

# Central Florida Commission on Homelessness

## Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2008

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

### Members Present:

Interim Executive Director, Yvonne Vassel; Housing Committee Chair, Steve Kodsi; Robert Ansley, Mitchell Glasser, Andy Rosario and Brent Trotter

### Members Absent:

Carmen Dominguez, Paul P. Partyka and Michael Wenger

### Guests:

Gary Langford and Fran Korosec, North Highland Consulting Group

### I. Welcome and Introductions

- Central Florida's Commission on Homelessness Interim Executive Director, Yvonne Vassel, welcomed all in attendance and asked members to introduce themselves.

### II. Feedback on issues discussed at previous meeting

- Yvonne Vassel informed the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness agreed that 24/7 centers are needed. At least 4 were recommended to the CFCH (one at the east, and downtown areas). Issues to consider: serving meals, costs, etc.
- Brent Trotter advocated for a 24/7 operational center for the male population where they can participate in a program that will provide a residential setting, such as, sleeping, showers, meal, rehabilitation, job counseling, adult education, detox, etc. "It's a program that they'll have everything, not just a meal and go to the streets", Trotter said. Cooperative efforts with churches are being coordinated; CRC will be a partnership.
- Mitchell Glasser requested clarification of item 2 of the Priorities List for the Housing Committee.....Item 2) Examine current shelter & housing policies to promote changes that allow easier access by a wide range of the homeless. Yvonne Vassel responded that the Commission needed to know what the policies were and if there is anything we can do to loosen them a little. As an example, Vassel mentioned that there are stringent guidelines where boys older than 10 or 12yrs are not allowed to be in the same residence-shelter with other members of the opposite sex. There are also issues with unmarried couples, same sex couples and same sex couples with kids.

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

- Gary Langford provided copies of a chart with recommended communication mechanisms the Commission and Committees may use to articulate their strategies, objectives and metrics.
- He also demonstrated a diagram of the transitional flow of homeless individuals going from unsheltered to sheltered to permanent housing.

#### **IV. Discussion of Housing Priorities**

- Vassel said the Regional Central Florida Commission on Homelessness would like the Housing First program be expanded.
- Andy Rosario informed that there are no shelters in Osceola County; nonetheless, they do have transitional housings directed towards drug users and domestic violence victims.
- Mitchell Glasser informed that Seminole County has transitional housing and that we should focus on working with Osceola County to create shelters.
- Steve Kodsi emphasized the need to identify our customers to get more emergency shelters/units in Osceola County. He also said that we need to tap into landlords, developers, apartment associations and builders capable of providing units and get the information out.
- Robert Ansley recommended the Committee to create a strategy plan to place people in locations.
- The group concurred there should be case management when housing is provided.
- Vassel recommended the Committee to form working groups to discuss plans and “get going”. She also informed the Committee that Heart of Florida United Way is going to be the fiduciary entity for the Commission. “Any monies can come to the Commission for the Commission to use through United Way. We will also need to look at possible funding streams”, Vassel said.

#### **V. Other business**

- Yvonne Vassel provided general update to the Committee on the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness meeting held on 5/15/08, as well as informed that the interview process of the Executive Director position has finalized; selected candidate to be announced during June.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

- There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

**REMINDER: Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2008; 3:30 pm**