

Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care

Membership Meeting

December 7, 2009

FWB Chamber of Commerce Board Room

Attending: Patricia Ell, School District; Jo Ann Gorsuch, St. Simons; Jack Daly, OWCCS; Gloria Battle, St. Simons; Judy Byrne Riley, WDB/UUFEC; Donna Morgan, BCI; Nate Smith, President Opportunity Inc.; Lydia Barton, Opportunity Inc.; Tarisa Durgis, guest; Ann Peebles, First Baptist; Aaron Thrush, Sharing and Caring; Anthony Sawyer, Sharing and Caring; Ginny Barr, MHA; Ann Sprague, Community of Christ; Carrie Ziegler, Okaloosa Cty. Health Dept.; Emily Agricola, Catholic Charities; Lin Mack, S4P, Synergy, Inc.; Lisa Jo Spencer, FSP/FWB Chamber; Beth Norton, Doctoral Student; Renee Crosby, Liberty Tax; Teresa Gomez, DCF; CC Fearson, Opportunity Place; Duane St. John, Opportunity, Inc. BOD; Roger Peadru, First Christian Church; Ann Wallace, Christ the King; Yvonne Franklin, First Presbyterian; Bill Garvie, City of FWB; Jackie Pilcher, Krewe of Chameleons; Donna Parish, DCF; Catherine Revai, DCF; Aimee Tabb, Shelter House; Michelle Sperzel, Shelter House.

Nate Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Each member introduced themselves.

Tarisa Durgin spoke to the group about her experiences as a resident of Opportunity Place. Tarisa's daughter is hearing impaired. Tarisa is a veteran. She doesn't have a car so she has been using the bus and also door-to-door service. She had medical problems and a special needs child. She needs surgery on both knees and both feet. Homelessness is difficult to describe if you haven't experienced it. You lose your self-esteem.

Power point will be used next month on how to use the calendar. Also, the different agencies will share what they provide and how we can get the resources people need.

Lenore gave her report and it is part of these minutes. They have the first draw of 90,000.00 and 90% is gone mainly to rent and utilities. The Challenge Grant (48,000.00) is in and Lenore is writing checks. If work occurred before the date of the contract, we cannot reimburse those expenses. It has to be documented to be reimbursed. The receipts have to be with the paperwork. Forty percent of the funds went to Crestview.

HUD Grant took Lenore 197 hours to complete. This grant funds homeless management software and the Independent Living Program that Donna Morgan runs via Bridgeway. We will be able to track people and where they have gone for help and what types of services they have received.

Lenore said they are moving the administrative offices next week. Staff party is this weekend at Lenore's house.

Eight year old sold ornaments during the open house. She raised 330.00 on her own.

Donna Morgan spoke about the programs she does with Bridgeway. They have 47 people on the waiting list that she believes they will be able to help. Corrie McPherson is screening people M-W and Friday. Donna will get information to be attached to these minutes.

Nate asked each member for their hot button issues and these were discussed. Christmas Party for the homeless is Christmas Eve at First Christian Church. First Presbyterian will hold the next meeting Dec. 14. Catholic Charities has money for utilities but not rent. Christian Pep Rally Dec. 19 at the FWB Landing from 3-5 PM. MHA takes care of 600 people during Christmas.