

**DRAFT**

Empowerment Center Oversight Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, June 3, 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 Mike Byerly opened the meeting of the Empowerment Center Oversight Advisory Board at 1:10 P.M.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Chair Byerly indicated the need to add an item to the agenda; comments from the Interim Chair of the Citizens Workgroup. ***Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt the agenda as modified. Chair Byerly called for public input. Motion carried 5-0. Board Member Machen 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

**1. Citizens Work Group Interim Chair**

Leah Vail, Interim Chair advised the Oversight Board members, that workgroup members have some concerns and questions regarding their role and responsibilities. The workgroup is extending an invitation to the Advisory Board members to attend its next meeting scheduled for June 29, 2015 @ 5:30 pm. Chair Byerly asked that the meeting date be placed on members schedules and that they attend if possible.

**2. Amended and Restated Service Agreement**

Nicole Shalley, City of Gainesville Attorney provided an overview of the services agreement to members. The general context of the agreement requires the provider to increase access to services for vulnerable populations; reduce hunger; reduce homelessness, and increase self-sufficiency. The provider is required to submit budget and service level reports so that the Advisory Board can determine its sufficiency of performance, appropriate use of funds, and need for additional funding.

**3. Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless & Hungry Presentation**

Mr. Joe Jackson, Attorney for the Coalition presented performance and budget information to the Advisory Board. The budget request includes an increase in the number of FTE's, due in part to the increased demand for services from Dignity Village as well as an increase in shelter capacity. The request also includes the expense of health insurance for employees and 2 new FTE's and operating expenses for the kitchen. The total projected

costs for FY 15/16, excluding in-kind and outside funding totals \$905,497.50. Fundraising efforts are being adjusted and for FY 15/16 they projected net revenues of \$60,000. The Coalition proposes using \$64,704 of the Year 1 Carry forward funds so the net request of the City and County totals \$780,793.50. Compared to the \$559,680 for FY 14/15, the FY 15/16 request for \$780,793.50 is an increase of \$221,113.50.

Advisory Board members also discussed the impact of Dignity Village and when a budget would be developed for it. Assistant City Manager Murry provided members with an update on the City of Gainesville's plan to contract with a non-profit organization for the management of Dignity Village. Mr. Murry also noted that today the City sent a request to the County for funding to support the Grace Marketplace in the amount of \$279,840, the same level of funding provided for FY 14/15.

Members also discussed the Coalition's fundraising efforts. There was consensus among members that there is significant community interest and potential for additional non-governmental financial support. Members discussed the need to bring various philanthropic groups together and directed staff to place the item on the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

***Commissioner Hutchinson moved that the Advisory Board recommend to the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Commissions to fund the Coalition's FY 15/16 Budget request in the amount of \$780,793.50; split equally between the City and County; that the Coalition continue expending City/County funds only at the FY 14/15 rate (\$559,680 annually), as the Advisory Board intends to work closely with the Coalition to fundraise an additional \$221,113.50 in an effort to meet the Coalitions full budget request. Motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Warren 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

#### **4. Non-Profit Management of Dignity Village**

Board members heard an update from City staff regarding the City Commissions recent action regarding Dignity Village. The City Manager is negotiating a contract for up to \$50,000, with Helping Hands Clinic for management of Dignity Village for up to one year. Members discussed how the contract was being developed, the City and County roles, and longer term development plan for Dignity Village. There was also discussion regarding whether a different or the same organization should manage both the Grace Marketplace and Dignity Village.

***Commissioner Hutchinson moved that the Advisory Board recommend to the Alachua County Commission that it provide \$25,000 to cover one-half of the contract with Helping Hands Clinic for the management of Dignity Village. Motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Chase dissented. Board Member Machen 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

#### **5. Board Members Comments and General Discussion**

Board members commented on the need to clarify decision making authority over the Empowerment Center project, are there parallels to the Airport Authority or Library

District? Is there also a need to bring together all of the various groups to coordinate efforts around fundraising efforts. There was consensus that the Advisory Board could be a convener to bring these group efforts together. There was consensus that the Board would agenda the item for its next meeting to provide staff with further direction on fundraising aspects. Jon DeCarmine provided Advisory Board members with information about their recent strategic planning session. Mr. Joe Jackson provided a document outlining the new vision for Grace. Chair Byerly noted the Advisory Board needs to elect a Vice-Chair.

***Commissioner Hutchinson moved to appoint Commissioner Chase as Vice Chair of the Advisory Board. Motion Carried 5-0. Commissioner Warren 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

### **17. Citizen Comments**

Chair Byerly called for citizen comment. Comments received.

### **18. Next Meeting Date, Time, and Agenda**

It was agreed the next meeting would be on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> @ 1:00 pm in the Jack Durance Auditorium. Agenda items to include (when ready): update on road access from GPD, discussion about background checks, waste management, legislative request for medical clinic, monthly tent counts, Citizen Work group vacancies, Dignity Village management, Home Van Pet Care Project, fundraising, and future meeting schedule.

### **19. Adjournment**

Commissioner Hutchinson motioned to adjourn, Member Machen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Recorded by,

Thomas A Tonkavich, Staff Liaison