

# Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care

## General Membership Meeting

June 14, 2010

FWB Chamber of Commerce

Attendees: Emily Agricola, Catholic Charities; Stephanie Bailey, Walton County Schools; Ginny Barr, Mental Health Association; Lydia Barton, Seventh Day Adventist and Opportunity, Inc.; Gloria Battle, St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal; Rev. Rob Bohnsack, First Presbyterian; Debbie Buchanan, Children in Crisis; CC Fearson, Opportunity, Inc.; Patricia Franklin, Department of Children and Families; Yvonne Franklin, First Presbyterian; Judi Gibson, First Baptist; JoAnn Gorsuch, St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal; Maryanne Helfrich, FRESH Start/ Okaloosa Coalition on the Homeless; Lin Mack, S4P Synergy; Valerie McLaughlin, Workforce Development Board; Dianne McManus, Opportunity, Inc.; Donna Morgan, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Brian Norback, Legal Services of North Florida; Jan Palmgren, St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal; Roger Peadro, First Christian Church; Ann Peebles, First Baptist Church; Jackie Pilcher, Pelican Realty; Jim Robbins, Gregg Chapel; Duane St. John, Opportunity, Inc.; Anthony Sawyer, Sharing and Caring; Nate Smith, Gregg Chapel; Lisa Jo Spencer, Chamber of Commerce and Fleet, Spencer Attorneys at Law; Ann Sprague, Community of Christ; Aimee Tabb, Shelter House; Robert VandenBerg, Workforce Development Board; Lenore Wilson, Opportunity, Inc.; Stephanie Yelverton, Sarah Yelverton, Opportunity, Inc.; Carolyn Ziegler, Okaloosa Health Department; Rebecca Zoeller, Legal Services of North Florida.

Nate Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Introductions were done by attendees. Correction to minutes not listed on day committee (Ann Peebles). Sarah Yelverton was introduced as the new bookkeeper for Opportunity, Inc.

Legal Services of North Florida. Brian Norback introduced himself and said they are a non-profit law firm. Rebecca Zoeller is new associate and was introduced. Office is 133 Staff Drive NE across from Health Dept. They have three attorneys and four support personnel. Firm is 32 years old. They work with low-income families, victims of domestic violence, and veterans. They get funding from federal government and various grants. Their mission is to represent those who cannot afford an attorney. Types of cases are varied – but they don't do any criminal law, class action law suits, etc. They work with Social Security cases on getting disability benefits. They also are representing people who are in foreclosure. Credit card defense (a senior citizen has had to use the credit card to survive is a good example). Income has to be 125% of the poverty level. Foreclosure litigation is funded by HUD. They receive an average of 50-60 applications per week. The office must determine what can be done with the resources they have. They can help military and their families who have been deployed. They also run fair housing clinics. 862-3279 is the phone number. The website is [www.lsnf.org](http://www.lsnf.org) or [www.floridalawhelp.org](http://www.floridalawhelp.org). Rebecca works with domestic violence victims (divorce, child custody, no contact, etc.).

Lenore Wilson gave the executive directors report. Strategic Planning committees are reporting. Veteran's Committee report was shared via Lenore as Randy Fleming, who chaired it, was absent. Vets can go to different agencies to make phone calls, etc. Want to get vets to the right places. Stand down funding is due in two weeks. The date is October 22 at First Presbyterian Church. Assisting homeless vets with legal issues. Vet hotline is available now. Initiate a standing committee to address vet hiring. It was moved and seconded to approve this committee's report. Motion passed.

Health Department Committee: Lenore also presented this report, as the chair, Beth Norton, was unable to attend. Opportunity Health ends in 2012. Looking for a way to further this program. Looking for funding sources. Fresh Start director is working with clinics in Crestview for sources. Homeless don't have place to store medication that needs refrigeration. Waterfront Rescue Mission may be a place to do this. Annual updates from the Health Department. Continue stand downs and giving flu shots. Will have a clinic for homeless with medical people who will donate their time. Referral sources for surgical services are also being investigated. Recruiting new cold night shelter volunteers. CPR/first aid certification is being offered August 21. Two sessions will be offered to anyone who volunteers with the homeless. Anthony Sawyer is helping with finding sources for medicine donations. Food safety committee is working to get procedures for soup kitchens arranged. Beth Norton continues to aid with these issues. Motion was made and seconded to accept this committee's report. Motion passed.

CC Fearson, Children and Families Committee will have its last meeting and will report at the next Continuum. Ginny Barr, supportive services, asked what was needed. The primary response was for assistance with photo IDs, including birth certificates. Laundry seems to be doing fine now. Next meeting is June 17 at 2:00 at Opportunity, Inc., Cloverdale office.

The Shelter Committee will hold its first meeting at Lisa Jo Spencer's office at noon on Wednesday, June 16.

Celebrated 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Mulhollow's. July 5, 2010 will be the first anniversary of Opportunity Place opening. The celebration will be from 1-5. Gulf Breeze Church donated some croquet sets, etc. We were helped by Senator Gaetz and Senator Peaden to keep our church kitchens open. Membership fees are used to do the administrative things that are necessary.

Hot Button Issues: Look at food calendar for Shelter. There are three evenings that are not taken for meals. Web site has been updated to be more streamlined. S4P is working to be an emergency center by renting a generator. July 24 is Community Festival at Striving for Perfection Ministries. Crossroads will have a dental screening on week of July 6 to get paperwork completed and the screenings will begin July 12. July 26 is Fritz's last day to cook at First Presbyterian Church. Community is invited to come at 11:00 AM. Horizon's Casino Night is Friday evening at the Ramada Inn.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

If you have additions or corrections to the minutes please email these to [Jackie@realpropertyrealfuture.com](mailto:Jackie@realpropertyrealfuture.com) so these can be added.