

BOARDS & COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT
2009

DATE: February 23, 2009

COMMITTEE NAME: St. Johns County Health and Human Services Advisory Council

CHAIR: Dr. Ron Dixon

STAFF SUPPORT: Ann Henry, St. Johns County Social Services

BCC LIAISON (IF ANY): Commissioner Mark Miner

BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMITTEE: In 1997 the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee and the Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Committee were combined to form the Health and Human Services Advisory Council to the Board of County Commissioners. The Council evaluates human services programs in the community, assists in determining the effectiveness of program, reduces duplication of services and assures the health and human services needs of the residents of St. Johns County are met. They review applications requesting county funding for programs that provide health, mental health, substance abuse and social services and submit recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The Council performs its functions and duties without regard or condition as to the race, religion, gender or national origin of any affected person.

MISSION STATEMENT: The health and well being of a community is a function of its quality of life, including the delivery of health and human services supported by public policy and funding those in need of such services. Our mission is to be responsive to those needs and to recommend funding programs worthy of public support for citizens of St. Johns County.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2008: The duties and responsibilities of the Council were continued to include: that the Council participates in the planning process for Health and Human Services; review and evaluate community Health and Human Services programs, needs, services, and special issues; promote a comprehensive and integrated approach to Health and Human Service issues within the County; serve as a sounding board for a wide base of community response regarding the community's Health and Human Service issues and programs; establish an ongoing program of education and dissemination of information to its own members; and continue to participate in the RFP Process for Health and Human Services through the Health and Human Services Director and make reports and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners and the County Health and Human Services Director and other such bodies as appropriate.

The Council members as of the date of this report include:

Mr. Thomas Myrick, retired from NCR and Bell/Howell. In the past, he has served on the Board of Directors for United Way of St. Johns County and the Early Learning Coalition. He represents District 4.

Mr. Steve Larew is employed as Director at the Gallaudet University Regional Center at Flagler College. He represents District 1.

Ms. Lynn Brueske-Walton is an Assistant Professor in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Programs at Flagler College. She represents District 2.

Dr. Ron Dixon, has a dental practice in St. Augustine. He represents District 5.

Mr. Stan Gustetic is an Administrator of Related Services at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. He represents District 4.

New Officers were installed in November 2008. Dr. Ron Dixon will serve as Chair. Mr. Tom Myrick will serve as Vice Chair. There are currently four vacancies on the Council. Efforts are underway to gain new appointments to the HHSAC by the reviewing of applications received and recommendations for appointments will be sent to the BCC in March 2009.

This year, the HHSAC did not review applications for funding through the County's Request for Proposal (RFP) process. County Administration decided to fund the agencies at the same funding level as in FY 2007-2008. Contracts between the agencies and St. Johns County were extended for another year. Therefore, local agencies gave presentations to the HHSAC in effort to keep the Council informed of the services provided with County funding. Previously, the presentations were ended once the timeframe for the RFP began to ensure no appearance of impropriety or favoritism on the part of the Council or an agency.

Commissioner Ron Sanchez, BCC Liaison, and Mr. Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator, attended many of the Council meetings. Their input and updated information concerning our County provided needed educational information to the Council and assisted the Council in completing its duties. It is hoped that the new BCC Liaison, Commissioner Mark Miner, will continue this trend by attending Council meeting when possible.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2009: Council members visit agencies and report back findings to the Council; Continue agency presentations to gain more knowledge of the services and collaborative efforts between the agencies; Should RFP process be instilled again, have only HHSAC members review applications; All vacancies will be filled with appointments by the BCC.