

**Summary of Discussion
Broward County Charter Review Commission
Health & Social Services Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, May 9th, 2007
115 S. Andrews Avenue-Room 430
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
1:15 PM- 2:45 PM**

Members Present:

G. Wil Trower, Chair
Jodi Jeffreys-Tanner, Vice Chair
Mark Ketcham
Dr. Mark Lieberman
Joseph Maus
Burnadette Norris –Weeks, Esq.

Members Absent:

David Esack

Others Attending:

Michael Elwell, Director, Broward County Children’s Services Administration Division
Chedley Etienne, Administrative Assistant, CRC
Petey Kaletta, Charter Review Commission Member
Phyllis A. King, Transcriber, PKING Consulting
Alisa Tang Hap, Assistant to the Department Director
Neesa Warlen, Deputy Director, BC Human Services Department
Mandy Wells, Children Services Administration Division
Patricia G. West, Executive Director
Marlene Wilson, Department Director, BC Human Services Department

(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, May 9th, 2007 at the Broward County Governmental Center – Room 430, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Chair Will Trower called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m. The Chair requested the roll call by Phyllis A. King, PKING Consulting, Inc. The Chair recognized the presence of a quorum.

II. Approval of Summary of Discussion of April 11, Subcommittee Meeting

The Chair advised that the first order of business was the approval of the April 11 Summary of Discussion. He asked Ms. West to provide an overview of the materials in the subcommittee members' folders. Ms. West advised the dais that she attempted to forward the information electronically but the files were too large. She added that the information on Housing came from Mr. Roy Stone who is slated to come speak to the HSSC as soon as scheduling conflicts can be addressed. She advised that staff is working to schedule Ms. Cindy Arenberg of the Children's Services Council for the next meeting and there is no commitment date as of yet.

Mr. Maus advised for the record, that he was not in attendance at the last subcommittee meeting, but was marked as present. Ms. West stated that the summary would be corrected to reflect his absence.

The Chair asked if there were any other corrections. **Ms. Tanner MOTIONED, Dr. Lieberman SECONDED, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the Health/Social Services Subcommittee April 11 Summary of Discussion and to replace Mr. Maus with Dr. Lieberman in the Summary of Discussion.**

III. Presentation by Mike Elwell, Director, Broward County Children's Services Administration

The Chair welcomed Mike Elwell, Director of the Broward County Children's Services Administration (BCCSA). Mr. Elwell provided a presentation and overview of the Broward County Children's Services Administration. He advised that they are well funded compared to other Counties and States. He further advised that they have an independently privately run Community Based Care Program for foster children; he added that they have the Broward Sheriff's Office involved with their program. Mr. Elwell advised that they are currently participating in a Medicaid reform pilot. He also advised that the Broward County School System is heavily involved. Mr. Elwell indicated that the United Way and Dept. of Juvenile

Justice are involved as well. He advised that they meet each month to ensure funding partners are on the same page to prevent duplication of Services.

Mr. Elwell stated that the three major funds of the BCCSA come from the ***Children Services Council, Broward County, and the Department of Children and Families(State)***. He advised that the Children Services Council's budget for this fiscal year is \$65 million; he added that they offer After school, summer programs, job training, and school nurses to benefits students in the Broward County Public Schools.

Broward County does a lot of Intervention and Treatment Programs. Mr. Elwell explained that the Children's Services Administration licenses, regulates, and enforces standards for child care facilities including child care homes. He advised that they run and operate the Sexual Assault Treatment Center and are responsible for developing One Community Partnership - System of Care which is an \$8 million grant. Mr. Elwell advised that the Children Services Administration receives \$17 million from the County General Fund which is put into Children Services. He explained that the first thing is Licensing, which they regulate and enforce to improve the quality of Child Care in Broward County. He advised that they are in the process of getting accreditation for their Childcare Licensing section.

Mr. Elwell explained that the Children Services Administration licenses and re-licenses facilities each year and monitors these facilities. He informed the dais of the new electronic fingerprinting system which is being utilized to facilitate applications. He also explained that the BCCSA provides technical assistance and works with new providers; he added that they now have a grant from the Early Learning Coalition for quality rating.

Mr. Ketcham asked if the licensing fees cover the cost of the Child Care Licensing & Enforcement (CCLE) Division. Mr. Elwell replied no, he explained that State Statute requires matching funds to make the grant whole and there are fees involved.

Mr. Elwell indicated that by using the new fingerprinting system, that five-hundred (500) applicants were identified as having criminal records.

Dr. Lieberman confirmed with Mr. Elwell that out of 10 thousand applicants 500 turned out to be criminals. Mr. Elwell replied that 500 applicants had actual hits saying that they had a criminal history which could range anywhere from prostitution to manslaughter. Dr. Lieberman then asked if those applicants lied on their applications. Mr. Elwell responded that the Children

Services Administration does not see the applications; they just do the fingerprinting. Dr. Lieberman asked if there is a mechanism where there should be negative consequences for applicants who lie on their applications. Mr. Elwell replied that the Children Services Administration's responsibility is to ensure employees have the clearance to work at a Child Care facility.

Mr. Elwell advised that they the BCCSA works closely with ChildNet and deals with children with independencies in terms of being within the fostercare system and that both organizations treat the children if they need or want it. Mr. Elwell advised that ChildNet has a \$60 million contract with the Department of Children and Families (DCF). They use the same digital fingerprinting as the Children Services Administration. He advised of the different types of childcare facilities monitored by CSC, which include ***Child Care Homes, Child Care Facilities, Child Care Schools, Before and After school Care, Night Time Care, Weekend Care, Summer Programs, and Drop-in Care.***

Mr. Elwell spoke about the Sexual Assault Treatment Center; he advised that it started in 1977 and is nationally accredited as a Child Advocacy Center. He advised that there are three components to the Crisis Unit including the Child Protection Team, Counseling Unit, and the Program Power House. He stated that the Crisis Unit is a 24/7 facility that is responsible for forensic interviews, exams, and information and referrals for the victims whom were raped. He then explained the Child Protection Team, which is funded 100% by the Department of Health and Investigates Child Abuse Claims. Mr. Elwell then spoke about the Counseling Unit and explained that they have specialized counseling programs in Broward County. He stated that the last program is Our House. Our House is a place where they provide supervision and therapy for children. He advised that this is also a place for Safe Exchanges, a meeting place for foster parents and supervised visitations. Mr. Elwell then provided the dais with various statistical information related to Broward County.

Mr. Elwell explained the next program, which is called One Community Partnership. He advised that the whole concept behind this program is to bring together all key players for the Children Services of Broward County. He went on to advise that One Community Partnership is a system of care for children and families who have children with Serious Emotional Disorders (SED). He stated that the Children Services Administration received a grant from the Federal Government to bring together all agencies that are involved in the system. Mr. Elwell added

that the One Community Partnership has a staff of 7 people. He advised that the program has developed a Cultural Competency Plan, Family Involvement, and Youth-Drop-in Center.

Mr. Elwell then explained that prior to 2001 there was no Children Services Council. He explained that because of the Children Services Council they had to refocus the group to create something that would fit in with the Children Services Council, which was a 15 member advisory board who would recommend services on yearly bases to the County Commission.

Mr. Elwell advised that funding priorities were established which were behavioral health, special health care needs, and homeless children services. Mr. Elwell then gave the dais examples that were relevant of the success of the Children Services Administration as experienced.

Ms. West asked Mr. Elwell where referrals come from. Mr. Elwell responded that the Children Services Administration has 73 contracts and 40+ providers, which may range from Best Buddies to Henderson Mental Health Clinic. He advised that the homeless family childcare is covered 100 percent with no waiting list; he added that there are 7,000 children on the subsidized childcare waiting list, which is relatively low. He then explained that the largest proportion of the County budget goes into behavioral health, which is 56% or \$9 million dollars. Mr. Elwell advised that the county is the only funding resource other than the Medicaid System for children's behavioral health; he added that there are cost savings in the terms of community based care. Mr. Elwell stated that the Children Services Administration provided behavioral health services to about 15,000 plus children. He advised that there is a plan that is funded by the Children Services Council through the Broward Regional Planning Council that shows there are 65 thousand children in Broward County that have some kind of a special health need. He added that there are about 500-600 homeless children that are in the school system and 20% of the homeless children that do not attend school at all. Mr. Elwell advised that the Children Services Administration is proud that they have developed a comprehensive, unduplicated, evidenced-based, and community/home based system of care for the children.

Ms. Tanner asked Mr. Elwell about their outcomes for the homeless children. Mr. Elwell replied that they have their own outcomes that are based on the model that they use now; he added that they have a results-based system.

Mr. Maus asked Mr. Elwell if the Children Services Administration had their own independent taxing district. Mr. Elwell explained that the Children Services Council is an independent taxing

district that was established in 2001 and it has \$67 million for the year; he added that it is separate from what they do in the program.

Mr. Ketcham asked Mr. Elwell who funds the subsidized daycare. Mr. Elwell replied to Mr. Ketcham that the subsidized daycare funds come from the Federal Government to the State. Then it goes to the Early Learning Coalition and to the Family Central that has that contract. Family Central is responsible for the monitoring and placing children in the child care facilities utilizing the subsidized day care funds; he advised that the program was formerly called the Child Care Connection.

The Chair asked if there is an Organizational Chart that shows all the players and funds that are coming into the County. Mr. Elwell replied that they have a matrix of all the services, which have funding amounts, and specific types of services funded. He then explained that there is a Community Resource Inventory website that provides some information.

Ms. Tanner asked for the clarification on the Broward County Children's Services budget. Mr. Elwell replied with the following breakdown:

Special Taxing District for Children - \$67 million dollars

County Government – Non-Medicaid uninsured treatment

County Government has a Large Match – Sexual Assault Treatment and others special programs including Licensing, Treatment, Boys and Girls Club etc.

Department of Children and Families - \$60 million dollars (which funds 3,500 children in foster care)

Mr. Elwell explained that the funds are spread all over and the State has other dollars that they put into the prevention programs. He restated that the three largest financial resources are Broward County, Department of Children and Families, and the Children's Services Council.

Ms. Kaletta asked Mr. Elwell if the different agencies coordinate. Mr. Elwell replied that he meets every month with the CEO of ChildNet, CEO of Children Services Council, United Way, and Pat Cramer of Department of Children and Families. He advised that they have an agenda. They look at the funding, duplication, working, contract comparisons of providers, which is a

constant work that is in progress. He advised that is also a collaborative staffing group that meets and looks at monitoring on a monthly basis.

Mr. Ketcham asked Mr. Elwell out of the \$16 million budget how much is the outside revenue that is not a general fund. Mr. Elwell replied that it is all a general fund; he advised that they have an \$8 million grant which is not part of the \$16 million and that it has been spread out over the last five years, he also advised that the \$8 million is matched by the County.

Mr. Ketcham asked if the Child Care Licensing and Enforcement (CCLE) revenue are included. Mr. Elwell explained that the CCLE has two funding sources, which are grants and funds from the general fund of the County.

Ms. Tanner questioned Broward County's role. Mr. Elwell advised that those questions would be for the policy makers, he added that it is better to have separate organizations.

The Chair inquired as to whether the Children Services Board (CSB) is required to coordinate regionally. Mr. Elwell explained that the CSB is responsible for the County part only; he advised that they hold joint meetings and combine the efforts.

Dr. Lieberman asked Mr. Elwell of the \$148 million budget how much is from Children's Services. Mr. Elwell replied approximately \$20 million; he advised that the grants are separate from Children's Services.

Ms. Marlene Wilson, Department Director, Broward County Human Services Department advised that the Bills that were introduced during the prior legislative session ending on in May 4th exempted the Children Services Council from any kind of reform. She advised that the CSC will not be affected by reductions that the County may be effected by after the final numbers related to significant cuts that may take place after the special session..

Ms. Norris-Weeks spoke on the issue of rolling taxes back from 2001. Ms. Wilson advised that there is still talk about that situation. She added that it depends on what comes out of the next session. Ms. Norris-Weeks inquired as to whether this means less money for the children, she asked if there is another County that Broward County looks up to and works with on issues related to the delivery of services to Children. Mr. Elwell replied that Hillsborough would be the closest County; he added that he has a great working relationship with their Children Services

Director. Ms. Norris-Weeks asked if Hillsborough operates similar to Broward County. Mr. Elwell replied that they have many services for children that Broward County does not have.

The Chair inquired to the Breakdown in Service Cost, he expressed that the County carries the burden. Ms. Wilson explained that the evolutions of Children Services Council are in the Statute that supports them; it is stated that they are not to provide funds in lieu of someone not providing the funds.

The Chair expressed his concerns about the unmet needs and the statistics that are staggering, he asked how much is needs to be planned to go forward.

Mr. West asked Mr. Elwell if the services are based on income. Mr. Elwell replied that if you look at it as a whole the services are not based on an income. Mr. Elwell clarified himself and advised that in the terms of childcare you must meet some standards.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked Mr. Elwell if Broward County contracts with agencies. Mr. Elwell advised that the Government contracts and goes through an extensive procurement process.

The Chair thanked Mr. Elwell for his presentation and Ms. Wilson for her support.

[End of Speaker]

IV. New Business

The Chair advised that the dais Cindy Arenberg, President/CEO of the Children Services Council is going to speak at the next HSSC meeting. He added that the dais also has a housing issue to discuss. The Chair also informed that dais that he plans to bring in Mr. Ralph Stone (Housing) and Steve Werthman. Ms. Norris-Weeks suggested inviting Joe Kocy, the former Housing Czar of Broward County.

The Chair asked if there were any other suggestion on inviting speakers. Ms. West suggested Jim Carras, Broward Housing Partnership; she also suggested Ms. Suzanne Weiss, Fort Lauderdale Community Development.

The Chair suggested inviting Mr. Richard Blatner former Chair of the Affordable Housing Subcommittee of the MESAC.

Mr. Ketcham asked where the dais is going. Mr. Maus stated that Non-profit initiatives is great but must make sure it is something that can be done in the Charter. Ms. Norris-Weeks advised that MESC recommendations would be a good place to start. Mr. Ketcham expressed concern of not knowing where the Committee is going. He stated that he needs to know what the issues are.

The Chair explained that they need to get speakers from the key areas in order to figure out if there is something in the Charter that needs to be changed. Ms. West expressed that she does not believe there will be anything found in the Charter but reminded the dais that recommendations could still be made.

The Chair suggested that the dais be mindful that there is a September 1^t deadline; he stated that the subcommittee should fast track getting the information. He suggested that the dais should have 2 speakers at the next meeting and two within 2 weeks, he added that he has been doing a lot of his own research and he currently does not see a lot in other Counties.

Ms. Norris-Weeks advised that she would look at the Hillsborough County Charter and get back to the dais.

The Chair asked Ms. West for the next meeting time. Ms. West advised that the next meeting will be on 5/21/2007, she advised that the time and location is to be determined.

V. Public Comment

Ms. Kaletta expressed interest in hearing from Mr. Kocy as well.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion and no public comment the meeting was adjourned at 2:41pm.

The minutes of this meeting are recorded on CRC-HSSC CD # 5.09.07 (BCGV CTR)