

Summary of Discussion
Broward County Charter Review Commission
Health & Social Services Subcommittee Meeting # 1
Wednesday, April 11, 2007
Governmental Center-Room 430
1:15 PM- 2:45 PM

Members Present:

Mr. Will Trower, Chair
Ms. Jodi Jeffreys-Tanner, Vice Chair
Mr. David Esack
Mr. Mark Ketcham
Mr. Joseph Maus
Ms. Burnadette Norris -Weeks

Others Attending:

Carrill Coleman, Broward County Human Services Department
George Danz, Broward County Medical Examiner & Trauma Services
Chedley Etienne, Administrative Assistant, CRC
Suzanne Fejes, Broward County Housing & Community Development
Stephen Ferrante, Broward County Elderly & Veterans Services
Phyllis A. King, Transcriber, PKING Consulting
Michelle Riegler, Broward County Family Success
Donald Sinclair, Broward County Human Services Department
Neesa Warlen, Broward County Human Services Department
Mandy Wells, Children Services Administration Division
Steve Werthman, Broward County Homeless Initiative
Patricia G. West, Executive Director

(A copy of the sign-in sheets identifying those present is filed with the supplemental papers to the summary of this Subcommittee Meeting.)

A meeting of the Broward County Charter Review Health / Social Services Subcommittee "Committee, Subcommittee, or HSSC", was held at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at the Broward County Governmental Center – Room 430, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

The Chair welcomed Marlene Wilson, Director of Broward County Human Services Department to the meeting and advised she would be heard from a little later.

I Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Will Trower called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m. The Chair then requested the roll call by Phyllis A. King, PKING Consulting, Inc. The Chair gave each subcommittee member the opportunity to introduce himself or herself to Ms. Marlene Wilson. The Chair informed Ms. Wilson of the HSSC's charge as it relates to the issues of Housing and Children Services in terms of potential Charter revisions or amendments.

The Chair advised that Ms. Wilson was invited to provide a comprehensive overview of her Division as a baseline introduction.

III Presentation: Overview of the Broward County Human Services Department (HSD) – Marlene Wilson, Director [1:21 PM – 1:51 PM].

Ms. Wilson thanked the dais and introduced herself advising that she has been the Director of the HSD for a little over six years. She advised that she grew up in Broward County and started her career here as a Social Worker and worked her way through the system to the position she holds presently. Ms. Wilson advised that she is proud to be the Director for such a vibrant and supported Department within County government. Ms. Wilson asked Division Directors and Staff from Divisions under her Department who were in attendance at today's meeting to introduce themselves in case of future questions (Attendees listed below are in order to self-introduction):

- Stephen Ferrante, Broward County Elderly & Veterans Services
- Lisa Warland, Deputy Director
- Donald Sinclair, Special Projects Coordinator
- George Danz, Director of Trauma Management Agency and Chief of Operations for Broward County Medical Examiner's Office
- Steve Werthman, Administrator, Broward County Homeless Initiative Partnership
- Mandy Wells, Assistant Director, Children Services Administration Division
- Michelle Riegler, Acting Director, Broward County Family Success Administration
- Carrill Coleman, Director, Program Development Research and Evaluation Division
- Suzanne Fejes, Assistant Director, Broward County Housing & Community Development

Ms. Wilson proceeded to provide a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation and overview of the Human Services Department, which included information on the following areas.

- Commission Vision
- Our Goals
- Our Budget
- Our Organizational Structure
 - Homeless Initiative Partnership
 - Children's Services Administrative Division
 - Elderly and Veterans Services Division
 - Family Success Administration Division
 - Medical Examiner & Trauma Services Division
 - Program Development Research & Evaluation Division
- Substance Abuse & Health Care Services Division
- Supporting Elders
- Strengthening Families
- Responding to Trauma and Loss of Life
- Improving Community Services
- Addressing Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Ending Homelessness
- Nurturing Children

Ms. Wilson advised the Committee that over the last 6 years her Department has acquired over \$36M in grant funding from various sources, Federal, State, and Other because of their proficiency in obtaining grant funds.

In the Children Services area, they have been able to maintain the highest standards in the Community in terms of outcomes. They have recently promoted an evidence-based RFP funding process which actually says to providers that outcomes must be shown and the must be effective showing scientifically that what they are doing is actually making a result in terms of the quality of life for that child.

They have created One Stop Centers to help people receive services making management transparent to the person all in one location.

They have Expanded Housing First, which has been an important program in keeping people in housing ensuring and reducing homelessness in our Community.

They have developed best practices in homeless continuum of care and ensured that there are many choices for elders like those offered by the Consumer Directed Care Program which she advised is important in terms of aging in place.

Ms. Wilson advised that her Department is accredited and continuously working on accreditation because they believe Standards are important. She advised that the non-profits are also asked to live by the same Certification Standards. She advised that they are a part of the Health Care System in terms of 21% - 25% paid in primary healthcare funding; supporting the North and South Broward Hospital Districts in the promotion of Disease Management Programs and other initiatives, which have improved healthcare for low income individuals. She advised that Hurricane Emergencies and Natural Disasters are a continued role in support for those in FEMA Trailers.

This is just a snapshot of what was done over the last few years and she wanted to touch highlights and offered herself and the present staff to answer any questions. She also offered to provide any other information upon request.

Ms. West requested an electronic copy of the slide presentation.

A hard copy of this presentation can be found as an attachment to this summary of discussion. An electronic copy will also be made available via CRC Staff.

The Chair thanked Ms. Wilson for the very informative presentation. He then asked her if there are any municipalities that are providing direct services in any of HSD's areas of service.

Ms. Wilson stated that some Cities have Social Services; she stated that Davie is very good at providing Social Services, but not all Cities.

The Chair asked if they are conflicting with the County.

Ms. Wilson replied that they are not conflicting with the County and advised that they work in partnership very well.

The Chair stated that the County acts as a great coordinating force, and collects a lot of grant money and distributes through contracts to various other agencies within the community. He

then asked Ms. Wilson if there is a since of how many agencies are contracted to provide the services.

Ms. Wilson replied that there are contracts with over 100 other agencies to provide services and her department serves over ten thousand people through family success and other agencies.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked how the budget is divided.

Ms. Wilson offered to provide a budget breakdown.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked Ms. Wilson what happened as a result of the joint meeting between Children Services Council and the Human Services Department; she asked if they are going to continue to meet in the future.

Ms. Wilson stated that she meets monthly with the Children Services Board which they are collaborating to do a Youth Summit which is on April 18th. She advised that the Workshop the Commission had dealt with funding and whether they should maintain funding for children, since the CSC is in existence and it is also a tax supported entity.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked whether a decision was made about that issue.

Ms. Wilson replied that the Commissioners expressed their opinions but she does not think that there was any real decision made.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked if any priority projects have had funding cut.

Ms. Wilson responded that it is really about the State Legislature and Property Taxes. She added that she believes that the State Legislature is also hearing that same message that property taxes needs to be reduced and many of the bills under consideration had measures that will impact the County.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked if this issue is in all departments.

Ms. Wilson stated that when the County Commission talked about budget with staff there was nothing sacred and everything needed to be viewed in terms of what it provides for the community.

Mr. Esack asked Ms. Wilson if she has a full time Grant Writer on staff. Ms. Wilson advised that her Department has multiple Grant Writers in house.

Mr. Esack noticed that 1/3 of the HSD's budget is grants.

Ms. Wilson stated that her Department decided they would not depend on the County Funding and they have gone after everything in terms of their mission. She added that County Funding has helped leverage that power.

Ms. Tanner asked if during the Budget Work Shop, was this issue brought up or will it be considered during the next budget meeting.

Ms. Wilson stated that she was not sure they looked at their entire budget. Everything is to be reviewed. They have done that; she added that her understanding of the process is that they have had budget result teams and that information will be presented to the County Commission and they will make some decisions in terms of what they want to do.

Ms. Tanner inquired as to what drives the HSD?

Ms. Wilson stated that during the workshop they tried to show that there is no duplication; she added that she thinks it has to do with Taxes and Citizens, also knowing that the Children Services Council brings in about \$67 million in ad-valorem.

Ms. Tanner asked what the percentage of homelessness in Broward County is now.

Mr. Steve Werthman replied that the last count was 3,100 in shelters. He advised that a new count took place in January and the results of that count are pending.

Mr. Ketcham asked for suggestions to add to the Charter.

Ms. Wilson stated that she has no suggestions.

Dr. Lieberman asked Ms. Wilson how services are coordinated between HSD, municipalities, and Charities.

Ms. Wilson replied that they work towards coordinating but they do not always succeed. She added that there are many non-profit organizations that seek funding from the HSD but HSD

seeks them as well in terms of what HSD would like to see as part of their Business Plan and if they can provide that service (it works both ways).

Dr. Lieberman asked if an amendment to the Charter for the formation of a formal committee for Health and Social Services coordination between the HSD and charities would be of benefit.

Ms. Wilson stated that it would always be beneficial to coordinate but advised that she is not sure how it would work.

Dr. Lieberman referenced the formation and purpose of the Fire Rescue Council as it relates to the Charter. He asked if something similar to this would be helpful.

Ms. Wilson advised that it would be helpful and that it is already being done to a certain degree through the *Coordinating Council of Broward (CCB)*, which is a Council that has private, non-profit, and governmental agencies that meets monthly to discuss gaps in services. The CCB, assesses need, looks at funding and the entire organization and how it can be improved.

Dr. Lieberman asked Ms. Wilson if she believes it is already being done or if an amendment would be helpful. Ms. Wilson stated that she thinks it is already being done but could probably be improved.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked Ms. Wilson where and how the HSD decides to pinpoint their areas of service.

Ms. Wilson stated the Family Success looks at zip code areas where certain factors come together and people have more need. She advised that homelessness is a countywide effort and they have tried to apportion the County into 3 areas North, Central and South and there is an emergency continuum which is a basis for services in each of those 3 areas – she then advised that Steve Werthman might be able to address the question.

Mr. Werthman advised that the Board of County Commissioners less than two years ago adopted a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and it calls for twelve hundred new units of permanent supportive housing which he advises is what is seen as ultimately the answer to homelessness. He stated that in addition to the Central Homeless Assistance Center, and the other Regional Centers described by Ms. Wilson more, and more cities have outreach teams. The City of Fort Lauderdale has a police officer partnered with a former homeless person and

they provide nothing but mobile outreach throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale that has now been expanded to three teams.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked for the Officers names. Mr. Werthman replied Jamie and Courtney is his civilian partner. He talks to them almost every day.

Ms. Wilson agreed with Ms. Norris-Weeks advising that they have a closer partnership with some Cities in terms of services, but try to concentrate on areas with more need.

Ms. Tanner asked if there are minimum standards for non-profits, if they are reviewed for performance and if so how often.

Ms. Wilson stated that they do annual performance reviews irrespective of the length of contract. She advised that they may do them differently sometimes-- desk review vs. an actual office / site review. She reiterated that performance reviews are done on an annual basis. She advised that cycle for contracts could be three years.

Ms. Tanner asked if this is for outcomes.

Mr. Wilson advised yes, as they look for performance and results outcomes which are very important.

Ms. West asked Ms. Wilson when groundbreaking would begin to rebuild the 31st Street Success Center.

Ms. Wilson stated that it is planned to be rebuilt which is in the Capital Budget for the coming year. She advised that the RFP process has begun for a new Mills Center. She also stated that since it is unincorporated County property they hope to build 3 or 4 levels to make it bigger.

Ms. West asked where the people in that community are currently receiving services.

Ms. Wilson replied that the Community is receiving services from a leased space off 411 and Oakland Park in Lauderhill. She added that it is hoped that a larger Mills Center would allow for more community involvement.

Ms. Wilson stated that the Health Department will still be there and all of the other services as well.

Mr. Esack asked if the South Broward Hospital District is non-profit tax supported facility. The Chair replied that it is

Mr. Esack asked if the percentages received allow them to provide the same services as the North Broward Hospital District.

Ms. Wilson replied that the same level and array of services are provided by both Hospital Districts. She stated that she believes North Broward has put more into capital than South Broward has in terms of their 7th Avenue facility. She advised that they both provide primary health care services, disease management and outreach to the community.

The Chair advised that the populations are different South Broward Hospital District has approximately 1/3 of the uninsured population and North Broward Hospital District has 2/3.

Mr. Esack asked if the owner of The Voice Newspaper receives County assistance.

Ms. Wilson replied no they are private and they are not funded by the County.

The Chair asked is there a licensing process that not-for-profit groups must go through or can they just start-up and start providing services.

Ms. Wilson stated that there is a licensing aspect in the County, which is not part of HSD in terms of business. She advised that HSD require a non-profit who seeks support of the County be certified and meet accreditation standards to be a part of the HSD system. They are not regulated by HSD.

The Chair stated that over the years he has seen ad-hoc agencies start up and not be beneficial to the community even though they were not asking for funds; he asked if there was a way to manage or control that. Ms. Wilson advised that she did not know how to do this.

Ms. Wilson stated that there are many faith-based organizations that have great intent and want to help but lack the organizational skills for fiscal support but HSD does not have the capacity to assist them.

The Chair asked if those organizations could be complimentary to what HSD is does. Ms. Wilson advised that they could but HSD has not had the opportunity to do what they would like to do to help some of those organizations.

The Chair asked Ms. Wilson to clarify the difference Between Children Services Council and the Children Services Board.

Ms. Wilson stated that the Children's Services Board is a Commission appointed board that advises the County Commission in terms of funding and how it should direct services. She advised that the Children Services Council is a State statute developed Council that has taxing authority which was at one time an off-shoot of the Children's Services Board as people wanted more funding for children and independence in terms of County directed funding.

The Chair asked if there are a variety of other Councils and Boards who deal with the Health and Social Services framework that HSD deals with.

Ms. Wilson replied yes they have a number of Boards that they staff like the Homeless Initiative Partnership Board, Cultural Diversity Board, Workforce One, and a number of other related boards.

The Chair thanked Ms. Wilson and her staff for participating.

Ms. Wilson thanked the dais.

[End of Speaker / Exit]

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 2:17 pm and stated that he hoped it was helpful in terms of providing an overview of what is happening at the County level.

IV Prioritization of Tasks

A. Housing

B. Children's Services

The Chair advised that after looking at the existing Charters throughout the State he found no reference to Health and Social Services (not to say that the HSSC should consider that) but he advised that the challenge is what should the HSSC's position be regarding a recommendation in the areas of Housing and Children's Services. He added that he has worked with the County and a lot of the agencies for decades and his sense is that there is a lot happening but it is effectively being handled through the administrative channels of county government, State Agencies, and others. He advised that he liked Dr. Lieberman's question with regard to some

type of oversight or coordination. The Chair stated that apart from Ms. Wilson's comment that maybe just recognition in the Charter that Health and Social Services is as important as Fire, Safety and Law Enforcement he does not know that there are much specifics at this point. He advised that he does not wish to start out negatively but he is struggling to come up with an area that the Committee can create as a priority task.

Ms. Norris-Weeks advised that she is glad that the CRC had enough votes to set up the Health and Safety Subcommittee because she believes it is a very critical Committee due to the complex issues. She advised that she does not wish to quickly get to the issue of "*what are we going to do or maybe there is nothing*" as she could provide potential tasks.

Mr. Ketcham asked Ms. Norris-Weeks for an example for discussion.

Ms. Norris-Weeks suggested **mandated funding, formula or percentage** - She advised that whenever there are talks of cuts for example property taxes, when talking about it Social Services get cut first. She provided Sistrunk Blvd. as an example and suggested making it a County obligation to look at areas that are critically low income.

Dr. Lieberman asked if other Counties have mandated funds for Social Services.

Ms. Norris-Weeks replied that she does not believe so but suggested that maybe Broward County should be innovative and added that the dialogue needs to happen. She then suggested that the subcommittee hears from the Children Services Council and suggested that maybe there are also issues there because the voters voted it as a Taxing District. How is it working, what's going on, how is it running, is it doing everything it should, are there any issues regarding Children's Services Council that might need to go before the voters again. A discussion ensued as to whether the Children's Services Council could be taxed because of its status as an independent taxing district. It was agreed that legal Counsel will be asked to research to see if anything could be done.

The Chair stated that there is no question that DCF and the County are taking on the more expensive, more difficult types of services based upon the slide presented during Ms. Wilson's presentation.

Ms. Tanner requested staff to get a copy of the notes on the Workshop that the Commissioners had with the Children Services Council. She stated that she believes the issue at hand is that

the County Commission or some part of it does not want to continue providing Children's Services when the Children's Services Council is its own taxing authority. She stated that the brass tact's issue is: *Do we stay in Children's Services or do we give it to the taxation district?*

Ms. Kaletta asked if Child Net was addressed during the presentation. She advised that DCF contracts out to Child Net who has the over site over many of the children's issues. She suggested that the HSSC look more into that service and its function.

The Chair added that he thought that they contracted that out to BSO.

Ms. Norris-Weeks advised that BSO may play a part in it but she is not sure of their position.

Ms. West advised that BSO deals with abuse and there is an entire section there that deals with it. She advised that she believes the division is Child Protective Services.

Dr. Lieberman wanted know if the subcommittee could find out how much of the HSD's budget is for Children Services and draft an amendment stating that a minimum has to be maintained to protect the Children's Services.

Ms. West stated that the Health Department is going to need some help because of the tax changes.

Mr. Ketcham expressed concern with tying the hands of the legislators when the huge tax issues are at hand. He asked if Fire and Police and Education should get the minimum.

Dr. Lieberman stated that this is something for the other Committees to figure out. He then stated that he thinks that this is something that should be proposed, that their budgets are protected for Housing and for Children and see if the entire CRC is interested in going forward. Dr. Lieberman also stated that he is not sure if the Council to coordinate efforts with the Not for Profit is a good idea or not but he thinks coordination would be better and the HSD would be able to provide better service if they did coordinate. He advised that he thinks that this type of amendment would be very soft. The dais agreed.

V Establishing Agenda for Next Meeting

The Chair requested CRC staff invite a speaker from the Children's Services Council.

Mr. Esack requested CRC staff invite a speaker from the Homeless Initiative Partnership to speak.

Ms. Tanner stated that Mr. Steve Werthman worked on the Homeless Initiative Partnership for 7 years; she advised that he would be a good person to speak to the committee.

The Chair requested CRC staff obtain a copy of the *Homeless Initiative Plan or 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*.

The Chair suggested that the Committee needs to think about the future, he stated that the Legislative Session is going to be quick and he believes that there will be cutbacks which lead to the question of how to manage those priorities. He advised that the County is currently looking at performance-based budgets.

Dr. Lieberman advised that the HSSC was asked by the full Committee to review Housing and Children Services but he believes that 'Housing' was not to look at homelessness although it should be included, but they are talking about Affordable Housing. He then stated that although the tax cuts under consideration in Tallahassee goes across the board it may help to a certain extent. He then suggested that the proposed amendment that is worded to maintain the funding at the level that it is now he believes it would pass.

Ms. Tanner asked Dr. Lieberman to remember the population growth and advised that you can't just keep it at the level that it is now as it has to be a minimum.

Dr. Lieberman responded that percentages for cost of living could be added.

Ms. Norris-Weeks advised that there areas of State Statutes which contain that same language that could be modified by Mr. Goren.

Dr. Lieberman suggested that the amendment occurs regardless of what happens in Tallahassee. There are going to be some cuts and if it is not done it will be done across the board which would adversely affect the 30 different areas of the HSD.

Mr. Esack suggested that the aging process also be looked at housing for seniors and the senior population as a whole which are an area within the purview of the HSSC.

Ms. Tanner stated that the question would be where to plug into this, where an amendment could be made within the Charter.

Ms. Norris-Weeks stated that they can create a separate section.

Mr. Esack suggested considering a Trend Analysis and forward thinking that the Charter is a document that goes from 2008 until 2014.

Ms. Tanner stated that this does not have to be fiscal they could just keep standards.

Ms. West recommended that she attempt to obtain an Executive Summary on each area of the HSD to enable the dais to see what their core services are. She also suggested any forecasts they might have in terms of the number of people they may have to serve.

The Chair asked Ms. West if presentations were provided by division during the MESC. Ms. West replied yes, when they wanted to know more.

The Chair asked if she heard anything from the Healthcare Division during that time.

Ms. West advised that they heard from the Elderly and Veteran Services Division because of the population. She advised that they also heard a lot because housing was still a part of Human Services, which is now a part of Urban Planning. She advised that a lot of work had been done to forecast the number of rental apartments or homes needs based upon employment within the County. The Chair requested information in this regard.

Ms. Tanner suggested that verbiage be strengthened in relation to how responsive the County is to be toward the issues. The Chair stated that Ms. Tanner's suggestion is food for thought.

VI Confirmation of Meeting Dates, Times, and Location

The Chair opened the floor to discussion of the next meeting. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the next **meeting would take place on Wednesday, April 25th, 10:00 am.**

The Chair also advised that the Homelessness Report and Workshop Minutes would be provided by CRC Staff prior to the next meeting.

Ms. Norris-Weeks requested suggestions for other speakers.

VII Determine Presenters for Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Esack and the Chair suggested requesting Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer from the Children's Services Council to speak.

The Chair asked that someone Housing to be invited.

Ms. West suggested Mr. Steve Werthman be invited as well as someone from Urban Planning Staff.

VIII Other Business

None

IX Public Comment

The Chair called for Public Comment hearing none.

X Adjournment

There being no further discussion and no public comment the Chair called for a motion to adjourn. A MOTION was made by Ms. Tanner and SECONDED Mr. Maus.

Ms. West confirmed her list of deliverables:

- Minutes from Commission/CSC Workshop
- Homeless Initiative Report
- Contact Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer
- Look for Information on Affordable Housing including Senior Living and Veteran Affairs
- HSD Budget Breakdown

The meeting adjourned at 2:54pm

Meeting minutes recorded on CRC-HSSC CD # 4.11.07 (BCGV CTR)