



March 9, 2015

Update on the “Empowerment Center” Project

Empowerment Center



Major Milestones

- May 5, 2014 - ACCHH began limited services at the Empowerment Center with a phasing in of additional services through the first year of the contract.
- June 4, 2014 - the Gainesville City Commission authorized pavilion services (outdoor shelter care service) for the homeless while delaying the implementation of indoor services.

Major Milestones

- August 25, 2014 – Joint Commissions agreed to create a five member Oversight Board with two members from the City Commission and two members from the County Commission. The fifth member was to be selected by the majority of the other Board members. The City appointed Todd Chase and Yvonne Hinson Rawls, while the County appointed Mike Byerly and Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson.

Major Milestones

- September 10, 2014 – First meeting of the Empowerment Center Oversight Board (ECOB) held.
- October 15, 2014 – Mr. Bernie Machen appointed as the fifth member of the ECOB.
- November 5, 2014 – The ECOB heard presentations from the Dept. of Forestry, discussed a shared vision for the Center, and heard a request for additional funding from ACCHH. The Board recommended additional funding in the amount of \$251,680.

Major Milestones

- November 19, 2014 – The City Commission heard and approved the recommendation from the ECOB on the increased funding for FY15 for ACCHH in the amount of \$251,680 (to be divided equally between the City and the County).
- December 18, 2015 – The City Commission directed staff to negotiate a contract amendment with ACCHH to reflect the increase in funding recommended by the ECOB.

Major Milestones

- January 14, 2015 – The ECOB received a presentation from the Sulzbacher Center in Jacksonville. ACCHH informed the ECOB that there was surplus FY 14 funds of approximately \$76,000.
- January 14, 2015 – The ECOB appointed 14 members to the Citizens Workgroup. The Citizens Workgroup has met 3 times and are working on prioritizing needs.

Major Milestones

- February 5, 2015 - The City Commission reaffirmed the Contract between the City and ACCHH, authorized staff to determine the final amount of the surplus funds from FY14, and authorized the Oversight board to approve the best use of the surplus funds for the City.
- February 9, 2015 - The ECOB approved a similar recommendation to the County Commission on the use of its portion of the FY14 surplus funds.

Revised and Restated Agreement

- The Revised and Restated Service Agreement requires ACCHH to provide information to the ECOB on their performance during the contractual year. The ECOB will make recommendations to the City and the County Commission on whether ACCHH is meeting the performance measures. In addition, ACCHH is required to submit its proposed Budget for FY16 to the ECOB for consideration and recommendations to the City Commission and County Commission.

City Updates

- The City's Temporary Project Manager Betty Baker is conducting research, and meeting with stakeholders (including the Gainesville - Alachua County Citizen group), to determine what guidelines and rules are needed for the 10 acre parcel adjacent to the Empowerment Center. Any recommendation regarding the 10 acre parcel will be presented to the ECOB and the City Commission for consideration and approval.
- The restroom renovations in Dorm D are complete and ACCHH was notified that they can make arrangements to move into Dorm D.

Renovation Photos



Renovation Photos



Renovation Photos



Moving Forward

Potential services being explored include:

- Job training and mentoring programs
- Job search assistance
- Behavioral and medical health care
- Life skills training
- Case management
- Medical and dental care
- Education opportunities
- Housing

Future Funding Discussion

Currently, the City and the County share the operational costs to provide meal services, case management, referral services, storage, and other services deemed appropriate for the Center's day services. The City and County Commissions need to discuss the future funding plans and intentions for FY16.

- Existing Contract with ACCHH states that future funding is subject to the approval of the City and County's annual Budget Process

Staff Recommendation

The City Commission hear a presentation on the status of the Empowerment Center.