

Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care

Stakeholders Meeting

January 9, 2012. Jobs Plus City Plaza Room

Attendance:

Judy Byrne Riley, Chair
Duane St. John, Vice-Chair
Virginia Glynn Barr, Mental Health Association
Gloria Battle, St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal
Denise Buscavage, Community of Christ
Tom Buscavage, Community of Christ
Adrienne Carr, Fresh Start
Kevin Crystal, COPE 211
Rev. Rod Debs, Unitarian Universalist
Brian Ekedahl, Waterfront Rescue Mission
Pat Ell, Okaloosa County Schools
CC Fearson, Opportunity, Inc.
Joni Flanagan, St. Peter's Catholic Church
Pat Franklin, Department of Children and Families
Yvonne Franklin, First Presbyterian Church, FWB Cold Night Coordinator
Candy Galindo, FWB Police Department
Cindy Gates, Choctawhatchee High School
Nelly Getz, Families Count
Della Goodson, Opportunity Inc. Crestview
Mary Hauge, St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church
Maryanne Helfrich, Fresh Start
Sam Hayes, Niceville Cold Night Coordinator
Ken LaPee, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
Lin Mack, S4P Synergy
Judy Manning, Children in Crisis
Butch McKay, OASIS
Valerie McLaughlin, Workforce Development Board
Donna Morgan, Bridgeway Center, Inc.
Phyllis Morgan, HUD VASH
Beth Norton, DNP, Northwest Florida State College, Department of Health Sciences
Roger Peadro, First Christian Church
Ann Peebles
Ellen Pepler, Lakeview Center
Jackie Pilcher, Pelican Realty
Robin Reich, JobsPlus
Richard Rian, concerned citizen (and wife)
Charles Sansom, Family of Faith
Anthony Sawyer, Sharing and Caring
J. Schlater, FWB Police Department
Ashley Siner, Taco Bell
Michelle Sperzel, Shelter House
Ann Wallace, Christ the King Episcopal, Santa Rosa Beach
Roberta Welch, Children in Crisis
Dick Westberry, St. Andrews by the Sea Episcopal Church

Lenore Wilson, Opportunity, Inc.
Sarah Yelverton, Opportunity, Inc.
Carolyn Ziegler, Department of Health

Judy Byrne Riley welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New Year and then members introduced themselves. Consent agenda was approved.

Richard Rian gave a presentation on transportation. The buses are on fixed routes. He went to meet with the powers that be and discussed how we could transport the homeless to soup kitchens and cold night shelters. In Okaloosa County there are about 100,000 who use this system a year. They want to increase ridership. Barry Peterson will look at fixed routes and where they go and if the homeless can utilize this service. Vet Services was contacted and there are no funds available for this. 100,000 homeless veterans are out there. Some vets have been disqualified for benefits and are being re-evaluated. Mistaken position of who the homeless are. Richard sent an email to the retired officers group that is nationwide. He got a response saying that they are going to look into this. The Crestview Bulletin did an article on the cold night shelters in Crestview. The routes are in place and the flex route is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. Judy suggested we get a committee together to help organize this.

Kevin Crystal, 211, asked for us to thank Lenore. This is a designation for information and referral for crisis. This is used during hurricanes, for example. There are 300 agencies in their data base. Programs must be added. Set up a call center and this should be ready in Walton County in March. If your agency is located in Okaloosa county but serve people in Walton County. Information must be accurate according to the mandate. They will be testing it for the next two weeks. System will interface with HMIS. Kevin is employed by the Cope Center. \$ 70,000.00 per year to have this system. They have the capability to track data. People who call in and say they are homeless and need transportation, 211 can identify unmet needs.

Follow-up on the homeless Summit Wednesday at the Chamber at 11:30. Ann Tucker sent an email to Lenore about the Muscogee Creek Indians saying they are now up for serious consideration to be recognized as a Nation.

Lenore said that we had gotten into committees to update the strategic plan. Shelter House is doing classes on money management and budgeting. They have people who can offer financial advice. Backpack program has taken off. Tutoring services are offered to homeless children.

Prescription services partnership with the Health Department and Sharing and Caring. This program will be operational very soon.

Steve Hopkins gave an update on HMIS. Data has been checked and they are working on ways to improve the data via input. Seven agencies have scan cards.

Cold night program in FWB opened 16 times. Christmas party was at Seventh Day and they were allowed to spend the night if they wanted.

Ashley Siner reviewed the plans for the Harlem Ambassadors and asked for help with sponsorships and ticket sales.

Lenore reviewed the forms for the Point in time count. She also said that we should contact Greg Evers about easing the barriers to obtaining state-IDs, in an effort to assist the homeless in getting jobs, housing banks, etc., and to make it simpler for the elderly and students to vote. As always, contact any and all representatives and senators concerning funding for homeless this session.

Judy asked for hot button issues. We adjourned at 5 PM.