

**Charlotte County
Board of County Commissioners
Community Action Agency Advisory Board(CAAAB)
January 22, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Phil Wickstrom, Paul Polk, Alleen Miller, Dee Rutko, Paul Froeschle, Dianne Munson, Michael Haymans

Members Excused:

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, Carrie Blackwell-Hussey

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Emily Lewis, Jessica Ralston and Vikki Carpenter

Guests Present:

Stefanie Thomas

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Michael Haymans called meeting to order at 2:02 pm. All present members and staff introduced themselves

2. Public Input

None.

3. Approval of October 2014 Meeting Minutes – *Vote Required*

Board reviews the minutes from the October 2014 Meeting. Alleen Miller motions to approve minutes. Dianne Munson seconds motion. October 2014 Minutes are approved, unanimously.

4. Community Action Month

Mrs. Lewis would like to begin engaging the community in discussions to bring awareness about poverty during the Community Action Month, May 2015 which would be a great opportunity to have awareness campaigns. Mrs. Lewis requests input from the Board. Mrs. Munson would like to have a Proclamation by the Board of County Commissioners which would bring awareness to the community. Mr. Wickstrom suggests a Proclamation from the City of Punta Gorda together challenging the council to live for a week on the amount of money and food stamps as our low-income families. Ms. Rutko suggests utilizing the Transit system, or lack thereof, to get to work or get your children to school(not allowed to use your own vehicle) to get to work for a week. She also suggests to have the children in our community play a role and no electronics for a week, i.e., no Ipads, Cell Phones, etc... so they can understand what some of our under privileged children go through on their day-to-day. Mrs. Lewis informs the Board of a poverty simulation that was conducted by another county in Florida and advised the Board of the potential ideas we could incorporate into our Community Action Month. Mrs. Miller suggests instead of a whole week of the simulation possibly look to achieve one day. Mr. Haymans states that a week may have more meaning and impact on the community as one day may not have as much validity as an entire week. Mr. Haymans commits to informing the community on his

radio show to obtain more listeners, community partners and patrons to commit to the challenge. The Board suggests approaching the Ministry Association, Food Connection Meeting, EACH/C3, United Way, Mental Health partners, Probation/Parole Organization, Leadership Charlotte, Homeless Coalition, and any other community partner or event that would benefit from simulation. Mr. Haymans states that Mr. Ron Thomas is a participant in the SimSoc(Simulated Society) for which he could be beneficial in advising on the creation of the simulation. The Board discusses the feasibility of how long the simulation should be. Mr. Haymans suggests a three day challenge. Mrs. Lewis reiterates that this could be a great opportunity to work with some providers in our community and make is a joint effort that everyone plays a part in. Mrs. Lewis would like to have a steering committee to get together and create/endorse the challenge. She will give a program outline to the Board and they can give back their input on the creation of the simulation.

5. Strategic Plan

Mrs. Lewis updates the Board on the strategic plan that is required in the new 2016 CSBG Organizational Standards. She states that the Human Services department is underway on the creation of the plan, and a major focus in the community is the SWOT Analysis of Programs (Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats). Mrs. Lewis passes out the Human Services field SWOT analysis(Attachment A), and informs the Board of what the Human Services field Goal is, the Focus Areas, and Short/Long term issues, trends and initiatives. The focus areas came from the budget office and community partners, i.e., United Way, Virginia B. Andes Health Clinic, Health Department, Transit, Charlotte Behavioral, and Charlotte County Human Services. The recommendations from the SWOT Analysis will be presented in from of the Board of County Commissioners to include focus areas of Transportation, Health Care Issues, Economic diversity, Affordable Housing, etc.. The number one priority is to create a Human Services Master Plan to ensure all the Human Services organizations have a unified vision and that we are moving in the same direction. Mrs. Lewis gives the Board members a change to participate in the SWOT Analysis and allows them to fill out what their SWOT are (Attachment B).

6. Department Update

Emily Lewis updated board informing them that the Quarterly Report's deadline has been extended to the 10th of February 2015 due to changes going to be implemented from Department of Economic Opportunity on reporting. Mrs. Lewis notifies the board that the state has come out with clarification on how they would like us to report outcomes. Mrs. Lewis explains that as a state, we are under reporting the outcomes; therefore we must incorporate a tracking system to ensure we are reporting accurately to the state on the services and outcomes we provide to our clientele.

Jessica Ralston updates Board on current program case load for Family Self-Sufficiency Program and Emergency Housing Program.

Mrs. Lewis discusses the collaboration efforts for our Food Pantry which included a Stuff-A-Bus event with our Transit Department and Public Works Department food drive during the holidays.

Mrs. Lewis informs that Board that we have joined the Florida Prosperity Partnership which is an association of banks, private enterprises, non-profit organizations and government entities that are focused on promoting financial literacy.

Mrs. Lewis educates the Board on the Youth Summit that took place in October 2014 which is part of the Developmental Assets project. The project included just over 100 children from every high school in Charlotte County to discuss community problem solving and identifying issues that affect teens in our community. The youth's number one issue is community safety, i.e., more lighting at bus stops, more sidewalks, etc.. Mrs. Lewis explains that the event wanted to promote the point that the community does care about their voice. The youth are working on the final aspect of the project which is presenting to the Board of County Commissioners.

7. Public Comments – limited to 3 minutes each

None.

8. Member's Comments

Dee Rutko informs the Board of an upcoming Business Expo on 2/5/15 located at the Event Center in Punta Gorda and the Panty Hose Women's Expo will be held on 2/6/15 at the Cultural Center. Lastly, they have jobs(CareerSource of SouthWest Florida) from entry level to the high up positions.

9. Adjournment

Michael P. Haymans adjourns meeting at 3:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Recording Secretary