

Minutes from Community Meeting In Navarre

October 13, 2009

A first meeting to address the interest in development of a Day Resource Center for the south end of Santa Rosa County was held at the Tourist Information Center in Navarre on October 13, 2009.

The meeting began with a welcome and introductions by Janis Wilson, an Americorps VISTA with the EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless (ECOH). Those attending included representatives from several area churches, the Navarre Press, Pensacola News Journal, the Gulf Coast Veterans Advisor Council, Santa Rosa County School District, United Way of Santa Rosa County, local realtors, formerly homeless individuals, Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce, ECOH leadership, and other interested citizens.

Following introductions and a brief statement as to why each person present wanted to be a part of this group, Ms Wilson turned the meeting over to Brunie Emmanuel, Executive Director of ECOH, to facilitate the rest of the meeting.

Brunie began with an overview of the ECOH role and a recap of recent events along with statistics regarding the homeless in Santa Rosa County. He then proceeded with a more in depth look at three specific topics: A) Shelters in Santa Rosa County – the lack thereof: the need for shelters and the types of shelters. B) A Day Resource Center – definitions of such a facility, need for such a facility, operation of such a facility. C) Collaborations needed to achieve either or both of the above and identification of participants willing and ready to collaborate.

The floor was then opened for discussion and brainstorming. Some items mentioned were the needs for the following at any such facility:

Access for services to include; showers, linens, computers to register for food stamps and other services as well, as job searches and resume submissions; laundry facilities, phone with answering system for messages, mail boxes, house rules- policies and procedures manuals, lockers for storage, bulletin board, security, privacy, volunteer case managers from area churches, kitchen facility for meals, possibly some place for children, etc.

Discussions led into finding an appropriate facility, managing such a facility with volunteers, and a database for tracking services – HMIS and memberships cards.

Some conclusions were to try to develop both a short term and a long term plan. Another meeting should be held next month with efforts to get more participation from more churches, the county commission, the sheriff's dept., and other groups that would be needed to help.

A second meeting was scheduled for November 18th at 10:00 AM at the same location at the Tourist Information Center in Navarre and this meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Janis Wilson

Americorps VISTA

EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless

850-255-5570

Minutes from Community Meeting In Navarre

November 18, 2009

The second meeting to address the interest in development of a Day Resource Center for the south end of Santa Rosa County was held at the Tourist Information Center in Navarre on November 18, 2009.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM and began with a welcome and introductions by Janis Wilson, an Americorps VISTA with the EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless (ECOH). Those attending included representatives from several area churches, the Santa Rosa County School District, various service providers, local business leaders, ECOH leadership, and other interested citizens.

Following introductions and a brief statement as to why each person present wanted to be a part of this group, Ms Wilson began with an overview of the ECOH role and assurance of the Coalitions' full support although Executive Director Brunie Emmanuel had another commitment this day. She then recapped some current events and statistics regarding the homeless in Santa Rosa County which was followed with a more in depth look at three specific topics: A) How committed is this group? B) Short term Goals C) Long term Goals

The group then demonstrated their commitment by forming two committees to work on two identified short term goals: 1) Finding an appropriate facility and 2) Developing an operations and management plan.

Joy Schulz and Olga Batova agreed to co-chair a committee to develop an operations outline for presentation at the January meeting which would include both program ideas and staffing options. Anyone wishing to help with this committee may contact Joy at 916-1050 or email joy.schulz@mchsi.com or contact Olga at 932-3594 or email obatov@gbumc.org. The committee will meet at least one time prior to the January 20th Community Meeting.

Patti Mankoff agreed to chair the facilities committee and those desiring to help may contact her at 501-3342 or email patti.mankoff@cbunited.com. This committee will also hold at least one meeting prior to the general meeting on January 20th. The goal of this committee is to secure the best facility for a Day Resource Center that could be operational prior to June 1st, 2010. They hope to bring options for such to the January 20th meeting.

Additional discussion addressed the issue of funding this Resource Center and it was determined that, as soon as a plan was in place for the facility and it's operation, a fundraising committee would be formed to ensure adequate funding would be available to proceed. It was

also determined that in the meantime, anyone desiring to contribute to the development of the Day Resource Center for South Santa Rosa County may donate through the EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless where a specific fund will be established for this purpose. All such Contributions should be made to: " ECOH-Santa Rosa Day Resource Center". Mailing address is PO Box 17222, Pensacola, FL 32522.

Discussion surrounding the need for a shelter was considered to be a more long term goal that this group felt could be best addressed after the Resource Center became operational. The group indicated that they would like to proceed with Martha Franklin's dream for Elizabeth's House if at all possible and want more input from Ms Franklin to determine the feasibility.

The group then decided that time would be needed for the two committees to complete their assigned tasks and therefore the next general Community Meeting should be in January. MS Wilson confirmed the date, time and place to be: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 10:00AM at the Navarre Tourist Information Center Conference Room, on Hwy 98 next to the Butterfly House.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Janis Wilson

AmeriCorps VISTA

EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless

850-255-5570

Attached is contact information for attendees willing to help on either of the committees.

Mary Nelson	207-7195	mnelson@bellsouth.net
Joy Schulz	916-1050	joy.schulz@mchsi.com
Pat Kennedy	934-4871	rpkenedy@myway.com
Mandy Evers	313-3153	party@juanaspagodas.com
Olga Batova	932-3594	obatov@gbumc.org
Jerry Foster	501-2244	jerseyjerry@att.net
Patti Mankoff	501-3342	patti.mankoff@cbunited.com
Madge Blais	936-4575	madge@bellsouth.net
Shara Wagner	218-5050	wagnerluv@mchsi.com
Glen Berry	501-1366	saintsman626@mchsi.com

Melissa Johnson	287-2274	johnsonms@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us
Shelley Crisco	934-5160	criscos@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us
Janis Wilson	255-5570	pcolajan@yahoo.com

South Santa Rosa County Meeting with Veterans' Service Organization

On Monday, December 13, 2009, a group of interested citizens met at the office of Coldwell Banker United with representatives from the Veterans Service Organization. The meeting was hosted by Patti Mankoff, an agent with Coldwell Banker and member of the Navarre Area Board of Realtors.

Janis Wilson, an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with the EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless, opened the meeting with introductions and some background information from the July, 2009 survey that revealed that 23% of the area's homeless population is veterans. This fact and the fact that there is no shelter in Santa Rosa County for homeless men was why Johnny Turvin of the Veterans Service Organization (VSO) was interested in developing housing for homeless veterans in South Santa Rosa County.

Johnny Turvin, who has been working closing with Joe Cook at the Department of Veterans Affairs during the recent VA Stand Down, then presented the Guidelines for their Homeless/Unemployed Veteran Residential Work Program, which is clearly not intended to be a Hand-out, but rather a Hand-Up, in that all that is being given by VSO is an opportunity for the participant to help himself, and others in similar circumstances. He further explained that this program will not be a substance abuse treatment program – all participants are required to be and remain clean and sober from non-prescribed drug and alcohol use. Participants will be trained and will work under the direction of VSO program managers as funds development specialists for the purposes of fulfilling the mission objectives of VSO which include expansion of this program along the Gulf Coast. The program provides residency in a private home leased By VSO, where participants will be assigned according to a 2 person per bedroom capacity. VSO will provide quality food and the means to prepare, serve and enjoy meals, and will also furnish laundry facilities for all participants. (A complete list of guidelines for residents is available upon request.) All participants will be encouraged by program management to plan and execute reasonable goals which will facilitate their ability to progress beyond the need for program residency, and enable another veteran to be given an opportunity to participate and benefit as they were. The maximum duration of program residency will be 12 months.

M. r Turvin also provided numerous letters of support, copies of 501 c 3 registration and business license as well as his personal DD14 verifying his own Veteran status. After a brief question and answer sessions the group concluded they would like to support the establishment of such a home for our veterans in South Santa Rosa County. Debbie Simmons offered property that her company is developing for consideration and other realtors contributed various

suggestions also. In closing it was determined that Mr. Turvin should attend the next Navarre Community Meeting on January 20th to provide an update on the status of this program.