

**Summary of Discussion
Broward County Charter Review Commission
Health & Social Services Subcommittee Meeting
Monday, June 25, 2007
Governmental Center
Room 501 (Facilities Management Conference Room)
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

Members Present:

Mr. Wil Trower, Chair
Ms. Jodi Jeffreys–Tanner, Vice Chair
Mr. David Esack
Mr. Mark Ketcham
Dr. Mark Lieberman
Mr. Joseph Maus, Esq.
Ms. Bernadette Norris–Weeks, Esq.

Members Absent:

NONE

Others Attending:

Chedley Etienne, Administrative Assistant, CRC
Maria Gross, Assistant Director, CRC
Yolanda Grooms, Administrative Specialist, CRC
Phyllis A. King, Transcriber, PKING Consulting
Commissioner Hazelle Rogers, CRC Vice- Chair
Patricia G. West, Executive Director, CRC
Steve Werthman, Broward County Homeless Initiative Partnership

(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 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 25, 2007 at the Broward County Governmental Center – Room 501, Facilities Management Conference Room, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Chair Wil Trower called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The Chair requested the roll call by Phyllis A. King, PKING Consulting, Inc. Upon completion of the roll the Chair recognized the presence of a quorum.

II. Approval of Summary of Discussion of June 13, 2007 Subcommittee Meeting

Approval of the Summary of Discussion was deferred until the next HSSC meeting to give dais members time for review.

Ms. West advised dais members that speakers are recorded verbatim and dais members' discussions are summarized.

The Chair welcomed and introduced today's guest speaker, Mr. Steve Werthman.

III. Presentation by Steve Werthman, Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP) Administrator

Mr. Werthman: Good morning. Thank you for inviting me to talk about one of my favorite topics.

The Chair gave Mr. Werthman a brief overview of the charge of HSSC and advised him of prior speakers and that the HSSC is gathering information related to Children's Services and Housing in order to make revisions to the Charter or recommendations to the County Commission.

Mr. Werthman: I will start out and just present an overview, and if you have any questions we could have a discussion. Do you have a timeframe on presentation opportunities?

The Chair advised that the meeting ends at 11:30 am.

Mr. Werthman: Okay, well, I'll be brief. I brought some information packets. Mr. Werthman passed out information packets to the dais which included the following items:

- Broward County Homeless Statistics
- Housing Inventories

I thought I would just talk about a very brief history, where we are now, and goals for the future for our Homeless Continuum of Care. Our office was established in 1997 as part of the Broward County Human Services Department and the Homeless Initiative Partnership Advisory Board – advisory to the County Commission - was established even earlier than that in 1993 which was around the time that the County Administrator at that time, convened a Task Force on homelessness. That Task Force came out with recommendations including the establishment of the three (3) Homeless Assistance Centers regionally in the County which we now have, as a complete continuum of care with Outreach, Transitional Housing where people can graduate from and Homeless Assistance Centers and then with the goal of all of our programs that we use – we do use measurable objectives to see progress towards reducing homelessness and helping homeless people obtain and remain in permanent housing and achieving recovery and independence.

So our office was established in 1997. One of our first goals was to close Tent City, which I am sure many of you may recall after being in the community since then and we were able to do that with the opening of the – we had the Hollywood Center open in 1997, the Fort Lauderdale opened in 1999 and then the third North Homeless Assistance Center opened in Pompano Beach in 2002. With the 99 Center we added some Transitional Housing, County funded, a Mental Health Safe Haven which was County funded, and had some start-up money from the State Emergency Shelter Grant; we were able to place about 400 people into shelters. There's one fellow today who was living at Tent City who is the backbone of our County-wide outreach efforts – he goes by Courtney, and partners with Law Enforcement Agencies in Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, and Pompano – I think we spoke about that briefly when Marlene Wilson was presenting.

So the situation today, the first page of your packet, is that we have about 3,150 homeless in a Community at one point in time. That's based on a survey that was done at the end of January of this year. The surveys are done every two years. It's a community-wide effort. Our office participates in it, and the numbers you see in front of you, are the homeless according to HUD's definition, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We use these to apply for HUD grants as well as State Homeless Grants. So you won't hear numbers in the community which are higher than this. Those numbers can include who are doubled up with friends and family, coming out jail with nowhere to go, in an institutional setting, but those are not allowed in the HUD definition. You can see that the unsheltered, at this point in time count.

We found 23 families on the street, 637 individuals, and much larger numbers that were in emergency and transitional shelter, 22% of those 3,154 are sheltered.

So that's one of our metrics, is to reduce the number of unsheltered homeless. You can see that the homeless subpopulation breakouts within the shelters especially. It's easier to get data on them, so you can see how many are mentally ill, chronic substances abusers, chronically homeless veterans, persons with HIV, victims of domestic violence, and unaccompanied youth; those are basically the many of the contributing factors to homelessness.

The Chair asked how the dually-diagnosed are differentiated.

Mr. Werthman: We don't currently.., HUD use to require that in this chart but they eliminated that. I think one of the reasons was, it was pretty difficult and these are not unduplicated, so the really mentally ill and chronic substance abuser, you can have many of the same people counted in those numbers.

The Chair confirmed that if a person has substance abuse, alcohol abuse and mental illness, they can be counted in both categories and that would amplify the numbers.

Mr. Werthman: That's correct, and we certainly recognize that probably a majority of the people in both of those categories have concurrent disorders.

Mr. Esack asked when talking about the number of households, what constitutes a household.

Mr. Werthman: That would be 1 or 2 adults with dependent children. The next pages are the Housing Inventories and it's just to show you again what the array of services is out there. This doesn't show you that there's a multitude of agencies – probably 80 to 100 that provide some form of shelter or supportive services to the homeless either as their primary mission or secondary. But these show you just the Homeless Emergency Shelters; you can see the 3 Homeless Assistance Centers on the top, the Mental Health Safe Haven, Women in Distress, then we go on to the Transitional Housing. There are probably more Transitional Housing Facilities than the other 2 categories, simply by virtue of the fact that you have a lot of faith-based small mom and pop Transitional Shelters which operate. It's easier to cite Transitional Shelter than it is a large Emergency Shelter and it's probably less expensive than Permanent Supportive Housing which is the next one.

When Ralph Stone and Jim Carras spoke to you, Permanent Supportive Housing is the area where our missions tend to overlap. As I've told them, what they do helps prevent homelessness and helps end homelessness. So we certainly have a vested interest in seeing them succeed and where we can create Permanent Supportive Housing, I think that's counted in some of their data as well.

There's one project that I would point out, the "HOPE Project"- Broward County Chronic Homeless Initiative. There were 11 Pilot Projects funded around the Country. About 100 Communities competed for this and Broward County was selected as one of them. We're after the third year of this project right now. It takes chronically homeless individuals with severe and persistent mental illness; these are people who have been on the street for at least a year or more, and put them directly into housing. They select their own apartment in the community. This provides like a Section 8 voucher to help them, and then we have an assertive Community Treatment Team, a part- time Psychiatrist, Intensive Case Managers, a part-time Nurse. We have partnered with North Broward Hospital District as well as Henderson Mental Health Center, County Divisions, and the Broward Partnership for the Homeless to put this team together. It also included a representative from the VA Co-occurring Treatment Specialists and Tier Mentors. So all of those people are available 24/7; they're mobile. They go to where the people live and they help them with their recovery issues. We found an 85% success rate of keeping people housed when we do a six month follow up. We have literally ended with about 45 participants that are currently housed in this program over 225 years of collective homelessness just above them. We have looked at cost avoidance and found that this project has saved the community about \$600,000, versus serving the same people in Jails, Hospital Emergency Rooms, and Traditional Shelters.

The Chair asked if the cost avoidance figure is over a year or since the program began.

Mr. Werthman: We looked at a cohort over a two year period comparing about 12 people that were in housing versus – and we tracked them literally in those other service systems.

The next page and this moves into also where we are now and starts to introduce some of the goals at the top, it says Part IV CoC Performance, page 37. This is an excerpt actually from the HUD Homeless Continuum of Care Application that we just completed and sent to HUD. We do this each year, It brings about \$7.5 million into the community mostly for Transitional and Permanent Supportive for Housing. Congress has established national goals; HUD has national

goals. The first one is to create new permanent housing beds for chronically homeless persons. We were able to do that with help from HUD. Last year we had 18 new chronic beds funded using what HUD calls the Samaritive Housing Initiative. Our need, which we'll get into a little bit later, is for 1,200 new beds of Permanent Supportive Housing as part of a 10 Year Plan. Then homelessness – so obviously it's going to take a broader partnership in the community than just HUD to fund the number of units of housing per year that we're going to need to attain that goal.

The second goal is to increase the percentage of persons staying in permanent housing over 6 months to 71%. Our attainment rate for HUD funded programs is 85%. So we want to monitor that and just continue to beef up our strategies to do that. We found that there's a need for more treatment services. That's one of the main reasons that people leave the permanent housing is because of some type of relapse, or other problem where they could benefit from having more treatment services or case management.

The third goal is to increase the percentage of homeless persons moving from Transitional Housing to permanent housing. Our attainment rate is right about 49% which is up from 45% last year but we still have a ways to go on that. So again you see some of the different strategies that we are using in the community to bring up that attainment.

The fourth goal is to increase the percentage of homeless persons becoming employed by 11% and again we're ahead of the national average there. The right hand column tracks are where we are. Down at the bottom it says the continuum average for participants existing in a HUD funded program is at 54%, well above the objective of 18%. HUD changed the objective by the way, that's why that is different and up from 44% last year for an increase of 10%. And again we have had some peer training and programs that are very successful at linking people with employers of the community and other strategies to help increase that. We also have a Homeless Management Information System that's almost at 75% coverage. We measure that by the number of shelters that were on that previous chart; that are using and putting data in for clients for the Homeless Management Information System. We are hoping that will be useful again to track demographics and outcomes as we go along.

Finally, at the bottom of page 41, we just talk about some of our significant accomplishments. We reduced the number of chronically homeless persons since we measured it 2 years ago; we have expanded the Homeless Outreach Teams in Fort Lauderdale and at the City of Hollywood and most recently, Pompano Beach with BSO participating. We have additional Cities that have

endorsed our County-wide 10 Year Plan to end Homelessness to bring the total to 9. We've initiated a merger of our office which is Homeless Initiative Partnership Administration with County Direct Service Offices and other Divisions. So all of those will be under one new Division now and that hopefully will allow us to improve some of our efficiencies and better coordinate the Direct Services that the County offers with the Contracted Services that we have had all along.

We have established a new Peer Mentoring Program, and it looks like were going to be tapping into some Federal dollars through the City of Hollywood to expand Housing First for Families in partnership with the Hollywood Housing Authority. That gets back to our goal of 1,200 new units. That's one of the ways that we can work towards that.

The next page just has some of our County funded contract goals.

[Ms. Norris-Weeks entered at this time 10:22 am]

Mr. Werthman: Through County funded contracts we served over 9,000 people last year. We achieved outcomes in 85% of the cases; we leveraged or brought in \$7.8 million in Federal and State funds. The next couple of pages are just where we are, second quarter to-date.

Then I wanted to end by just drawing your attention to our 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. It's about a 50 page document that I've just given you, the Executive Summary. The woman on the cover by the way was a homeless mother and she is now a homeowner through a partnership with Bank Atlantic.

The last two pages of your packet outline some of the broad strategies that we're working towards in the homeless continuum that includes more prevention, more permanent affordable housing supply, a living wage if there is any opportunity to expand that, which I am not sure there is, considering the State restrictions on that now. But certainly there are 2 ways for people to afford housing, that is, you can either – If the housing is above what they can afford – you can either build affordable housing and give them subsidies, or help them earn enough money to afford the housing.

The Chair asked what the State restrictions are on the living wage.

Mr. Werthman: State Legislature, I believe, last year prohibited Cities and Counties from enacting local living wage ordinances – like they do in some other States.

The Chair asked if this applies to all the employers in the County.

Mr. Werthman: Correct, Broward County it didn't prohibit governments from doing that, so, of course, we have that for Broward County Government and most of our contractors. But it prohibited Cities and Counties from requiring just employers in their community from being required to pay a living wage.

Mainstream Resources: Tapping into Mainstream resources such as Medicaid and Social Security; with Medicaid reform that's challenging to sustain projects like the HOPE project. It is the successful chronic project that realized the cost avoidance that I was speaking about before. We are trying to get a handle on how Medicaid reform – of course Broward being a Pilot community for that, it appears at first blush that it didn't really anticipate an Assertive Community Treatment Team. But we are in contact with OCA and DCF and looking at ways where we might be able to make that more user friendly, and tap into some of that as they do in other communities.

Discharge Planning: Is certainly a big one. We want to close the front door to homelessness by identifying people coming out of Jail and Prison who would otherwise be homeless if they didn't have some type of housing or Step-Down Facility, 3-quarter Way House. The same with people coming out of Hospital Emergency Rooms or Hospitals and Psychiatrist Units; that's a huge issue and I know that both Hospital Districts need more capacity to place people in medical respite care. We have had one Medical Respite Care Facility in the community, but the need is really much greater than what they are able to provide.

Street Outreach: As I mentioned, it is kind of a bright spot with 3 Cities on board now, but again the issue is that they're bringing them in but where do they go? We need those 1,200 units of permanent supportive housing.

Treatment and Services: Of course it's very important, both Mental Health Treatment and Substance Abuse Treatment, and Housing First is a new model that we are seeing implemented. Both with the Chronic Homeless and with families, is where you could skip maybe the transitional phase, and help people move right into their own home. Provide them with the services there and that gives them a more stable environment to get a job and just

create a more stable atmosphere for their family, or for them as an individual to get back on their feet again with the goal of transitioning off of subsidies and being able to pay their rent through employment or disability income if they are disabled.

That is my presentation in a nutshell and I will be glad to answer any questions or get back to you if I don't know the answer today.

Ms. Tanner asked Mr. Werthman what Hollywood Housing Authority's role is.

Mr. Werthman: Right now there is one project where the Hollywood Housing Authority is the pass-through for HUD funds that goes to a Permanent Supportive Housing Project in Hollywood; it's called an SRO by HUD standards. It's really studio apartments. There are 40 apartments for formally homeless / mentally ill people that receive services from Henderson Mental Health Center off-site, and those apartments are located in Hollywood. They took a dilapidated apartment building, rehabbed it using some State Homeless Housing Assistance Grant Funds, some funds that we had one time for capital, and now the Hollywood Housing Authority provides the Section 8 Vouchers for the people staying there to afford the housing. As I mentioned they are served by – the mental health services are provided by Henderson.

Ms. Norris-Weeks inquired about the number of units.

Mr. Werthman: 40 – 40 single room units, Studio apartments basically.

Ms. Tanner asked if it was established by the City of Hollywood or if it is just called the Hollywood Housing Authority.

Mr. Werthman: The land is owned by Henderson, Hollywood Housing Authority – you have to have a Housing Authority Partner to make this work from HUD's definition. So Hollywood Housing Authority agreed to do that. I will share with you that I was on the Board, but I did not vote on that project; the new project coming up would be funded by the City of Hollywood Office of Housing and Community Redevelopment: taking some Federal dollars that they have, and allowing partnering with us the same way that Fort Lauderdale does, and Broward County, Ralph Stone's office. That would provide about \$134,000 for Vouchers for homeless families that are graduating out of transitional shelter in Hollywood. Salvation Army has some and Broward Outreach Center does also. So that they could go into their own permanent housing our new Division would case manage them the same as we do in those other instances.

Hollywood Housing Authority again would be the partner to manage the vouchers and do the housing inspections.

Ms. Tanner asked if there are similar authorities throughout Broward County.

Mr. Werthman: There are 6 Public Housing Authorities in Broward County; we have very good partnerships with 3 of them. Broward County Housing Authority is our partner on some of the other Housing First Vouchers like I was just describing. We have a significant partnership with them with another HUD program called Shelter Plus Care. Again, it's like a Section 8 Voucher targeted to the homeless and there has to be dollar for dollar services match, so that they can house people again who are mentally ill and who have co-occurring disorders. Henderson, Elderly and Veteran Services, Archways and Bayview provide the services for that. That's one of our largest and most successful programs, and those are all scattered site units in the community.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked Mr. Werthman if HIP utilizes or coordinates with Workforce One for the employment issues of the homeless.

Mr. Werthman: Yes and no – and I will get back to Workforce One. On the Chronic Homeless Team we actually have two Supported Employment Specialists ,that work for Henderson. They help disabled people find jobs that they can handle and stay in them and also help to subsidize their employment.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked if this is for the 40 units.

Mr. Werthman: That's for the Chronic Homeless Project specifically there's 51 units in that project. Voc-rehab – Vocational Rehabilitation office is another one that can help disabled people find employment. Sometimes you don't want them to work so much that they lose their benefits unless you are really confident that they can succeed without the benefits. But in terms of Workforce One, we have had many, many, meetings and discussions with Mason and his staff and the agencies that he collaborates with. Their barrier is at the Federal level. They are funded for success and their funding streams and outcomes are situated in such a way, that they are institutionally averse to working with homeless people who they perceive as at high risk of not succeeding.

We make an argument that you must be thinking of people on the street which we certainly wouldn't expect that you would give them a job before they have stability in their lives. But things are different these days. We now have the emergency, transitional and permanent housing and we do work with them at some level. But anytime I go to a national conference and representatives are there from the Department of Labor and U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), I say by the way, you want us to work with Workforce, but you have this barrier, could you please look into that? So, it's an ongoing challenge.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked if Workforce One has any other funding sources other than the Federal Government. Such as Grant or other funds that could help support HIP.

Mr. Werthman: I am really not sure, and we are looking for Department of Labor Grants which would allow us to collaborate more fully on things like this. There's also an agency in the Community OIC (OIC of America, Inc. – Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.) I am not sure if I recall what that stands for. But they have a Department of Labor Grant for Ex-offenders returning to the community. We partner with them if they're homeless; they help them to find jobs and we refer them again to these existing resources.

Ms. West asked if there is a program that specifically deals with Senior Citizens.

Mr. Werthman: There's one and unfortunately we are finding a growing number of Elderly homeless since Hurricane Wilma, especially in some of the economic outturn. Inverrary Station which is operated by Broward Partnership for the Homeless is a HUD funded program and they have 62 beds of Transitional Housing for the elderly. We also have kind of an elderly carve out for the Chronic Homeless Projects and some of those people move in there if they are chronic.

Mr. Maus asked how long Transitional Housing lasts.

Mr. Werthman: By definition up to 2 years, but typically the average is between 4 and 8 months before people move on to something else or leave the program.

Ms. King asked if Transitional Housing is temporary.

Mr. Werthman: Yes, Emergency shelter in our community is typically 60 days on average in other communities it's like – they call it 3 hots and cot, it's a much lower level of care. But in our community we have the full services Homeless Assistance Centers; they have some good job

programs by the way at those. They have learning labs for people that do their resumes, and have training and life skills and how to apply for a job. They help connect them with employers. So that's 60 days for emergency, up to 2 years for Transitional, and Permanent is just as the word implies. There is no limit to the length of stay. It's just like housing that any of us would be on.

Ms. King asked if there are limits to the number of times an individual can return to the programs for support.

Mr. Werthman: The Homeless Assistance Centers typically have some types of guidelines and some of them take the approach of once you've had one chance, a new person should be given a chance and if you want to come back in you would have to wait 30, 60, or 90 days or so. It's really done on a case-by-case basis; some people don't really – you know the light doesn't flash about what they need to do to stay off the street, or they don't get the help that they need to do that, until multiple times of being homeless. In other cases it will work sooner – so that's one of the things we want to do a better job of tracking with the Homeless Management Information System, is track that recidivism rate and see what's working and what's not.

Mr. Ketcham asked if there is a program to help people that are about to be evicted with their rent or mortgage or if they have to go over the ledge before they get help.

Mr. Werthman: There are a couple of programs; one is through our Department's Family Success Division, and there's the network of Family Success Centers where they can go in and receive Rent / Mortgage Assistance with Case Management. There is a stipulation that they have to be able to pay for their rent the second time and have a plan in place to do that. So there are people, because of those requirements who fall between cracks, but there's so much need that they wanted to prioritize. It's kind of a triage literally, where you are going to assist people whom you believe will make it. There are other people who don't make it and unfortunately they wind up in a Homeless Services System. We also get about \$500,000 from FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program into the community and a good portion of that money goes to a program similar to that.

Mr. Esack inquired about the Inverrary Station, a Transitional Housing Program for the elderly homeless. He asked if there is any permanent housing for the elderly homeless.

Mr. Werthman: Not targeted the way that Inverrary is. But all of the Permanent Supportive Housing would accept clients regardless of age or other demographics like that.

Mr. Esack asked Mr. Werthman if he is aware of the elderly increase across the board.

Mr. Werthman: Yes, they've actually been very creative at Inverrary; they work well with Housing providers not only in this community, but they will take their clients on field trips to the middle of the state where housing prices are less expensive and help them look at communities for the elderly where they can move to them and assist them to move there. They get credit for that, we don't care where they live so long as they're in permanent housing.

Ms. King asked Mr. Werthman how people find out about HIP programs.

Mr. Werthman: There's a central number to call (954) 792-BEDS, for anyone who is homeless. That is the first place they can call to identify any empty shelter beds in the community and that's really how they get into the system that I have been describing. The BEDS Hotline has been a bit overwhelmed and under-staffed quite frankly; we do a 3-year rotation with our contracts. It's a County contract services so we are having a Request for Proposal this summer and looking to make a little more investment in that: expand its hours of operations and have a competitive process to see who would like to operate that in the Community.

Ms. West asked if it is like a Call Center.

Mr. Werthman: It's a hotline, that's right.

Mr. Esack asked if the other Housing Authorities are municipalities.

Mr. Werthman: Housing Authorities are – the Boards are typically appointed by the City Commission. The Broward County Authority's Board is appointed by the Governor but they report to HUD more than they do the City. Obviously, there is a need for coordination. They also partner with Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority in a similar way to the Scattered Site Vouchers that we're going to be doing in Hollywood. By the way, I wanted to mention that we hope to partner with Pompano Beach and their Housing Authority which is kind of in the mend right now pretty publically.

Dr. Lieberman explained that he is an Emergency Physician. He initially trained in Philadelphia Emergency and is now practicing in Coral Springs Emergency. He explained that he sees homeless people from time to time up in Coral Springs. He added that he knows it is not a permanent solution but asked if there are any one day emergency shelters, where people can go for a cot and a hot meal.

Mr. Werthman: There are a few and there's certainly a need for that. The way we look at it is – you're right. That's not the permanent solution, but we see it as an opportunity to engage the clients and say, “,Hey, you know there are more services available if you like to avail yourself to them.” It is interesting you mention Philadelphia, they have some model Safe Haven Programs that do that, and they are one of our communities that we look to and kind of do legal larceny and steal ideas from them. The Safe Haven, we have one in Lauderhill operated by Henderson, has no time limit; it has low demand and is targeted to the mentally ill homeless where they can come in and be in a semi-private setting as opposed to a big group shelter, where it doesn't work well for people with Paranoia for instance, so we have that.

There is also what we call a Tiered Incentive Program at the North Homeless Assistance Center. Again low demand, you can come in. It's not a Wet Shelter where you can drink there or use drugs or something, but it's what we call a Damp Shelter where they won't kick you out or prohibit you from coming in if you are under the influence. That describes a lot of homeless people, quite frankly, who are on the street. So we wanted to have kind of a soft landing for them, there's just one meeting a night where other services are presented and they can see the other services in the shelter and avail themselves of that if they choose.

There is kind of – at the Homeless Assistance Centers-Police Departments and Outreach, we have over-night shelter beds to basically keep people out of the Parks and Streets where the City needs to enforce curfews and so forth. That's to provide a way to adhere to the Huntanger Case which started a lot of our services in South East Florida. The Federal case in Miami that ruled that homeless people cannot be summarily arrested and have their possessions discarded or be arrested for life-sustaining misdemeanors unless there is a shelter alternative. So that spurred a lot of activity in Miami-Dade County and here; we see that as a good thing.

Dr. Lieberman asked if he identified someone or a homeless person, if he called (954) 792–BEDS they could get into a temporary shelter.

[Ms. Rogers entered at this time 10:43 am]

Mr. Werthman: They could or by contacting now, the Police Outreach Teams in the respective communities Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale, and Pompano Beach.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked if there is a work requirement and if they are monitored.

Mr. Werthman: There are different tracks there again, and different facilities handle it in different ways. Again we see some differences are a good thing, because people are different and they respond to different types of programs. So in some cases, they – if you have a substance abuse problem, they won't allow you to go out for work for a while, until you can get the skills necessary to hold a job. A lot of people say "well homeless people should just get a job". Well a lot of homeless people have had a lot of jobs. They just can't keep them, so we want to give them the skills to keep the jobs. To stay clean and sober, to have life skills, to teach them how to budget and so forth, so they don't wind up back in the front door again. In other cases there's what they call a Work First Track, where you can come in and have a job if you don't have chronic substance abuse issues that you haven't resolved, You can just come in and start working right away and save up enough money to go on your own.

Ms. Gross advised that she heard that a lot of homeless feel unsafe in shelters. She asked if there is a way to ensure that they are protected with whatever little valuables they have in their possession while inside the shelters.

Mr. Werthman: In the Homeless Assistance Centers I believe they have lockers, and they also have 24 hour Resident Assistants who monitor. They have cameras and so forth. I would venture to guess that some of that is more true of facilities outside of our community where again, it's a real minimal level of you know – New York City – not to pick on New York City, but they have these huge Armories with thousands of people in them and they truly were not safe. Even in Orlando, they have what they call a Pavilion again, a very low-level of service. People just sleeping on the floor on mats – and there had been years ago, stabbings and so forth. It's really about how you run the facility. So some of that may be residual, and that's the image of a shelter typically. It can be true in some areas but I don't think it's as true here.

Mr. Esack asked how Broward County's recidivism rate compares to those centers just mentioned (i.e. the large Pavilion). He asked if there is a significant statistical difference.

Mr. Werthman: That's something we do, a better job of tracking. We've just started to track recidivism in the community and it's not just by shelter, but you want to track the people going in and out of all of your shelters. I really don't have a statistic for you on that. I know in terms of people moving from the Homeless Assistance Centers into Transitional and Permanent Housing is typically about 55%. In Transitional Housing we measure if they move into permanent housing and stay there for at least 6 months and that rate is about 70% success rate, and that's the national average. Then once you get into permanent housing - that's why you want to get people into permanent housing as quickly as possible, the success rate goes up to 80-85, 90%.

Ms. Tanner asked Mr. Werthman while in the shelter what kind of financial assistance they give the homeless with their own money, such as accounts, etc.

Mr. Werthman: A lot of the shelters do set up Savings Accounts or work with the clients to set up Savings Accounts, especially in Transitional. Some of them require people to either pay a program fee that helps pay for their housing and/or set up a Savings Account with their earned income. That's part of their moving out money.

Mr. Rogers asked Mr. Werthman where HIP gets most of its funding and if the new budget crisis might affect funding.

Mr. Werthman: Broward County is one of the few Communities, Counties, or Cities that has a local dedicated funding source. Miami Dade County does through a food and beverage tax, and we do through a redirection of money that would go to Mass Transit, but it's key to a 1 cent fuel tax and it's the equivalent of \$7.5 million. The County augments that with another \$2.5 million, so the County investment is about \$10 million annually. Primarily for the Homeless Assistance Centers, some Transitional Housing, the BEDS hotline, and the Safe Haven and also a Court project for people coming from Mental Health Court who are homeless. Then HUD is our next largest source of funding – we have been successful there, to move out \$7.5 million annually that we bring into the community. One of the reasons we know for sure that there is success, is that we do have a local dedicated funding source and that has really helped us compete nationally. The third source is State funds, which bring in about \$100,000 a year for general services, and sometimes we can tap into a Capital Grant for about \$750,000 a year. That's our total budget. There are other funding sources that come into the community. Healthcare for the homeless of course; through the Hospital District there is a Homeless Education Program;

through the School Board, private funding that shelters, raise on their own, through fundraising events and mass appeal letters etc.

Ms. Rogers asked if there is anything the Charter can do to sustain the dedicated funds.

Mr. Werthman: The County Commission approved those as dedicated that way through 2029 by Resolution and Ordinance.

Ms. Rogers inquired about the recent Clemency Law.

Mr. Werthman: They certainly do come in. There's a lot of overlap, but one of our goals as a community, I believe is a Three-quarter Way Half-way housing for ex-offenders both locally and from around the state. We have a lot who come here from prisons around the State. The correctional center in Pompano discharges people to the street every morning at 3:00 am. Some will make their way to the North Homeless Assistance Center, some disburse into the community go back to whatever they were doing – hopefully they don't. But BSO says that they have to do that because of State Statute. I don't know the answer totally to that, but that's something that has to change.

Some staff at the North Homeless Assistance Center, has since they opened, gone in and done presentations about the services that they have to offer for some people who are anticipating release and have no where to go; so that they can come over to the North Homeless Assistance Center. Again it's just a small pilot program and is limited by capacity. There's a growing encampment of homeless people along the railroad tracks in Pompano Beach, that's why Pompano BSO wanted to do outreach with us.

But as to your question on the budget, I am sorry I missed that, for Homeless Services we're keeping our fingers crossed; it's not looking too bad this year. The one issue that they're probably discussing as we speak are the cost of living increases for the Homeless Assistance Centers. That is a potential cut that at least one Commissioner said he wanted to discuss some more. There's a cost efficiency that we are realizing on staff, paying for one staff partly from a grant that's our level 3 cut – if you have been following the budget process. Level 3 is where you get in some deeper cuts. So far those have been taken off the table, and those would really start digging into services.

The Chair asked if the Homeless Assistance Centers are actual County operations.

Mr. Werthman: They are operated by private not-for-profits, the South and North are operated by Miami Rescue Mission Broward Outreach Center; the Central is operated by Broward Partnership for the Homeless Center.

The Chair asked if the County gets State and Federal funds and the County shares, and they through Contract, fund those services.

Mr. Werthman: Correct, the Not-for-profit operates them and manages them. We manage them only by contract within the scope.

Mr. Esack questioned why prisoners are released at 3:00am.

Mr. Werthman: The last conversation I had with BSO Captain, he said that's by State Statute. I think it has something to do with the release process and how long it takes and when that has to be initiated, but I really don't know the answer to that.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked who runs the halfway houses.

Mr. Werthman: It's mostly by non-profits and it can be for-profit entities. We have a program called Rate and Referral where we have a \$33 voucher that we help to fund a bed for people. That's mostly Transitional Housing from our definition, and then our staff provides case management to the people that are in those.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked if there is any type of preference for people who may have family and may have lived in the area prior to incarceration.

Mr. Werthman: We occasionally get calls from correctional facilities around the State saying "we would like to help someone get a shelter there, how do we do that". My first question is, Are they from here? Do they have some connection here? Why here? I have heard statistics that Broward County is the single largest destination for people coming out of correctional facilities, and I don't know why. I don't know if that's because people have contacts here or what.

Ms. Norris-Weeks stated that she wonders if that can be an issue that can be explored at the County level.

The Chair advised that Marlene Wilson might have information on origin. Because it's true of a lot of the other Social Services, that people come down here from all over.

Mr. Werthman: We do get what I call “dumping” that happens in any community where – facilities and other communities will send people here. We also have a what we call a Family Reunification Program, where we can pay for transportation for them to return to a community that sent them here, if they have a family network or support network in that community. We just don’t reverse dump them if they don’t have some network there.

It is a concern. However, I would say that when we have done surveys, we have been similar to other communities where there are transient among the homeless. But more often than not homeless people in our community are from our community; they were last housed in this community.

Mr. Maus asked if when dumping occurs, if it is from within the State or from other Counties nearby or further away.

Mr. Werthman: I have talked to Social Work Supervisors in Ashville, North Carolina, Michigan, and Palm Beach County. With West Palm Beach, we were encouraged that the County Manager of Palm Beach County recently visited; they have done this over the years, but I think they are finally going to get serious about doing something for their homeless population – they really just have not and that could be one reason we see this growth in homelessness along the tracks of Pompano Beach.

Ms. Grooms inquired about the Katrina victims.

Mr. Werthman: We tracked that a couple of years ago and we really have not had Katrina victims winding up in significant numbers in the shelters or on the street here. Most of the Wilma victims have been placed so – fortunately it really hasn’t been a big issue. Of course, we had a huge influx of first time homeless right after the storm. But we were able to case manage most of those people.

Mr. Esack inquired about the \$7.5 million Mass Transit fund.

Mr. Werthman: In 1999, the Board of County Commissioners approached the State Legislature to allow a statutory change and the House of Representatives simply would not even hear the request 2 years in a row on Committee. So what the Board of County Commissioners did was they – because that State Statute requires you to use any fuel tax for Transportation purposes, they wanted to raise a penny tax and use it for Homeless Services and change the State

Statute. The State wouldn't give it a hearing, so the Board of County Commissioners raised the one cent tax, got permission from the Cities who share that tax to use it for Homeless Services through the County, and the penny actually goes to Mass Transit. However, Broward County was already dedicating over \$20 million in general revenue to Mass Transit so they simply re-designated the equivalent amount \$7.5 million, and targeted that to Homeless Services.

Ms. West inquired about the role of Red Cross and their role in homelessness. She stated that when there is a fire and people are burned out she noticed that the Red Cross is assisting the family.

Mr. Werthman: That is it.

Mr. Ketcham asked where the homeless go when they are urged to get off the street during the winter.

Mr. Werthman: They go to the same Homeless Assistance Centers and the Salvation Army; we lift the population caps and Cities allow that. We have never turned away people in an event like that; either for cold weather or for a Hurricane. Outreach Teams step up their activities, Police Departments are notified. So we usually bring in the maximum which has been about 300 people in the severe weather event.

The Chair asked who the Steering Committee is for the 10 Year Plan.

Mr. Werthman: We have an Implementation Committee, the Chair is Dianne Sepielli with the Board County School Board, Scott DiMarzo is on the Implementation Committee from the North Broward Hospital District. The Coalition to End Homelessness has a seat at the table, we have a few County staff on the Implementation Committee, Skip Johnson was until he changed positions recently. We also have a representative from the United Way, Task Force for Ending Homelessness, and the Salvation Army.

What we really need is, we need to expand the community involvement in that Plan and in the Implementation Committee with Cities and other Community funders and players as well, because it's going to take a community-wide effort in order to achieve these goals. We are beginning to see that.

Ms. Grooms asked if Churches are involved at all.

Mr. Werthman: Yes, faith-based organizations are very involved throughout our continuum of care and there are – I don't recall if there's someone representing the Church on the Implementation Committee, but there are certainly tie ends there with the Miami Rescue Mission for instance, they're on the Committee.

The Chair asked if the County has a statutory responsibility to provide homeless services.

Mr. Werthman: It's part of the Administrative Code, but I am not aware of any statutory responsibility. Most Counties don't have a County office like we do. They don't have a County or City dedicated funding sources.

The Chair advised that this makes him wonder if something is not prescribed at the State level.

The State – by State Statute requires you to have a Continuum of Care Plan on how you are going to address homelessness. I don't think anyone would have the never?? to put that in their plan. We actual did contact the State one time because Key West said that – that was going to be their modus operandi. They were going to send – their plan was to send people to Miami Dade and Broward Counties. So we called the State and said “will you give us the State money that they would otherwise get” so I think they backed off at that point.

The Chair clarified that what Broward County is doing is not required by the State.

Mr. Werthman: They require us to have a Plan. They give us State money and in order to get the State money, we have to show progress in meeting the needs of the homeless. They don't tell you whether a Coalition should be managing this process or County Government or what.

The Chair asked if there are any Counties in Florida where the County Government actual runs the whole program.

Mr. Werthman: Miami-Dade County has the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust which is very similar to what we do. They are quasi-governmental and they would probably come the closest.

The Chair asked if they are run by the Miami-Dade County Commission.

Mr. Werthman: Indirectly they have a Trust Board who oversees the process. Our Homeless Initiative Partnership Advisory Board is an analogous to that, but they are advisory to the Board of County Commissioner. We are a little governmental than they are.

Ms. West asked if the \$100,000 from the State is the only funding received from the State.

Mr. Werthman: That's the State Challenge Grant, and then there's also a Homeless Housing Assistance Grant for \$750,000 which we tapped into. Clearly the State is the lowest funder of Homeless Services in our community.

Mr. Maus asked if HIP receives the \$750,000 every year.

Mr. Werthman: No we don't – unfortunately in the past 2 years there were no agencies in the community who were in a position to apply for it. You actual have to spend that money within about 6 months on a construction project. If anyone has been involved in a construction project you know that it takes longer than that sometimes. So it's really best as last end dollars, one a project, and you have to have the land and be ready to go. So we met with Ralph Stone's Office this year and did a combined Request for Proposal process so that people could apply for their money at the same time that they were applying for this money, as a way to kind of sweeten the pot and make the projects more doable. So this year, we do actually have the applicant.

Mr. Maus asked if the money comes through the State as well.

Mr. Werthman: Yes, through the State through us, to the project sponsor.

Ms. Rogers asked what are the total grants and grant application.

Mr. Werthman: Next fiscal year we are – as I mentioned we are going to add the Direct Service Teams that are now in different County's Divisions to our office and then we are going to become a new Division.

Ms. Rogers questioned whether the County should take a more direct role in monitoring or setting standards under which the providers of services to the homeless fall.

Mr. Werthman: Yes and we do to some degree. We have adopted Standards of Care adopted by the Board of County Commissioner and we have a Division that monitors our contracts, including for the Standards of Care. But that only applies to County contracted providers. The fellows who sell the *Homeless Voice* we don't fund them and we have no way of monitoring the standards of care in that facility. For instance – I am surprised that didn't come up already.

The Chair inquired of programs that are served by the State.

Mr. Werthman: If we have plans at a Boarding Home for instance – which most of this does not rely on Boarding Homes but some of it does, they would receive case management and the standards would apply to that type of case management that they are receiving, but the facility would be monitored our office.

Ms. Rogers asked Mr. Werthman how does challenges and Legislation affect his program.

Mr. Werthman: Every single time we open a project based facility or there's emergency shelter, transitional, or permanent there's a huge NIMBY backlash through the zoning mechanisms and the municipality. Every single time we have to work through that it takes years and every single time we prevail. It is extremely time consuming and I don't even want to think about it, but that is the main challenge we have with local government. I will add one more thing, every single time when the facility opens it is a good neighbor.

Ms. Rogers asked Mr. Werthman if there is any thing legislatively that can be done.

Mr. Werthman: Well, the State has a stronger Fair Housing Act which prohibits any City from discriminating on the basis of disability and housing and if push comes to shove – that's where we would have to go. But you want to kind of avoid that. Cities typically don't even have homeless shelters and their Zoning Code; they just have barriers that come up when you want to site a facility. I don't know, the State Legislature you mean? - a little different.

Ms. Rogers stated at the County level.

Mr. Werthman: The County doesn't have authority over City zoning codes but we do through the Land Use Plan. I use to sit on the Planning Council. The zoning code has to come into conformity with the Land Use Plan so – I've never really thought about some element of the land use plan that speaks to homeless housing. You certainly have that for Affordable Housing, and maybe there could be some language in there – but politically that would be challenging.

Ms. Norris-Weeks stated that she believes that's a good point that would allow it to be somewhat spread out to avoid so many concentrated areas.

Mr. Werthman: That's a goal for us. Lauderdale actually adopted concentration as policy at one point, and now they are undoing that, but we have several facilities there that we need to keep.

Ms. Rogers referred to a Homeless Center in Lauderdale on 55th which she stated were an eyesore for a long time until they started Code Enforcement. She advised that this is possibly why the NIMBY situations are occurring, because they truly were not monitored and managed properly. Where you are in the Community, but you don't know they are there.

Mr. Werthman: Inverrary is there and Henderson Village and those are well run but the problem was the Shay Papillion run by Getty's Outreach and Development which went into foreclosure and that's the sticking point.

The Chair inquired about the supervision of the homeless shelters.

Mr. Werthman: If they're County contracted they must adhere to the Standards of Care which address those issues and we do monitor them, and of course the usually City mechanisms, as well and Contract Monitors.

A brief conversation ensued regarding visual appearances of Housing developments with comments made by Ms. Rogers and Ms. West.

Ms. Norris-Weeks asked if the 3,154 total homeless count include a physical head count of people in the community.

Mr. Werthman: Yes, that includes – the Police Departments are very helpful at telling us where homeless people congregate or whether their encampments are, and we typically have about 100 volunteers that do a blitz one day a week, one day in the year and they go to those encampments. We also count the people in emergency and transitional shelters.

Ms. West inquired about a building on 7th Avenue.

Mr. Werthman: That's a pick up point for the Central Homeless Outreach Team.

Ms. Norris-Weeks questioned how the pick up process work.

Mr. Werthman: The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department and they have a Civilian partner. It's a nationally recognized model not necessarily the pick up point. But as that project

evolved, first of all, the City of Fort Lauderdale requires anyone – requires most of the people going into the Central park to come from a two mile radius around it. So that's within a two mile radius but the Mobile Outreach Team is truly mobile. They found that it was more efficient rather than going and picking up everyone and limousine service if you will – to ask them if you are able to meet us at 7th Avenue Recovery, the name of the office. Then we'll pick you up at 3:00 and we'll get you where you need to go.

The Chair thanked Mr. Werthman for his presentation.

Mr. Werthman: If you do have recommendations regarding homeless services – would you have Pat or someone to share that information with me, how does that work?

Ms. West advised that she would.

[End of Speaker]

IV. Discussion of report on recommendations for proposed Ballot Topics

The Chair opened the floor to discussion of thoughts on Housing and other recommendations from the dais.

He stated that he noted based on today's meeting the potential for recommendation on Land Use Plan Modifications to include homeless housing.

A general conversation ensued among dais members. Ms. Rogers when reviewing statistics presented by Mr. Werthman advised she was looking to see whether or not there was any shift in the numbers of persons being serviced. Comments were made by Ms. Tanner, Ms. Rogers, Ms. West and Ms. Weeks.

The Chair advised that the HSSC has two areas to look at related to Housing one being Affordable Housing and the other being the Homeless . He reminded the dais that other things discussed is, that there is no Central Clearing House or oversight mechanism at the County level to provide coordination to eliminate duplication of services. He stated that the issue of this discussion is a possible recommendation for including Homeless Housing in the Land Use Plan to give some direction to the municipalities for splitting out the impact of homeless across Broward County. He then asked the dais if there are any other items of suggestion.

Ms. Norris-Weeks advised that it would be good to ensure that whatever Affordable Housing Oversight mechanism or Housing Council is suggested includes the homeless. She also suggested that it could be a Charter Amendment similar to the Fire Rescue Council.

Ms. West advised that Mr. Carras expressed interest in coming to work with the Subcommittee.

Mr. Ketcham reminded the dais that there are 38,000 affordable housing units needed. He stated that if the County is really concerned about Affordable Housing, then an Amendment that would say that, the taxes on rental property can't go up any more than Save Our Homes 3% a year across the board. He advised that this would start addressing the problem because a lot of rents have gone up, not because of anything else, but except the taxes that are charged by Broward County.

Ms. Rogers stated that the dais needs to know when the changes will occur within the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

A discussion ensued relevant to condos in Broward County.

The Chair advised that the HSSC has two more issues, one being the control of the overall conversion ratio, second being establishing ceiling on taxes for rentals.

Ms. West suggested a joint meeting between the LUSC and the HSSC.

The Chair asked if any of the other subcommittee's were talking about taxes, he also asked if the County is allowed to make exceptions and set a ceiling on a particular type of property.

Ms. West advised that staff would have to contact the State Department of Revenue and the Property Appraiser's office and provide research. She advised that she is almost certain that it would not be the County having the last word, that it would be Tallahassee.

Mr. Ketcham advised that he couldn't image that if a County said they were not going to charge more taxes on people that anyone would have problems with that. ,Because he added, the State does not get any revenue from our property taxes. Ms. West stated that she will pose the question to the Property Appraiser's Office, but she was informed that whatever the Property Appraiser does has to be approved by the Department of Revenue in Tallahassee.

Ms. Norris-Weeks advised that she believes this is being said because there are certain timeframes, etc. that the Property Appraiser has to operate in, by Statute.

Mr. Maus advised that it would have a good affect but a very small affect in light of all other taxes you get charged.

Ms. West will contact the Property Appraiser's Office asking of a timeline and what a recommendation such as being proposed would mean and if it is doable.

Mr. Maus inquired about the next meeting.

Following a brief discussion it was determined that the next HSSC meeting will be held on July 17th. Ms. West advised that staff will check their calendar in order to coordinate the time and get back to the dais via email.

Ms. West advised that she will not be present on the 17th. Ms. Gross and remaining staff will be present to support the dais. Ms. King also reminded Ms. West that she is on vacation the 2nd two weeks of July, but would provide a Transcriber to cover the meetings.

The Chair suggested that the dais keep reviewing notes and continue to think of recommendations.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

The minutes of this meeting are recorded on CRC-HSSC CD # 6.25.07 (BCGV CTR)