

**Governor's Council for Community Health Partnerships**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 19, 2005**

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Jacqueline Nicholson, Bob Palin, Pierre Rodriguez, Anna Cohen, Selma Verse, Jane Irion, Jack Holcomb, Bert Tamarkin, Joseph Peters, Elivio Serrano, Marcia Wagshol, Dr. Delores Turner

**Staff Present:** Jeanette Hartzell, Walter Pasinski

**Absent:** Michael Monnette, Dr. Yvette LaClaustra, Tenna Wiles, Judith Kouba, Dr. Fred Alfele, Ann V. Miller, Tara Finnigan, Ethel Ceasar-Lomax

**Guest Speakers:** Gerri Penney, Program Manager-PBC Drowning Prevention Coalition  
Linda Pasinski, Program Strategy Manager (Beacon Centers)-CSC

**Invited Guests:** Delores Brown, Principal-Barton Elementary School  
Regina Durandisse, Director-Barton Elementary School Beacon Center  
Barbara G. Green, Jewish Community Center

**I. Call to Order**

President, Pierre Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM. He had Bud introduce Principal Brown and the Beacon Center Director, "Reggie" Durandisse who offered a welcome dance performance by first grader Rashia (Raven) MonReau. Board members then introduced themselves to the group.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

In the absence of Secretary Tara Finnigan, Pierre mentioned that the minutes from the May 2005 meeting were E-mailed to each member and asked for any additions or corrections. It was moved by Jack and seconded by Pierre to accept the minutes (which will also be posted on [www.gcpartnerships.org](http://www.gcpartnerships.org)), as written. The motion was passed unanimously.

**III. Treasurer's Report**

Bud presented the report, pointing out that \$9,980 remains in the Council Fund, after paying for the 2004 financial audit and covering all expenses for the Council's annual meeting.

**IV. Annual Meeting Report/Critique**

Selma discussed the Executive Committee critique of this year's annual meeting, which had the best attendance ever recorded. Pierre again thanked Jacquie for arranging sponsorship from Boca Raton Community Hospital, which saved the Council almost \$1,400 in hotel expenses. Additionally, Selma mentioned the \$760 raised by auctioning the table centerpieces, contributed by the Delray Medical Center, was donated to the Summer Camp Scholarship Program. The Council agreed that, with Dr. Clyde McCoy as guest speaker, this had been one of the most successful events in the Council's corporate memory.

**V. Report from the Advocacy Committee**

In Tara's absence, Jeanette discussed the first meeting of the Advocacy Committee, noting that the committee had identified physical activity in schools (as a way to control childhood obesity) and diabetes prevention as two issues of possible focus for the committee's purpose and future actions. The next committee meeting had already been scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM in the Lantana Health Center, at which Dr. Marsha Fishbane has agreed to share some of her perspectives on current issues from her position as PBCHD School Health Director. Jeanette asked the Council if there were any additional members who would like to join the Advocacy Committee. Dr. Turner and Joe Peters asked that their names be added to the list of committee members. Pierre and Jacquie also expressed an interest in participating at committee meetings on an *ad hoc* basis.

## **VI. Update on the Summer Camp Scholarship Program**

Jack presented a brief history of SCSP, noting that the program had begun 11 years ago with 150 campers in the first group. Surveys of eligible families had indicated that the primary concern of parents was to provide their children with a safe environment to participate in summer camp activities. This year SCSP has provided funding to support 1,416 campers, with 295 eligible kids left on the waiting list. The two major tasks to accomplish in eliminating the waiting list are: 1. Identifying additional designated camp sites and 2. Raising sufficient additional funding to provide scholarships for all eligible camp applicants. Jane asked about marketing efforts to raise funds and attract more camp sites, as well as whether consideration had been given to recruiting and training teenage volunteers to supplement camp staff and reduce camp counselor salary costs. She also inquired whether half-day camps might allow wider participation by more eligible kids. She said that these options could be examined by the Communications Committee to make some recommendations that might help reduce the SCSP waiting list. Anna Cohen asked to join the Communications Committee and to assist in these tasks. The next committee meeting date will be scheduled during the week of August 15-19.

## **VII. Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC – Request for Initiative Status**

Gerri Penney made a detailed presentation using statistical graphs and charts of drowning fatalities over the past ten years regarding community water safety needs in Palm Beach County, also describing the programs and activities of the Drowning Prevention Coalition in their efforts to meet these needs. Bud asked her to explain exactly what it was that she wanted from the Council. Gerri responded that she requests the Council to adopt the Drowning Prevention Coalition as a formal initiative in order to receive and disburse donated funds in support of the coalition's community water safety education programs. Jack introduced a motion to accept the Drowning Prevention Coalition as a GCCHP initiative. Bud seconded the motion and, after brief discussion, the Council voted unanimously to approve it. Bob Palin volunteered to act as Board Liaison in support of the DPC initiative.

## **VIII. Other Discussion**

Jeanette explained that new policy regarding administration of DOH volunteer programs now requires that Council members be individually registered as Health Department volunteers rather than as a group, to cover Board members for liability. She noted that all Council members would each need to complete the new individual volunteer application form along with providing two completed personal reference form to be filed in their individual volunteer folders in the Community Health Partnerships office. Blank copies of these forms were provided. Jeanette also requested that completed copies of the annual Board survey form, which had been distributed at the annual meeting in May, be returned to her for review and analysis to determine the need for any changes/improvements in the ways Board operations are managed. This will also be used by the Executive Committee to plan for the fall Board workshop.

## **IX. Beacon Program Presentation**

Linda Pasinski presented a brief but comprehensive history and current status of Beacon Centers in Palm Beach County. The concept of the Beacon Center is to provide a "one-stop-shopping" source for a wide variety of local social services in support of disadvantaged youth, families and neighborhoods, with local public schools as the "Beacon" for implementing provision of these services. The Beacon Center is a partnership among local schools, community based organizations and a community advisory council to provide academic, social recreational and cultural activities which assist youth, parents and neighbors to create support systems leading to optimal youth development, academic enrichment, healthy family functioning and neighborhood leadership building and growth. The Beacon program was started in New York City in 1991, which now has over 80 centers in operation. Palm Beach County initiated Beacons in 2001 and has grown to 12 centers. The program has been replicated in California and the Virgin Islands.

**X. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM to begin a tour of the Beacon Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Finnigan, Esq.  
Secretary (Not present at meeting)

Walter Pasinski (Note taker)  
Administrative Assistant I