

# Central Florida Commission on Homelessness

## Prevention Committee Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2008

Heart of Florida United Way  
Dr. Nelson Ying Center, Orlando, FL

### Members Present:

Chairman Gary Earl, Interim Executive Director, Yvonne Vassel; Karen Broussard, John Cooper, Vicki Kilroy, Lt. Deanne Adams, Larry Olness and Carol Wick.

### Members Absent:

Pastor Paul Hoyer and Donna Wyche

### Guests:

Gary Langford- Principal Northhighland Consulting Group  
Catherine Brown-Butler- Bank of America (recommended by CFCH Chair, Ed Timberlake)

### I. Welcome and Introductions

- Chairman Gary Earl welcomed all in attendance and asked members to introduce themselves and provide a brief description of what they do.
- Yvonne Vassel provided a brief overview of the Commission's priorities for the Prevention Committee and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss what the Committee needs to target.

### II. A look at Strategic Imperatives process (Northhighland)

- Gary Langford informed the Committee that their group will be present during all Commission and working committees meetings to gather solutions and feedbacks as a group and that the priorities will be to document processes and provide measures whether we are on track. The Commission's Strategic Imperatives/Objectives plan developed by Northhighland was distributed and discussed among members.

### III. Discussion of Prevention Priorities

- Karen Broussard, Director of Program Development of Jewish Family Services expressed that the Committee needs to look at what needs to be done with people with various situations, such as, assisting them for just 1-2 months and other criteria. Broussard recently presented The Family Stabilization Program during the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness meeting of May 15, 2008. Copy of the presentation will be made available to the members of the Committee.
- Carol Wick, CEO of Harbor House expressed domestic violence clients are overwhelming her agency with rent and utility payments. She also said that her agency is in need of a more centralized system where they should be able to assess and screen people- to help us see who needs what and how we can get it.
- Catherine Butler-Brown expressed that the targeted audience at Bank of America are people who are at the door of homelessness- people living paycheck to paycheck; people on credit counseling programs, etc.
- Group agreed there is a need to educate the churches and other groups to take an inventory of who is being assisted, how often and for what purpose. Carol Wick suggested sending assessment letters to all the churches and non profits on this matter.

- Vicki Kilroy from Orange County Human Resources Offices recommended the Committee to plan and figure out who is doing what in the community, as some agencies overlap in services.
- Group suggested drafting an initial list of providers, broken down into various categories (faith-based, government offices, etc.) depicting the amount of money invested into the community and from whom funds are being received. An on-line survey was suggested.
- Larry Olness, VP Community Services/ 2-1-1 of Heart of Florida United Way informed the Committee that United Way has a tracking system that is shared with various other agencies, such as Jewish Family Services, where it can be known if clients visit various agencies for Emergency Food & Shelter Program and Emergency Neighborhood Funds. "On the other hand, a lot of other agencies are not defined and are not within our network database", Larry said.
- During review and discussion of the Strategic Imperatives/Objectives Plan, Wick suggested including Domestic Violence clients as another population group. Wick to send complete description to be added to Yvonne Vassel. Vassel also recommended the Committee to send any other particular items they'd like to have added to the plan to her at [ten2end@hfuw.org](mailto:ten2end@hfuw.org).
- Vassel stated that there is a need to create an action plan relative to the Committee's priorities.
- Chairman Gary Earl suggested the Committee should clarify what falls under prevention practices.
- Chairman Gary Earl recommended members be prepared to look at topics they should discuss during the next meeting.
- Vassel to send electronic copy of the CFCH program initiatives to committee members.
- John Cooper from DCF recommended the members to bring in other folks into the Committee. Vassel encouraged the Committee to do the same.

#### **IV. Other business**

- Vassel announced to the Committee that Ray Larsen was selected as the new Executive Director of the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness. Mr. Larsen is expected to take hold of his position on July, 2008.

#### **V. Meeting Schedule**

- Chairman Gary Earl and Vassel asked members to send all days of when they will not be available during the month of July, in order to set up a meeting date for this particular month. Suggestions to be sent to [ten2end@hfuw.org](mailto:ten2end@hfuw.org).
- The next meeting will occur on Monday, June 23, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. (Jill Klemm Room) at Heart of Florida United Way.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

- There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.
- Chairman Gary Earl thanked all for their participation.