economic stimulus packages to assist homeless families and individuals regain self-sufficiency; *moved by Riley, seconded by Pilcher; passed unanimously*

10) Expand Opportunity, Inc. network in Walton County. *Moved by Battle, seconded by Fleming; passed unanimously*

An additional item was moved to be included: Finalize formal protocols formalizing relationship with Okaloosa County Jail dealing with discharge of inmates awaiting adjudication or completing sentence, protocols which currently save the County thousands of dollars a year. *Moved by Riley; seconded by P. Franklin; passed unanimously*

Lenore gave out the details of the Grand Opening of OPPORTUNIY PLACE, which will be at noon on June 8th. Gloria Battle and Renee Crosby offered to join other volunteers that day to assist in whatever needs to be done. All are encouraged to attend.

The Challenge Grant was discussed with dates given of June 15th for agency requests to be into Lenore and July 9th for her to have the grant complete. All agencies were strongly urged to list *all* funds they expend on homeless programs to be used as leverage in the grant writing. Last year we were the lowest in the state and thus the low grant award amount to our area.

The Membership Drive has had minimum response from the public and all were asked to get the word out about joining, preferably committing to donate on a regular monthly basis with a specific amount which helps with financial planning.

Hot Button Issues:

- Lisa Jo Spencer reported that the FWB Chamber “Redirect your Generosity” Campaign has had some success if not much monetarily. Lenore reported an amount of \$200 received from the program.
- Bill Garvie gave a detailed report on his visit, along with Duane St. John, to Havenhouse. It was the consensus of the group that we cannot get involved in such a project at this time.
- It was noted that Lisa Jo Spencer is on the cover of *Emerald Coast Ladies Journal* for their June issue.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Byrne Riley
Member