

Approved at May 21, 2009 Meeting
MONROE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
Feb. 11, 2009

Board Room 10:00 A.M.
Fishermen's Hospital 3301 Overseas Highway; Marathon, FL

Board Members Present: Staff present:
Todd Firm, Chair Lisa Tennyson, Grants Administrator
Alexsandra Leto, Vice Chair
David Horan, Secretary
Kim Bassett

County Commissioners present:
Sylvia Murphy
George Neugent

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by Todd Firm, Chairman. Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB) members and attendees introduced themselves.

Board members noted their affiliations with applicant organizations:

Todd Firm: none
Alexsa Leto: none
Steve Torrence: MARC House
David Horan: none
Kim Bassett: AHEC, and Fishermen's Hospital is affiliated with Rural Health Network

Introductions of other meeting attendees (representatives of not-for-profits.)

David Paul Horan was nominated as Chairman, Alexsa Leto was nominated as Vice-Chairperson, and Steve Torrence was nominated as Secretary. All accepted these nominations, and the nominations were approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2008 meeting passed unanimously.

The board began discussion of the application for FY 2010. Steve Torrence asked that we make sure we are capturing all information on other sources of County funds, besides HSAB funds.

Alexsa Leto said that, to her, using County funds as match was a priority.

There was some discussion that we tried to address these issues in last year's application.

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David Horan said that we should not encourage new applications, as we don't have enough funding for present programs. Alexsa Leto stated that as a public board, we cannot say that we will not fund new applicants. Kim Bassett agreed with Alexsa Leto that the Board cannot limit the application process to only currently funded organizations. Todd Firm recalled that there was a general consensus on this issue reached by the Board members last year -- that we would not encourage new applications, but that if a great program was among the new applicants, it would be considered for funding.

David Horan said he'd like to see more consolidation among services to enhance efficiencies and to address duplication and replication of services. Kim Bassett said that it's hard for organizations to do this and repeated that the Board must at least accept and consider applications from new organizations. Steve Torrence agreed with Kim Bassett, that as a public board we can't say no to any organization that comes before us for funding and that he always approaches each application with an equal, unbiased review. Todd Firm agreed. David Horan said we should encourage new programs to contact existing organizations and look to consolidate rather than seek new funding. Alexsa Leto said that last year, a new organization was funded.

David Horan made a motion to affirm the statement of consensus that in consideration of the restricted availability of funds, applications for funding from new organizations will be discouraged and new programs should seek to partner or consolidate with funded organizations. Steve Torrence seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote, with Kim Bassett voting against.

Alexsa Leto restated her concerns that organizations should report clearly on the application whether they are receiving other sources of county funds.

David Horan said he was concerned with organizations that give sub-grants to other organizations with HSAB funds. He recalled last year there were one or two examples of this. Steve Torrence said that this was addressed on attachments D and E, where it states "grants to other organizations." Commissioner Murphy recommended that we asterisk or bold this request and/or add an explanation. Elmira Leto commented that her organization is a lead agency that acts as a pass-through for federal funding to other organizations. Alexsa clarified that that is not what they mean. There was discussion of clarifying this issue on the application.

The board discussed 2010 funding issues. Lisa Tennyson said that the Budget office is hoping to be able to keep the total available funding at \$1,700,087; the same level as last year.

Alexsa Leto asked about the funding for the PACE Center last year and that the \$65,000 HSAB gave over to the BOCC to fund PACE (when PACE could not be funded through HSAB) should be returned to the HSAB budget. Diana Reagon from PACE, now Keys Center for Girls, stated that she never received that amount of money and didn't know the reason for that. Discussion of the situation with PACE and its funding continued. Members of the board questioned why, if HSAB gave \$65,000 back to the BOCC to fund PACE, did PACE ultimately receive only \$34,000. David Horan stated that the funding for PACE should stay with PACE -- in other

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words if PACE comes back to HSAB, then that funding of \$65,000 should be returned to the HSAB budget.

David Paul Horan stated that the HSAB budget needs to return to the 5% level. Commissioner Murphy stated that, considering the current economic climate and the economic condition of the state, we need to hope we can keep funding at the current level. David Horan mentioned that in tough economic times, more people often need more services and that cuts to services in these times have an even worse impact. He encouraged everyone to help and volunteer at our various service organizations.

David Horan suggested that the Board could probably rely upon Commissioner assurances regarding the level of available funding for HSAB. Commissioner Murphy reiterated her full support for the current level of funding based on what we know right now. She said added that if things drastically changed at the state level, she and the other Commissioners would not be able to make any assurances about funding.

David Horan questioned how the HSAB can make funding recommendations without knowing for sure what the availability of funding will be and without knowing how much support organizations will need since they won't know about state level cuts until after the HSAB makes its funding recommendations in May. He suggested that in light of the fact that the County and service organizations will not know their full funding situation until they hear from the State perhaps we should postpone HSAB funding recommendations until that time.

Lisa Tennyson stated that the County must abide by a legislatively-mandated budget timeline and that the Budget office needs HSAB's recommendations by the end of May to ensure that they are included in the budget. It was also mentioned that many organizations will know by the end of May if there will be any major reductions to their state and federal funding, and that the HSAB can capture that information in their May meeting before they make their final funding recommendations.

The board discussed the timeline for the application process. Lisa Tennyson said that she would make the application available by February 20, 2009 and that it would be due on April 20, 2009, giving applicants 8 weeks. She noted that the Budget Office needs HSAB's recommendations by May 29th. The board discussed dates for the funding meeting, and agreed upon a tentative meeting date of May 21st at 8:30 A.M. in the BOCC meeting room at the Marathon Government Center.

David Horan addressed the group of not-for-profit representatives and asked them to try to look at consolidating their services. Alexsa Leto mentioned that this has been done in the past and it is difficult because often organizations have different programmatic approaches. There was much agreement among the organizations for this and many said that they are already looking at that issue and are currently partnering. But the group offered many reasons why it's not possible or practical: technical assistance is needed to help organizations with this task, partnerships are preferred by funding organizations, and that in some cases funding caps would actually reduce the total amount of funding to organizations if they were

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consolidated rather than being separate entities. Elmira Leto raised the example of emergency shelter funding. This led into a discussion of the current status of that funding.

Alexsa Leto reiterated that she would like to know more about what transpired with PACE's funding last year. Commissioner Murphy said that she will inquire with the Budget office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 A.M.