

Governor's Council for Community Health Partnerships
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2009

Attendance:

Present: Susan Dyess, Ann Faraone, Sandra Gerber, Jane Irion, Deanna Lessard, Bob Palin, Joe Peters, Linda Roman, Bert Tamarkin, Selma Verse and Keith Rizzardi (by phone).

Staff: Erica Whitfield, Susanne Casey and Karen Christie

Absent: Dr. Fred Alfele, Cynthia Boggs, Tara Finnigan, Dr. Yvette LaClaustra, Pat Lord, Kathy Munz, Jacquie Nicholson, Pierre Rodriguez, Jacqueline Rogers, Marcia Wagshol, and Jean Wicken

Guest: Audrey Norman, Director, UF/IFAS Extension – Palm Beach County

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Selma Verse. Meeting participants introduced themselves.

II. Minutes

Bud Tamarkin moved that the minutes from November be accepted as written. Bob Palin seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report

- Bud Tamarkin submitted the Program Balances, Auxiliary Account Balances, and Revenue & Disbursements Reports from January to be included in the minutes of the 1/27/09 meeting.
- He advised that the Council Fund is now at \$3,921.35. This amount will cover the cost of the annual audit, but not the \$874 cost of Directors and Officers insurance. There is no funding for the annual meeting.
- The Governor's Council has submitted a grant application to Bank of America to secure administrative funding. A decision on the grant will be made in February.
- Erica Whitfield advised that there will be no fee income to the Governor's Council from the Tooth Fairy (Dental Van) project. The Dental Van project funding of \$430,000 will be received and paid out so quickly that little interest income will be generated.
- Summer Camp funding of \$50,000 was received from McCormick Foundation in January.
- The causes of the low funding level this year versus earlier years are a lower amount of capital on which to earn interest and extremely low interest rates.
- Susan Dyess moved that the Treasurer's Report for January be accepted as submitted. Bob Palin seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Executive Committee

Relationship of the Governor's Council and the Health Department

- Selma thanked Keith Rizzardi for joining the meeting by phone and for his provision of pro bono legal assistance.
- As background, the Governor's Council was formed by Governor Lawton Chiles in 1993 under HRS. In 1996, the Health Department separated from HRS and the statutory language to allow the Health Department to be associated with a 501(c)(3) was not put into place. This was not discovered until Spring of 2008. The legislation to allow the Health Department to have a 501(c)(3) will be considered in the 2009 Spring legislative session. Until this

- legislation is passed, a Memorandum of Agreement will be needed to cover the relationship between the Health Department and the Governor's Council.
- The Memorandum of Agreement has not been signed to date pending resolution of the issue of volunteer status and sovereign immunity for the Board through the Health Department.
 - Erica will advise the Board how the new statute is being handled.
 - Erica has found Directors and Officers insurance for \$874. This is a new expense that will provide protection for the Board during the interim period until the legislation is passed. Erica will check with HG Holdam to determine if there is a shorter term for the Directors and Officers insurance than one year.
 - At the September Governor's Council Board meeting, it was suggested that the Governor's Council take leadership role of targeting chronic disease throughout the county. It has been determined that the Governor's Council should continue to work on initiatives in community health rather than taking on the leadership role. However, the Governor's Council could take on the development of the chronic disease group as an initiative.
 - Selma advised that after the legislature votes on the statute, the Board can determine whether they will move the Board under the Health Department.
 - The Health Department is currently working on a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant application to secure funding for a coordinator and training costs focused on childhood obesity. The Health Department plans to begin working on the initiative regardless of whether the grant funding is received. The Health Department will be submitting other grants. The Health Department needs a group that can take on the non-Health Department aspects of health. Dr. Malecki envisions a community board that will get involved in health issues. The Governor's Council may create the community board as an initiative. It was noted that the Wellness Promotion Group also focuses on community health for the county. The Health Department has other needs once the chronic illness group is established. The Health Department will be invited to the next Board meeting to discuss goals. The Health Department will submit an initiative to the Governor's Council in March.
 - Selma asked for a vote to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the Health Department, to purchase the Directors and Officers insurance for one year and to consider the upcoming initiative from the Health Department. The vote in favor was unanimous.

By-laws Committee

Selma asked for volunteers to participate on the by-laws committee. Since there were no volunteers, Selma will follow-up with Board to secure participation.

Resignations

Selma advised that Cynthia Boggs, Jean Wicken and Kathy Munz had tendered their resignations and asked for a motion to accept the resignations. Bud Tamarkin moved that the resignations be accepted, Jane Irion seconded the motion. The motion was accepted unanimously. Thank you letters will be sent in gratitude for their service to the Board.

V. Nutrition Trends in Palm Beach County

- Audrey Norman, the Director of Cooperative Extension advised that Cooperative Extension is part of USDA. The focus of the agency is on the importance of food and nutrition in the US. The Nutrition Policy of the USDA is "My Pyramid".
- Palm Beach County does not have policies that support the pyramid. If every American complied with the pyramid, agriculture could not support the demand. The US has put effort into protein sources and grain.
- Palm Beach County is the 3rd or 4th largest agricultural county in the US. There is a survey every 5 years in Palm Beach County to identify the number of farms (e.g. one acre with \$1,000 in generated income and larger).. The current number of farms is around 150. Many are parts of large farm conglomerates that have farms in Palm Beach County and in other locations. There is only 2000 in the agricultural reserve for the county out of a total of

500,000 acres. The reserve is located between Lantana Road and the County Line west of 441.

- The largest part of the farm bill is the funds allocated to food stamps and subsidies for food. The smallest allocation in the farm bill is for research. Feed stocks are now going for bio-fuels.
- The challenges to farming are land availability, the cost of land, weather conditions, fuel, regulations, fertilizer, transportation, insects/disease and research dollars.
- In the US, farms must be very large to be profitable.
- People now want to know where their food comes from and how fresh it is. Food from outside the US must be labeled.
- Currently, farmers are moving toward providing “value added” products. More growers are becoming involved in packaging to add to the price they can charge for their produce. This trend costs the consumer more but adds value to the grower. With produce being sliced, diced, shredded and served with dip, there is a risk of decreased nutrition. This is a case of trading convenience for food safety, cost and nutrition.
- This is one of the wealthiest counties in Florida and the US, but there are pockets of poverty. One in every five children in the county are at risk of some hunger.
- Many people are thinking of growing their own food. There is a trend not seen in 50 years with renewed interest in the community, faith-based groups and individuals. Community gardens are being attempted in low income communities. These work well when there is real structure and oversight involved with the garden. This does not work with loosely organized volunteer groups.
- The requests for food stamps (SNAP) volume increased by 30% in June in Palm Beach County. On average, individuals receive SNAP for a little over 2 years.
- Local hotels are looking for locally grown produce. They are trying to save on the cost of transportation and changing menus to accommodate local produce.
- There are health issues in Palm Beach County related to food and nutrition..
 - Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the adults are overweight or obese. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of the adults in Palm Beach County get no exercise and 79% get no vigorous exercise. The USDA is supporting worksite wellness (the School Board and FPL) encouraging individuals to walk 10,000 steps a day.
 - There are increasing numbers of overweight children with associated diseases such as diabetes and depression. Physical Education programs are also being cut from schools.
 - There is a lack of health insurance and the cost of medication is high. Families are making the choice of medication or food.
- Iowa grows the most organic food in the US. The definition of organic is that the field must lay fallow for 3 years and that there must be a buffer area between the organic patch and the nearest field that uses fertilizer. In Florida, there are no organic products. This is due to the impact of hurricanes with 40 miles of drift. There are some hydroponic growers in Florida.
- The USDA is working to deliver a consistent message focused primarily on children and their families:
 - Walk more and eat less
 - Eat fruits and vegetables
 - Cook with family and friends, eat together, talk together
 - Make mealtime fun
 - Make meals and memories together
 - Let children learn about sizes by serving themselves
 - Take the time to learn to “like” foods (such as broccoli)
 - Patience works better than pressure in changing/creating good habits
 - Have fruits and vegetables available for snacks
 - Serve fat-free and low fat dairy products
 - Eat smart, play hard and drink milk at meals

- Selma thanked Audrey for her presentation..

VI. Committee Reports

1. Nominating Committee

- Joe Peters (chairman), Susan Dyess, Bud Tamarkin, Jackie Rogers and Linda Roman comprise the nominating committee for 2009-2010.
- In addition to determining the slate of officers, the nominating committee will be actively seeking new members.
- Particular under-represented areas include hotels and cultural diversity.
- Board members were asked to forward any nominations for the nominating committee to Erica Whitfield who will forward them to Joe Peters.

2. Annual Meeting Committee

- Deanna Lessard (chair), Jane Irion, Susan Dyess and Karen Christie comprise the Annual Meeting Committee for 2009.
- The Committee will meet following the conclusion of the Board meeting.
- There is no money to provide funding for the activities at this year's meeting.
- Ann Faraone advised that the Safe Schools facility in Boca might be available and the culinary students might be available to provide refreshments.
- It was noted that Deanna Lessard has previously suggested charging a nominal fee to attend the meeting.
- Jane advised that printing could be limited and invitations sent by email.
- The date for the meeting will tentatively be set in May.
- Suggestions for a speaker included Jeff Koons, County Commissioner, who is involved in Homelessness or the new Director of United Way, TBA.

3. Summer Camp Scholarship Program Sub-Committee

- Ann Faraone volunteered to take on the chairpersonship of the committee.

VII. Gleaning

- The scheduled date for the Governor's Council to go gleaning is February 28th.
- The gleaning activity begins at 8:30AM at a farm in Belle Glade. Gleaners will need to leave for Belle Glade around 7:00AM.
- Erica will send an email to Board members to ask whether they will be participating. Only 30 people can participate since other groups are included in the activity.
- It was noted that publicity for the event was not needed since gleaning dates are booked far in advance.
- More details will be provided as they become available

VIII. Dental Van

- Erica is currently compiling final quotes from Patterson Dental (dental equipment) and Armour Mobile (van) for the Dental Van.
- Once the quotes are received, Erica will work with the Fisher Foundation to ensure that the Memorandum of Agreement covering funding and the payment schedule to the vendors are synchronized.
- Tara Finnigan (GCCHP) and Vickie Coleman-Miller (PBCHD) will review the Memorandum of Agreement prior to signing.
- The current plan calls for having the van in the county by September 2009.

IX. Other Discussion

- Initiatives
 - Homelessness – Jon van Arnem the Homelessness Advisory Board, advised that they may want the Governor’s Council to become the fiscal agent for the program since they can not take donations. They are discussing opening a center near St. Mary’s as a resource center for medical service and temporary housing (a day or two). They currently have one assessment center on Australian Avenue that is run by The Lord’s Place and helps the homeless with food stamps, health insurance and lodging.
 - Department of Senior Services (DOSS) – Erica advised that the initiative from the Department of Senior Services should be ready for presentation at the March meeting.
- Website
 - Jack Holcomb will train Susan Dyess and Erica Whitfield on website maintenance.
 - Bob Palin will continue to receive any email directed to the site and forward it on to Erica and Susan.
- Pro-bon legal Support
 - Keith Rizzardi and Tara Finnigan are currently providing pro bono legal support for the Governor’s Council.
 - Keith’s name will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee for consideration as a Board member.
- 10-year Plan for Homelessness
 - The 10-year Plan for Homelessness was distributed to Board members as information.
- Speaker for the next meeting
 - Erica and Selma will determine the speaker for the next meeting. It is anticipated that it will be one or more initiative presentations.
 - Ann Faraone advised that she can provide a speaker on Wellness for a future meeting.

X. Adjournment

Bud Tamarkin moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ann Faraone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Peters adjourned the meeting at 1:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Dyess
Secretary

Karen Christie (Notetaker)
Administrative Assistant