

YEAR ONE

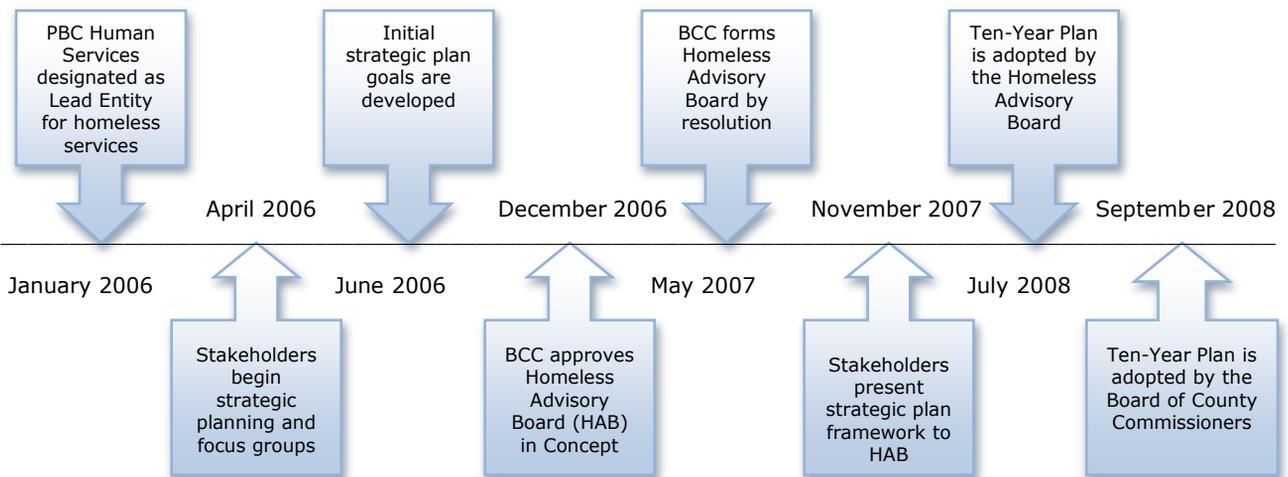
2009 PROGRESS REPORT
 HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD

TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

In 2002, with the appointment of a new Executive Director to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Council was given a directive not to address, combat nor manage, but END homelessness. To accomplish this goal, the Council is encouraging local governments, businesses, non-profit organizations, service providers, faith-based entities and community advocates – including currently and formerly homeless individuals – to work collaboratively to develop and implement business-like, results-oriented Ten-Year Plans to end homelessness in their communities. In fact, entities currently receiving funding for homeless programs through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have been advised that future funding will be directly linked to the adoption and successful progress of said plans. The Council reports that 300 cities and counties have begun their planning efforts, and many are implementing their plans. Though no plan has been in effect for the entirety of its ten years, communities currently implementing their plans have reported a savings and reduction of use of public services such as hospital emergency rooms and ambulances and in other services such as acute psychiatric services and corrections, as well as supportive housing retention rates of 80 percent or greater.



The Ten-Year Plan to End Homeless in Palm Beach County, Florida was adopted by the Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board on July 16, 2008 and by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners on September 23, 2008.



Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, receives the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County from the Board of County Commissioners on February 24, 2009.

GOALS:

GOAL 1: Develop a Universal System for Intake/Assessment and Enhance Client Information Management System

A centralized, standard procedure (with 24-hour access) would improve upon the current system of accessing, tracking, and serving our County's homeless population.

GOAL 2: Provide Interim Housing Services for Homeless Individuals/ Families

When immediate permanent housing is not available, a need for interim housing options is essential. An increase in the number of interim housing beds is needed for individuals and families and could include the utilization of hotels and/or motels, particularly for homeless families. Additionally, interim housing should include comprehensive case management and supportive services.

GOAL 3: Coordinate Partnerships and Resources for Homeless Services

An effective Continuum of Care relies on the seamless coordination of community partnerships and resources. A collaboration and coordination of homeless services is needed in order to effectively address the issues of individual/family homelessness. The Plan must utilize and streamline existing resources when appropriate and seek additional resources when necessary. Additionally, the Plan ensures cost effectiveness and efficiency of the homeless response system.

GOAL 4: Improve Access to Homeless Services with Outreach and Education

The current homeless outreach efforts in our County can be enhanced by coordinating additional support from other jurisdictions and resources. With increased support, these efforts can be expanded to include evening and weekend hours. Additionally, increasing public awareness on homeless issues can educate the community and improve access to the homeless response system for homeless individuals and families.

GOAL 5: Prevent Individuals and Families from Becoming Homeless

Strategic investment in prevention initiatives can effectively prevent homelessness for groups of people at risk of losing their housing. Preventative measures should offer permanent solutions, with a special emphasis on increasing clients' income, creating more affordable/accessible housing options and improving clients' access to mainstream resources.

GOAL 6: Secure a Stable Stock of Affordable/Accessible Housing

Homeless individuals and families often present with an array of challenges and needs, for which various housing strategies and accommodations are necessary. Offering permanent housing options along with supportive services through the Housing First methodology is the ideal model for ending homelessness. It is imperative to identify, secure and/or develop a dependable stock of affordable, accessible and safe housing options that can serve our homeless population. These various strategies should include transitional, permanent supportive, rental and homeownership options.

GOAL 7: Provide System Oversight and Evaluation of the Ten-Year Plan

The integrity and success of this Plan is dependent upon the consistent oversight and evaluation of each of its components, which include: Plan implementation, oversight of operations, management of funds and evaluation of all partners. The effort will include conducting research and collecting data that will routinely drive policy development. Best practice strategies will be researched and, where appropriate for Palm Beach County, replicated to improve existing models. Evaluation systems will be developed to accurately measure success. Providers must be accountable to meet certain standards and achieve success with their clients. Also, a key component of oversight and evaluation is the engagement of clients – those who are homeless and/or formerly homeless. Finally, service providers must receive appropriate training and resources to succeed.

2009 Point-In-Time Survey

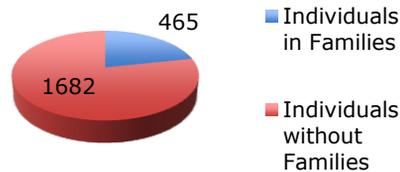
During the 24-period between noon on January 28, 2009 and noon on January 29, 2009, **2,147** homeless individuals were identified in Palm Beach County. Of these individuals:

- 15% were children
- 15% were veterans
- 14% were victims of domestic violence
- 9% had experienced an act of violence while homeless
- 9% had been in foster care

Homeless by Gender



Homeless Individuals vs. Families



Subpopulations	
Chronically Homeless	417
Severely Mentally Ill	257
Chronic Substance Abuse	515
Veterans	231
Persons with HIV / AIDS	24
Victims of Domestic Violence	242
Unaccompanied Youth (under 18)	17



The Homeless Advisory Board received its first major contribution in the form of a \$250,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Funds will be used, in part, for a full-time staff person dedicated to supporting the efforts of the Homeless Advisory Board and the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County. Of the remaining funds, \$100,000 will go towards furnishings and fixtures of a facility to serve as the County's first of multiple regionally-distributed Homeless Resource Centers. \$100,000 will be used for sustainability planning.

A \$50,000 grant from The Quantum Foundation will match \$50,000 from the MacArthur grant in order to support the staff position.

HOW TO GIVE:

The Community Fund to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County was established through the efforts of the Homeless Advisory Board's Funding and Strategic Planning Committees to accept contributions from non-governmental sources. The purposes of the Fund are to provide services for the homeless, efforts to prevent homelessness and other activities related to the implementation of the *Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. Contributions may be made online at the Giving Center – www.cfpbmc.org.



The Homeless Advisory Board and the *Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County* also accept contributions through the Governor's Council for Community Health Partnerships, Inc., which is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.. Give online at www.gcpartnerships.org/ten2end.htm .



Learn more about Palm Beach County's efforts to **END** homelessness at www.pbcgov.com/homelessadvisory or www.TheHomelessPlan.org.

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week
 November 15-21, 2009



Members of the Community Outreach and Public Awareness Committee following a press conference related to local activities scheduled for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and the progress of the *Ten-Year Plan* at a Press Conference on November 16, 2009.



The Homeless Advisory Board supported *Project Connect* on November 20, 2009, sponsored by the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County. This periodic outreach event forms relationships with business owners, professionals, and volunteers in the community while providing identification cards, haircuts, phone stations, health screenings, food, clothing, small household items and hygiene kits for all homeless in attendance.



"Ten 2 End" grocery bags were distributed to grocers, libraries and other public venues as part of the week's food drive.

COMMITTEES:

Public Participation Encouraged

Community Outreach and Public Awareness

The Community Outreach and Public Awareness Committee is tasked with overseeing the distribution of public information and developing and implementing public awareness campaigns, including events and activities that broaden the public's understanding of the issues facing those who are homeless in our community.

Facilities

The Facilities Committee is tasked with evaluating the County's existing homeless service facilities; developing specifications for additional facilities; identifying properties suitable to serve as new facilities and making recommendations to the BCC for purchase of property and/or conversion of currently owned property.

Funding

The Funding Committee is tasked with identifying and procuring funds to support the implementation of the *Ten-Year Plan*. This includes an analysis of the existing flow of revenue to homeless service providers for potential recommendations for reallocation as well as the exploration of new revenue streams.

Housing

The Housing Committee is tasked with reviewing the current stock of affordable housing options in the County; proposing initiatives to create additional affordable housing options, and exploring partnerships with appropriate entities, including the engagement of private developers.

Policy and Legislation

The Policy and Legislation Committee is tasked with reviewing all local and state homeless initiatives; advising the HAB on any new measure the BCC is considering; developing macro level policy statements on homelessness, and responding to policy issues that are brought forth by community members. The Policy and Legislation Committee leads all advocacy activities of the HAB.

Program Planning

The Program Planning Committee works directly with homeless service providers to determine the most appropriate programs to address the needs identified in the *Ten-Year Plan*. The efforts of this committee focus on the identification of Best Practices in service provision for replication in Palm Beach County and the development of new programs to fill gaps in services.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee is tasked with developing a unified strategy for the implementation of the *Ten-Year Plan*, as well as monitoring its progress and evaluating the effectiveness of its implementation.

PALM BEACH COUNTY HOMELESS ADVISORY BOARD

Jeff Koons, Chair
 Jon Van Arnam, Assistant County Administrator
 Claudia Tuck, Division of Human Services Director
 Langton Associates, Public Affairs Consultants

810 Datura Street
 West Palm Beach, FL 33401
 (561) 355-4764
 homeless@pbccgov.org