

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Workshop
Establishment of a Citizen Group to
Focus on Community Health Issues
June 8, 2010**

The Leon County Board of County Commissioners met for a Workshop regarding the Establishment of a Citizen Group to Focus on Community Health Issues on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Present were Chairman Bob Rackleff and Commissioners John Dailey, Cliff Thael, Jane Sauls, Akin Akinyemi, Bryan Desloge and Bill Proctor. Also present were County Administrator Parwez Alam, County Attorney Herb Thiele, and Board Secretary Rebecca Vause.

Facilitator(s): Vincent Long, Deputy County Administrator
Candice Wilson, Health and Human Services Director
Shanea Wilks, Financial Compliance Administrator
Lorraine Austin, Human Services Analyst

In the absence of Chairman Bob Rackleff, Vice-Chairman John Dailey called the Workshop to order at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Long introduced the participants of the workshop. He stated that the workshop was held at the Board's direction and would explore options for the structure and function of a Board-appointed focus group and how a citizen group could address the overall health of Leon County and its citizens. He acknowledged the role that the Healthcare Advisory Board (HAB) had played in guiding healthcare and its successes.

The workshop was turned over to Ms. Wilson, who provided a power point presentation that included a comprehensive overview of the background, history and original intent of the establishment of Healthcare Advisory Board (HAB). Ms. Wilson's presentation also included recommendations for the composition, role and responsibilities of the newly appointed Community Health Coordinating Committee (CHCC).

(Commissioner Rackleff arrived at 2:15 p.m. and resumed the Chair position.)

Focusing on the establishment of the CHCC, Ms. Wilson shared that staff had surveyed various types of advisory boards throughout the state and nation and offered the following recommendations:

Goals & Objectives

- Provide no financial oversight or funding recommendations (this would alleviate potential for conflicts of interest);
- Monitor and bring awareness of the health status of the County;
- Strengthen partnerships for collaboration;
- Develop and maintain an inventory of community-based health services and programs;
- Keep the Board informed of healthcare reform development and other legislation;
- Identify and pursue alternative funding sources to expand access to indigent healthcare services;
- Provide a forum and dialogue for citizen participation in healthcare planning, and
- Development of a Strategic Plan within 90 days of appointment of the membership (will be brought back to Board for approval).

Membership

- Big Bend Health Council, Inc. (continuous)
- Department of Health, Office of Minority Health (continuous)
- FSU College of Medicine (continuous)
- FAMU College of Nursing (continuous)
- Leon County School Board (continuous)
- Practicing Physician (2 years)
- Practicing Dentist (2 years)
- Mental Health Professional (2 years)
- Community Member at Large (1 year)

Organizational Structure

- Established as a focus group, effective October 1, 2010;
- Meetings held quarterly;
- All meetings would be publicly noticed and open to the public;
- Community Health Organizations and related/interested groups would be invited to provide insight in the development of new and existing objectives, and
- The Committee would sunset September 30, 2014 (which concurs with the projected implementation of the proposed National Healthcare Reform legislation).

Ms. Wilson submitted that the proposed CHCC would virtually eliminate any potential conflicts of interest as the proposed membership would not represent any agency/organization that received direct funding through the CareNet Program and with the reduced number of members would address the past difficulty of a quorum present to convene a meeting. She noted that with Board direction an agenda item would be brought back including a Resolution to establish the CHCC with an effective date of October 1, 2010 and sunset date of September 30, 2014.

This concluded staff's presentation and the Board assumed discussion of the issue.

Commissioner Thael thanked staff for "thinking out of the box" and for their hard work on this issue. He emphasized the need for local healthcare providers to come together and be an advocate for addressing primary healthcare problems within the community. He stated that he would support the overall concept offered by staff; however, commented on the additional workload staffing this Committee would place on HHS staff. He stated that the County contributes \$1.7 million in general revenue to health services and suggested that a small portion of that funding be directed to a dedicated grant writer position whose focus would be to network and pursue additional funding through private foundations, corporations and state and federal governments. In addition, this position would serve as staff person/liaison to the CHCC to help accomplish the County's mission.

Commissioner Desloge acknowledged that establishment of the CHCC was a "great new start" and agreed with the comments of Commissioner Thael; however, opined that the Board should hold off and allow the CHCC to develop its Strategic Plan. He also suggested that FSU and FAMU representatives not be limited to the College of Medicine and College of Nursing, but consideration given to individuals from one of the Health Sciences.

Commissioner Desloge moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Dailey, to approve Options 1 & 2: 1) Direct staff to draft an Enabling resolution to establish the Community Health Coordinating Committee as a focus group to focus on community health issues, and 2) Approve the proposed membership categories for the Community Health Coordinating Committee.

Commissioner Thael, in response to County Administrator Alam's inquiry, clarified that the new position he referenced would be funded from the current health services allocation and requested that the motion be amended to incorporate the creation of the newly created position. The amendment was accepted by Commissioner Desloge.

Commissioner Proctor expressed concerns about the Sunset provision noting that it would be more important than ever for the County to engage new healthcare reform legislation and its effects on healthcare delivery. He suggested that the CHCC's role and function not be too narrow and focus solely on the medically indigent, but be expanded to include how the new policies would affect all components of the medical industry, i.e., hospitals, physicians, pharmacies, etc.

Commissioner Proctor distributed a copy of an article entitled "10 Reasons Why Black People Should Not Take the HIV Tests" from the magazine *Program Success* dated May 2010. He was very concerned that propaganda of this type was being circulated in prominent areas of the African American community and inquired how the CHCC would respond or counteract this type of information. Mr. Long responded that this was the type of information sharing between health organizations that would be the focus of the CHCC. Commissioner Proctor requested that the motion include that the CHCC review this type of information and respond appropriately. Mr. Long offered for staff to collaborate with the Leon County Health Department and the Public Information Office to respond to the article.

Commissioner Akinyemi recalled that he had been skeptical about a shift in the County's healthcare system, but was amenable to the proposed structure. He clarified some concerns with Ms. Wilson, which included: 1) meetings would be held quarterly during regular business hours; 2) a mission statement would be developed by the CHCC and included in the Strategic Plan; 3) the CHCC could be continued after September 2014, if the Board desired, and 4) although set up as focus group, it would operate as a citizen committee, with an elected chairman and minutes taken.

Commissioner Proctor offered a substitute motion to approve the original motion, amended to eliminate the provision that the committee "takes no vote as a group". The substitute motion died for lack of a second.

The original motion as amended carried 6-1 (Commissioner Proctor in opposition).

Chairman Rackleff adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Bob Rackleff, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

BY: _____
Bob Inzer, Clerk of the Court
Leon County, Florida