

YEAR TWO

October 2009 – September 2010 PROGRESS REPORT HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD

TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

HOMELESS RESOURCE CENTER: CENTRAL COMMUNITIES

Integral to the success of the *Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County, FL* is the development of regionally-distributed Homeless Resource Centers, or one-stop shops for the homelessness and those facing the threat of homelessness. A Homeless Resource Center is a facility providing homeless clients with 24-hour daily access to supportive services including, but not limited to, a universal intake and assessment process; beds for use as an interim housing option when permanent housing is not immediately available; engagement centers; prepared meals, as well as medical, psychiatric and educational services.

Philosophy:

- A homeless individual will spend less time roaming the streets when provided with easy access and delivery of the services provided by a Homeless Resource Center and the extensive support network.
- When homeless individuals are surrounded by clean, safe and supportive environments, increases in self-esteem and feelings of self-worth lead to more rapid progress on their path to self-sufficiency.
- A Homeless Resource Center is both an alternative AND a solution to homeless loitering.

The Homeless Resource Center will provide intake services to include medical, background and possessions screenings; counseling, and housing assessments. Providers in the areas of social services, economic services, mental health and substance abuse services and medical services will be on site to provide Restroom, laundry, storage and mail assessments. facilities will be accessible to clients. Limited food service will be available and a food pantry will be located on site. Case Managers will work with clients to identify and individual's causes for homelessness and barriers to achieving housing stability and work one-on-one with clients to develop individualized plans toward the path to self-sufficiency. Client services will also include educational programs related to communication; finance/budgeting; employment; health/wellness and anger/stress management.





With the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Palm Beach County's Department of Community Services received \$27 million for the redevelopment of foreclosed and abandoned properties for use as affordable and accessible housing. Of the total, the Board of County Commissioners voted to set aside \$7.5 million for the purchase and renovation of a property in Central Palm Beach County for use as a Homeless Resource Center.





A agreement between the City of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County was made in January 2010 for the purchase of a City-owned existing and abandoned facility at 45th Street and Windsor Avenue. The ~3.8 acre site is commercially zoned and contains a single-story, 9.000 sq. ft. building, a single-story, 13,000 sq. ft. building and a 2-story, 14,000 sq. ft. building, all originally constructed in 1983-84 for professional and medical offices. The site is ideal due to its accessibility, visibility, availability, financial feasibility, centrality, and proximity to other services, as well as its provision of sufficient land area and building square footage and the site design's conduciveness to renovation for the desired purpose.

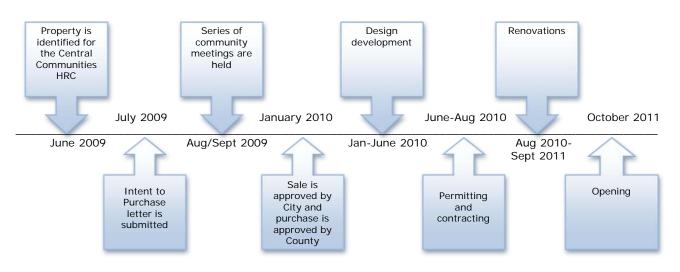


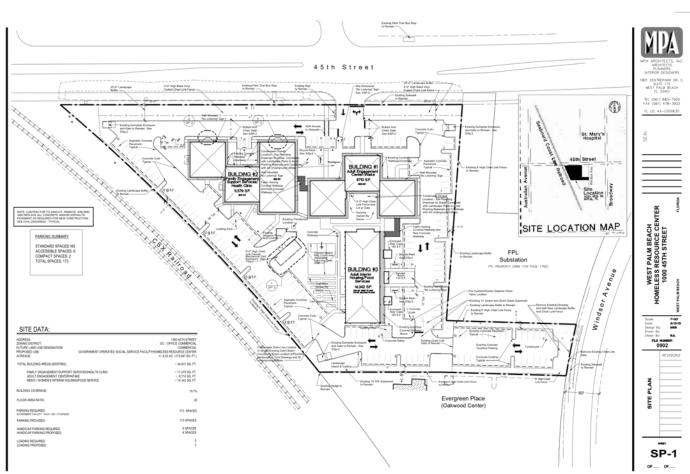
The Homeless Resource Center effort has been supported in part by The Breakers Palm Beach, which has contributed furnishings for the facility.

Learn more about Palm Beach County's Homeless Resource Center development at www.TheHomelessPlan.org.



HOMELESS RESOURCE CENTER DEVELOPMENT:







HOMELESS ADVOCACY DAY:

The Policy and Legislation Committee were active participants in 2010 Homeless Advocacy Day, held April 7, 2010 in Tallahassee, FL.







Palm Beach County's 2010 Legislative Agenda

Create a Local Homelessness Prevention Grant to Replace the State Emergency Financial Assistance for Housing Program (EFAHP)

Brings prevention funding to the local level allowing for better coordination of services needed to help families and individuals from becoming homeless and reestablishing their housing stability.

Reinstate Grant in Aid (GIA) Funding to Local Homeless Coalitions

Equips local coalitions to mobilize and coordinate local responses to homelessness and provide direct services to homeless and near homeless Floridians.

Create a Voluntary Contribution Option for Homelessness Relief on DMV Forms

Establishes a new revenue source to help fund homeless services and creates an easy way for Floridians to help their homeless and near homeless neighbors.

Maintain Funding for Homeless Housing Assistance Grant (HHA) and Challenge Grant

In 2009-2010, Challenge Grant assisted more than 27,000 Floridians in need and HHA funded 534 new housing units for homeless individuals and families.

Remove the Cap on the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund Remove the current cap of \$243 million on the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund and allocate all funding generated for this trust fund to housing needs in Florida. Housing activity creates jobs and generates revenue for the state.

Impact Fee Waiver, Deferral or Reduction

Legislation is needed to allow counties the flexibility to waive, defer or reduce impact fees in order to meet their local housing needs by impacting the affordability of housing.

Protect Homeless People from Violence through Florida's Hate Crime Law

Amend Florida's hate crimes statue to include homeless status as a bias-motivated crime to help curb these attacks on our homeless neighbors.

HB 11 – Crimes Against Homeless Persons – was signed into law by Governor Charlie Crist on May 11, 2010.

The Homeless Advisory Board has adopted a Law Enforcement Policy on Handling Interactions with the Homeless, developed by the Policy and Legislation Committee, to guide local law enforcement agencies in their individuals adoption of such policies. The policy will be enacted through the County's Law Enforcement Planning Council, which is composed of representatives from over 50 local, state and federal agencies. The Council meets monthly to provide a forum for the coordination, research and evaluation of law enforcement activities within Palm Beach County



TEN2END FILM PREMIERE:



On March 18th, a gathering was held at the Harriet Himmel Theatre to celebrate the premiere of a series of vignette films developed by students from Palm Beach Atlantic University. The films are being used by members of the Homeless Advisory Board and its partner agencies to educate the public about the causes of homelessness in Palm Beach County and what can be done to combat the growing issue.

Top: Palm Beach Atlantic University students are acknowledged for their work on the Ten2End Film Project

Bottom: Community Outreach and Public Awareness Committee members, organizers of the event.

At their quarterly meeting in May, the Homeless Advisory Board welcomed their long awaited dedicated staff person. Ms. Marilyn Munoz joined the Human and Veterans Services Division on May 17th. She will be responsible for oversight of the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan, as executed by the Homeless Advisory Board's committees for whom she will provide staff support. Ms. Munoz's position is funded through grants from The Quantum Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.





PALM BEACH COUNTY HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Priscilla Taylor, Chair Jon Van Arnam, Assistant County Administrator Claudia Tuck, Division of Human and Veterans Services Director Marilyn Munoz, Homeless Advisory Board Liaison