

Minutes of the Housing Subcommittee

December 4, 2007, 8:30 a.m., Asbury Theological Seminary

Members present: Krissy Todd, Chair; Cara Eule; Keylor Chan and Steve Kodsi.

Members absent: Brian Wilson and Tom Griffin.

Staff present: Yvonne Vassel, staff coordinator; Andy Rosario, Osceola County; Rob Heenan and Buddy Balagia, Seminole County.

The minutes of the October 16, 2007 and November 6, 2007 meetings were approved.

Discussion focused on estimating the costs of the four strategies that have been agreed to as the recommendations of the Housing Committee. They are:

1. Establish a local Homeless Housing Trust to facilitate the development of housing and housing options for the homeless and precariously housed
2. Implement rapid re-housing of homeless persons within their communities by developing sufficient capacity to serve those in need
3. Spearhead the development of affordable housing for the homeless and low-income residents of Central Florida
4. Reduce barriers preventing the homeless from obtaining housing

Members expressed their uncertainty with calculating costs over a 10-year period. Todd said that, for example, the rapid rehousing of homeless persons would likely cause a reduction in the number of needed shelter beds. The cost of providing emergency shelter would likely fall as less beds are needed.

Discussion also focused on how the provision of increased rental assistance could affect the need for housing. The staff of Osceola and Seminole counties said they would find out how much each county budgets for this type of assistance.

Tentative estimates for each strategy were developed, and Todd asked each member to take a close look at the recommendations and cost estimates so they could be finalized at the next meeting.

The next Housing Committee meeting – initially scheduled for December 18, 2007, 8:30 a.m., -- was later cancelled. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

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