

Governor's Council for Community Health Partnerships
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2008

Attendance:

Present: Dr. Fred Alfele, Susan Dyess, Ann Faraone, Sandra Gerber, Deanna Lessard, Pat Lord, Joe Peters, Pierre Rodriguez, Jacqueline Rogers, Bert Tamarkin,

Staff: Erica Whitfield and Karen Christie

Absent: Cynthia Boggs, Tara Finnigan, Jane Irion, Dr. Yvette LaClaustra, Kathy Munz, Jacquie Nicholson, Bob Palin, Linda Roman, Selma Verse, Marcia Wagshol, and Jean Wicken.

I. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by Joe Peters. Meeting participants introduced themselves.

II. Minutes

Bud Tamarkin moved that the minutes from September and October be accepted as written. Dr. Alfele seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The initial schedule of 2009 meeting dates was distributed. All dates are the fourth Tuesday of the month as per the Board decision from the September 18th meeting. It was noted that some dates, especially those around year-end Holidays, may change.

III. Treasurer's Report

Bud Tamarkin submitted the Program Balances, Auxiliary Account Balances, and Revenue & Disbursements Reports from October to be included in the minutes of the 11/13/08 meeting.

He discussed the program balances and advised that the Council Fund is now at \$3,807.95. Bud advised that the Council needs to identify opportunities to earn additional money to be able to cover upcoming costs including the \$3,500 annual tax preparation/audit fee, the annual \$350 registration fee to collect charitable contributions and annual \$61 Florida corporate report fee in addition to the costs of the annual meeting (\$2,132 for 2008). In addition, the cost of D & O insurance could potentially run \$2,500.

Deanna Lessard suggested that a fee of \$10 per person could be assessed to cover the cost of the annual meeting.

Erica Whitfield advised that there may be some fee income to the Governor's Council from the Tooth Fairy (Dental Van) project.

Fund raising was discussed. It was mentioned that a solid list of initiatives should be developed to accompany any solicitation letter. CB Wohl will assist in the identification of grant opportunities that the Governor's Council might pursue. Pierre Rodriguez advised that TDBank has an online grant application. He will bring more information on the application to the next Executive Committee Meeting. It was noted that each member of the Board could add a letter of support to the grant packages to show the high level of collaboration between the members.

Dr. Alfele moved that the Treasurer's Report for October be accepted as submitted. Pierre Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Executive Committee

Joe Peters advised that the Executive Committee had held meetings with Erica Whitfield, Dr. Malecki and Susanne Casey to lay the groundwork for the upcoming year. He advised that the discussion of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Governor's Council and the Health Department is underway. In addition, D & O insurance is being researched.

It was noted that the current committee structure had been the intended focus for the Governor's Council planning process and would be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting on December 16th. He advised that Executive Meetings were open to all Board members.

The Health Department will submit initiatives to the Governor's Council for consideration. Erica Whitfield and the Executive Committee would be looking at each of the current programs.

V. Possible Initiatives for 2009

1) Displaced Persons:

The Governor's Council is providing fiscal coordination for funding for the 2009 PIT Homeless Count. Historically, this count is completed in January. Through the process, a small gift certificate is provided to the homeless people to be counted. A Homeless Advisory Board is attempting to raise funds to finance the effort for 2009. The resulting number from the count is different from the count made by the School District for 184 schools. The School District count includes only children in the K-12. The School District homeless count for 2006 was 1393 and 1599 for 2007. For this year, foreclosures are rising. The Center for Family Services used to see around 25 homeless persons a week and now the number is around 100 per week. These individuals are having trouble paying the rent and utilities. There are not enough shelters in Palm Beach County. St. Vincent's in Delray Beach is using dorms to house families. The faith based community is working to solve the problem. Government support is not available to address the issue. One group of concern is teenage girls under 18 with a baby. They are not eligible for aid. The Lord's Place has an assessment center to assist homeless persons. There is a proposal with the county government to have 4 of these locations throughout the county. The information is available through 2-1-1.

A major problem is the children aging out of foster care. At 18, the children are no longer supported through foster care. At present, there are few homes and few jobs for these individuals. Groups that work to support these children are Turtle Nest and Place of Hope. The School District goal is to keep these children in school until they graduate. Once they graduate, they are entitled to a free education at any Florida state college or university plus a stipend of \$1,000 per month. The colleges/universities that these students select generally work with the students to find them additional jobs where they can earn additional money to cover living expenses. A school-backed mentoring program matches at risk 14 to 17 year old students with a mentor who will provide guidance on completing college applications and other items.

In addition, there are children under 5 living in foster care who are on waiting lists for day care.

This is an issue with many facets. It was noted that the Governor's Council could pick one or more issues to address.

Erica Whitfield will work with Ann Faraone to arrange for a speaker for the January Board meeting on the issues of homelessness.

2) Back pack, hunger and gleaning

An additional concern is that children who are eating on paid food programs while at school were going without food on the weekends. In Boca Raton, there is a backpack program. Through this program, the children deliver their backpack to the school on Monday and then pick it up filled with food for the weekend on Friday. The food is provided by the local food pantry. There is also a similar, smaller initiative in Belle Glade.

It was noted that there might be a "bridge" between the gleaning program and the backpack program to ensure that the children had fresh food.

3) Facilitation

Pierre Rodriguez noted that economic conditions would be problematic for the next 1.5 to 2 years. Unemployment may run into the double digits. He recommended that a major goal within the environment would be to reduce the redundancy of program efforts between agencies and organizations to achieve a higher level of efficiency and a more effective use of available resources. This is particularly true since it is uncertain if government funding will continue to be as available as previously. Pierre noted that the Governor's Council might be able to act as a facilitator to encourage pooling of resources. He suggested that the Governor's Council could host symposiums on specific topics such as the Homeless.

4) Food labeling at restaurants

It was mentioned that Dr. Malecki has suggested that the Governor's Council take on the issue of chronic disease. Chronic illness is a result of a life style that is started young and not changed. One possible initiative in this area is food labeling in local restaurants.

Joe Peters advised that the Executive Committee would be considering possible initiatives to undertake. He requested that Board members send in their suggestions.

VI. **Other Discussion**

- Annual Meeting and Nominating Committees

Joe advised that the Governor's Council has three permanent committees: the Executive Committee, the Annual Meeting Committee and the Nominating Committee. The Advocacy Committee and Communications Committee structure will be reviewed to see if it is the most effective way for the Governor's Council to operate.

It is time to select the individuals who will serve on the 2009 Annual Meeting and Nominating committees.

Joe Peters asked Board members who were interested in serving on either the Nominating or Annual Meeting committees to send Karen Christie an email. Deanna Lessard and Susan Dyess stated that they would continue to serve on the Annual Meeting Committee. Susan Dyess also stated that she would continue to work on the Nominating Committee.

- Summer Camp –

- For 2008, 2200 children were sent to camp through the Summer Camp Scholarship Program. The program balance in the account is now at \$9,459 versus a balance of \$20,000 going into the 2008 year. It is questionable whether all of the funding sources from prior years will contribute again for 2009. The sub-committee has a goal of raising \$90,000 for the 2009 year through solicitation.
- Linda Roman has added promotional language to the summer camp solicitation letter. This letter will be finalized at the November 19th committee meeting. This solicitation campaign is planned for January 2009. Bud Tamarkin is working to develop a list of potential funders.
- Jacqueline Rogers advised that the Graphic Arts Department of Palm Beach Community College is working on a PowerPoint presentation for summer camp. This presentation will be able to be used for presentations and/or as a stand-alone tutorial. The presentation will be used to develop awareness and to raise funds. The pictures included in the presentation were provided by Jack Holcomb, the Child Advocacy Board. The statistics are being taken from the GCCHP website and other GCCHP/Human Services records. The presentation will include a request for funding and instructions on how to send funds to GCCHP. The graphic department will select the background and other colors. Karen Christie will provide Jacqueline with the GCCHP logo for use in the presentation. Once the presentation is complete, Jacqueline will email it to Ann Faraone for placement on Comcast broadcast.
- No support from GCCHP will be needed to register children for Summer Camp in February. The 2009 registration process will be handled out of the Human Services offices and through specific agencies.

- Recognition

- Susan Dyess was recognized for her completion of a PhD in nursing.
- Sandra Gerber was recognized for completing her MSN.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Alfele moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jacqueline Rogers 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