

Minutes of the Prevention & Self-Sufficiency Subcommittee

August 2, 2007, 8:15 a.m., Conference room at the law offices of Diego “Woody” Rodriguez

Members present:

Diego “Woody” Rodriguez (Chair); Pastor William Andrews; Rabbi Steven Engel; Dr. Brededette Hardy-Blake; Evelyn Herrera-Jackson; Paul Partyka.

Members absent:

None.

Staff present:

Yvonne Vassel and Donna Wyche,

Mr. Rodriguez began the meeting by welcoming everyone and telling a little about himself. He said that, although relatively new to living in Central Florida, he was dedicated to it as his long-term home and determined to make things better. Dr. Hardy-Blake told of her work with the Seminole Public schools, her recruitment of staff for the school system and her recognition of the issues children face as students when they are homeless; Ms. Herrera-Jackson spoke of her work with different populations as a counselor and her involvement with programs that serve the homeless; Paul Partyka recounted his family’s history as immigrants from Eastern Europe, and the variety of professional experiences he has had which he hopes will assist the subcommittee and the commission in drafting a good plan; Rabbi Engel spoke of the congregation he leads and his interest in finding new methods of tackling homelessness; Pastor Andrews gave an overview of his life which included several years as an addict and homeless person and his continuing work as a pastor with the homeless.

The discussion moved to the scheduling of future meetings and it was agreed the committee would strive to meet twice monthly. All meetings will continue to be held at Mr. Rodriguez’ office, as all agreed it was an easy location for them to get to. (The meeting dates and times are attached).

The committee discussed areas of focus and chose the following: Chronic mental/physical disability; chronic substance abuse; and domestic violence. It also decided to focus on how those affect: teens, the elderly, and veterans. The committee asked for information on the estimated number of homeless teens in Central Florida.

The staff was asked to assist with getting information on the “Arch Program” out of Phoenix, AZ. All members were asked to think of organizations that can be a resource for the committee.

Discussion then focused on the committee’s goal of creating a “Best Practices Package” for prevention and self-sufficiency by looking at programs operating elsewhere.

The committee assigned itself the task of better defining: What is self-sufficiency and prevention.

It was suggested that the committee hear from the executive director of the Coalition for the Homeless. The staff will arrange that with Brent Trotter.

There was also a suggestion that the staff bring back some information on the ARCH program in Phoenix, Arizona.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 a.m.

2007 Meeting Dates for the Prevention & Self-Sufficiency Subcommittee

All meetings will be from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

- **Wednesday, Aug. 29**
- **Wednesday, Sept. 19**
- **Tuesday, October 2**
- **Monday, October 15**
- **Monday, October 29**
- **Monday, November 19**
- **Thursday, November 29**
- **Monday, December 10**
- **Wednesday, December 19**