

Governance Structure Ideas and Options

The City Commission and the County Commission must determine what the role of the governing board for the Empowerment Center will entail. The Commissions must decide whether the board is an Advisory Board to the City Commission with the ability to make recommendation on subject matter related to the Empowerment Center or whether this is an independent Board with the ability to enter into contracts, raise funds, develop the property, hire employees to manage the property or dispose of property on the Campus. City and County staff reviewed several governing structure models including that of the Alachua County Library Board, the Alachua County Regional Airport Authority, the Broward Partnership, and the City of Lakeland Utilities, and the ACCHH Governance Board for ideas.

Staff has included examples of the duties and responsibilities for the Governing Board. These duties and responsibilities can be modified to reflect the City and County Commission direction to the Board:

- Recommendations to provide management, administration, operation, supervision, oversight and maintenance of all buildings and services, programs and services on the Campus
- Adopt a long range plan for the development and implementation of the vision and goals for the Empowerment Center
- Apply for and accept grants monies and donations from Private organizations and enter into contracts for services
- Make recommendations on the implementation of a capital program for the campus
- Make recommendations on entering contracts with the City/County or other public bodies for services and programs
- Make recommendations on the disposal of personal property for the management, operation and maintenance of services or buildings on the campus
- Create, appoint, and prescribe the duties and responsibilities of workgroups or subcommittees

On February 10, 2014, the City Commission held a Town Hall Meeting at the Gainesville – Alachua County Senior Center and citizens were given an opportunity to provide input on the development of the Empowerment Center, specifically the governance structure. The citizens suggested an 11 member board which included representatives from the City and County Commission, ACCHH or a representative from the managing entity, a homeless or formerly homeless person, a business community representative, and a member from the faith-based community. There was consensus on six members for the board, however time did not allow for further discussion of other members despite other categories being suggested.

City and County staff met to discuss the Governance Structure for the Empowerment Center. Both City and County staff were in general agreement with the recommendations of the Citizens from the Town Hall meeting with the exception of adding a neighborhood representative(s) on the Board. There was agreement between all of the staff on the other members, however, who or what organizations should be on the Board was a major issue and staff could not make the

determination without the City and the County Commission input as to what seats and/or categories should be included on the board. We have provided you with a chart that outlines a few governing structure options ranging from 11 to 17 members.

| Empowerment Center Governance Board | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Member | Count | Count | Count | Count |
| City Commissioner * | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| County Commissioner * | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Citizens * (focused representation noted below) | 15 | 13 | 11 | 9 |
| Total | 17 | 15 | 13 | 11 |
| Member from the Homeless Community or Former Homeless Person * | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Member from ACCHH or the Managing organization providing and coordinating services for the Homeless at the site * | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Member from the Faith Based Community * | 1 | 1 | | |
| Member of the General Business Community | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Member of the Educational Community (University of Florida, Santa Fe College, Alachua County School Board, current/former educator, etc.) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Member from the Financial Community (Banking, Finance, etc.) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Member from the Construction/Building Industry | 1 | | | |
| Member from the Employment Community (Work Force, Temp Force, etc.) | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Member from the Social Services Community | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Member from the Health and Human Services Community | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Member from the Mental Health Community | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Member from the Veterans Community | 1 | | | |
| Member from the Law Enforcement Community (Sheriff, GPD, Corrections) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Member from the Community (City/County Residents) at Large | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 15 | 13 | 11 | 9 |
| Grand Total | 17 | 15 | 13 | 11 |
| * As recommended at the Town Hall Meeting | | | | |

Below are the minimum seats/categories that are recommended to the City Commission and the County Commission for the governing Board.

Minimum six (6) seats/categories recommended to the City and County Commission for the Governing Board:

- One (1) member of the Gainesville City Commission
- One (1) member of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
- One (1) member from the ACCHH or the managing entity of Homeless Services at the campus
- One (1) member from the Business Community
- One (1) member from the Faith-based Community
- One (1) member from the Homeless Community or a formerly homeless person

If the City Commission and County Commission desires to expand the Board, suggestions for consideration include:

- One (1) member from the Educational Community (University of Florida, Santa Fe College, Alachua County School Board, or a current/former educator)
- One (1) member from the Financial/Business Community (Bank/Credit Union, Finance, Real Estate, etc.)
- One (1) member from the Construction/Building Industry
- One (1) member from the Employment Community (Workforce, TempForce, etc.)
- One (1) member from the Social Services Community
- One (1) member from the Health and Human Services Community
- One (1) member from the Mental Health Community
- One (1) member from the Veterans Community
- One (1) member from the Law Enforcement Community (Sheriff, GPD, DOC, etc.)
- Up to Two (2) members from the City of Gainesville (City residents) at Large
- Up to Two (2) members from Alachua County (County residents) at Large