

Empowerment Center Oversight Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, October 7, 2015 – 1:00 P.M.  
Alachua County Administration Building, Jack Durance Auditorium

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** County Commissioners Mike Byerly and Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson, City of Gainesville Commissioners Helen Warren and Todd Chase, and Board Member Dr. Bernie Machen

**ALSO PRESENT:** See Attached Listing

### **Call to Order**

Chair Todd Chase opened the meeting of the Empowerment Center Oversight Advisory Board at 1:10 P.M.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

**Commissioner Warren moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Vice-Chair Chase called for public input. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Hutchinson 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

#### **1. Citizens Work Group Report**

Leah Vail, Chair of the Citizens Work Group provided members with a written report on the outcome of the recent Strategic Planning Summit. Additionally, she advised the Board of previous and more recent member resignations. Originally 14 members were appointed and there are now 9 remaining. The Board requested clarification of quorum requirements and will decide next month if additional people should be appointed. The Board also requested a listing of current members.

#### **2. Fundraising**

Members continued discussions about a variety of fundraising topics and issues including development of a case statement, 501c3 conduit organization, and priority needs for Grace Marketplace and Dignity Village. Members also requested additional information from similar facilities to reflect the make-up and percentage of revenue from all sources, i.e., grants, fundraising, local, state, and federal governmental support. Dr. Machen and Harvey Ward, Jr, of the Citizens Work Group presented a proposed wish list to the Advisory Board.

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved that the Oversight Advisory Board recommends to the Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry or a successor organization enter into an agreement with the Community Foundation of North Central Florida and to endorse the wish list as presented with any amendments. Commissioner Chase called for public input. Motion passed 5-0 Commissioner Byerly 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

#### **3. Dignity Village Monthly People/Tent Count**

Staff Liaison Tonkavich provided members with a line chart of the monthly people and tent counts at Dignity Village. Assistant City Manager Murry explained in detail how the monthly counts are completed.

#### **4. City of Gainesville Dignity Village Policy Update**

Assistant City Manager Murry provided an update on policy implementation. Modifications to rule 1b regarding warrants has been made and added flexibility. Additionally residents are being asked to keep areas clean per a recent notice from the Alachua County Health Department. The City Management Team continues to recruit volunteers to assist cleanliness, getting people registered, etc. Rules regarding violence are being enforced, and an appeals board has been established. Volunteers are helping to identify the new people coming in. City staff will then try to get some basic information from them so that in the event of an emergency we know who is there.

#### **5. Empowerment Center Services Provider FY 16 and Beyond**

Assistant City Manager explained that the contract with ACCHH expires September 30, 2016 and City staff is seeking direction on how to procure services following that date. Discussion took place around issues such as should Alachua County be a party to the City's contract with the provider, continuity with the current provider, managing Dignity Village and Grace Marketplace as a single entity. Options are to renew the current contract with ACCHH, or go out with another RFP. Members reaffirmed the desire to have Grace and Dignity Village managed as a single entity. Members also asked to see some type of City/County plan to operate it. This will provide information to determine whether it should be operated as a governmental agency or contract it out as well as provide a cost comparison. Members asked to agenda this item for next month.

Assistant City Manager Murry indicated staff would bring back the following next month: 1) Integration of Dignity Village and Grace; 2) extension of a one year contract with the current provider; 3) Information on what other governmental organizations are doing; 4) City and County staff develop an integrated model operated by local government.

#### **7. Board Members General Comments and Informal Discussion**

Chair Chase called for general comments from Members, none offered.

#### **8. Citizen Comments**

Chair Chase called for Citizen Comments. Citizen comments were provided by a number of people including those using Grace services and residing in Dignity Village.

## **9. Next Meeting Agenda, Date, Time and Place**

Board members discussed their next meeting agenda which will include a follow up report from the Citizens Work Group including a list of its current members and bylaw review; Dignity Village policy update and counts; Fundraising report from ACCHH and Harvey Ward; continued discussions and policy direction on FY 2016 and beyond.

Members agreed to schedule the next meeting for Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the Jack Durance Auditorium.

## **10. Citizen Comments**

The Chair called for citizen comments.

## **11. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Warren motioned to adjourn, Member Machen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion Carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.**

Recorded by,

Thomas A Tonkavich, Staff Liaison