

Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care  
Membership Meeting, FWB Chamber of Commerce

October 5, 2009 – Minutes

Attendees: Nate Smith, President; Valerie McLaughlin, Jobs Plus; Lydia Barton, Opportunity Inc.; JoAnn Gorsuch, St. Simon's Episcopal; Mack Gay, Children in Crisis; James Johanson, Catholic Charities; Jennifer Pankow, COPE Center; Charity Johnson, COPE Center; Kristen Klein, Attorney General's Office; Butch McKay, Oasis; Jeff Ruscon, Oasis; Carrie Zeigler, OCHD; Lisa Jo Spencer, FWB Chamber/Fleet Spencer Kilpatrick; CC Fearson, Opportunity Place; Bill Garvie, FWB City Council; Keli Cummings, Opportunity Inc.; Gloria Battle, St. Simon's; Debbie Buchanan, Children in Crisis; Pat Bryant, Sharing and Caring; Richard and Jan Enos, First Baptist-FWB; Teresa Gomez OCF Family Safety; Ginny Barr, Mental Health Asso.; Aimee Tabb, Shelter House; Lenore Wilson, Opportunity Inc.; Jackie Pilcher, Krewe of Chameleons/Rosewood Realty

Nate Smith called the meeting to order at 3:28. Attendees introduced themselves. Nate asked for approval of the minutes. The motion was made and passed to approve the minutes from September 14, 2009.

2010 Census Report, Lenore Wilson. Lenore attended the meeting in Orlando and just returned. School systems are underreporting. Families won't report all of the income in order not to lose any benefits, i.e. Food Stamps, etc. Census is totally confidential and information isn't distributed. Looking for community partners. 2010Census.gov has forms available in order to secure items for your organization as long as both names are on these. Goal is to lessen the fear. If we don't count the homeless, the government will not know they are there and we won't get the funds for food stamps, Section 8, etc. All of these programs are based on the Census. March 29 is the date that Census will count everyone living in a shelter. They will go to the places that have soup kitchens. They will do an outdoor count. This is difficult to do as they move from place to place. January will be our annual point in time count.

Treasurer's Report: Ginny Barr. Report is attached and is a part of these minutes. Motion was made to accept this report. Motion passed.

Cold Night Status: FWB and Crestview – Days are filled. Meetings have begun. Nate explained what the cold night program provides. Seven FWB churches provide the space and meals for homeless individuals. Crestview has 6 churches participating so there is room for another church.

Homeless Prevention/Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) – Keli Cummings did a power point presentation. It's a temporary program. Helps people avoid homelessness and housing stability. Eligibility is reviewed every three months. Already have 150 applications. Contract was signed September 23. Money should be here on Thursday.

Earth, Wind, and Fire Outdoor kitchen Raffle. Sell tickets for 10.00 each.

Executive Directors Report, Lenore Wilson. Children in Crisis got a grant via Lenore for 560,000.00. Debbie Buchanan and Mack Gay explained what they will use these funds for. CIC is a Foster Care neighborhood on Hurlburt Field Road. Currently building a Transition Home for teens aging out of the foster care program. These are children/teens 18-24 years old. The new grant is for this program. Have to be foster care children who are aging out of the system and are under the direction of Joe Kennedy.

Theresa \_\_\_\_\_ lost her husband last week and asked that memorials be given to Opportunity Place. Stand Down is Sept. 16 at First Presbyterian Church. IDs are \$25.00 each. Dental work, flu shots, Jobs Plus, DVM, etc. United Way is funding flu shots for the non-vet community. Challenge Grant looks as if it will come the first of November. HMIS system is still not funded but was awarded in January of this year. HMIS grant is mainly for software. \$81,000+ for this grant. Administrative move is scheduled for mid-November. Still needs to be completed. We still need to get membership renewals collected.

Nate asked for hot button issues and members shared.

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM.

Next meeting is November 2, 3:30 at the FWB C of C.