



PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Special Project

(March 12, 2015)

***Financially Assisted Agency (FAA) Program
Domestic Abuse/Sheltering
(FY2015/2016)***

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PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Hal R. Valeche
Paulette Burdick
Steven L. Abrams
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Robert Weisman, County Administrator
Jon Van Arnam, Assistant County Administrator

County Attorney

Denise M. Nieman, County Attorney
Helene Hvizd, Assistant County Attorney

Citizens Advisory Committee on Health & Human Services

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Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson, Vice-Chair
Sandra Chamblee (Glades Representative)
Anne Gerwig (League of Cities Representative)
Sharon Greene (PBC Health Department Representative)
Pamela Gionfriddo
Barbara Jacobowitz
John Bartosek
Christine Koehn, Ph.D.
Barbara Cox Gerlock, Ph.D.
Patrick Halperin, Ph.D.

Ex-officio Members

Edward O. Holloway
Brenda Oakes
Houston Tate
Nate Nichols, Ph.D.

Department of Community Services

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Palm Beach County, Florida
Department of Community Services
Financially Assisted Agency (FAA) Program
“Domestic Abuse/Sheltering”
(2015)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

History

The Palm Beach County Department of Community Services is responsible for the Financially Assisted Agency Program (FAA). The program was established in the early 1980's and approximately \$13,000,000 million dollars are allocated to local agencies through the formal RFP process.

Department staff, the Citizens Advisory Committee on Health & Human Services (CAC), service agencies, community partners and the public have input into the FAA process prior to the BCC having final funding disposition. The mission of the CAC is to *"Assist the Board of County Commissioners in the assessment of need, planning, implementation and evaluation of the System of Care, as defined in The Health and Human Services Element of the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan."* The Committee recommends service priorities prior to the RFP process. They base these recommendations on community assessments and other information gathering processes. The CAC incorporates *The Health and Human Services Element* of the Comprehensive Plan into its' decision-making process. The purpose of *The Health and Human Services Element* is *"To assist in the development of an infrastructure to ensure availability of health and human services sufficient to protect the health, safety and welfare of Palm Beach County residents."* Additionally, *The Report of Health & Human Services In Palm Beach County – Based on Key Community Indicators* is utilized as a guide to making decisions, promoting community participation and providing a statement for those involved in health and human services.

Schedule

The process consisted of, two (2) public forums were held (February 6, 2015 & February 24, 2015) and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Health & Human Services discussed Domestic Abuse/Sheltering at their Regular Committee meeting on February 12, 2015.

Individuals attending the public forums were requested to respond to three (3) questions (*Attachment D*) that related to the Domestic Abuse/Sheltering FAA Service Category. The following support documents were available to participants:

1. FAA RFP FY2013 Recommendations (*Attachment A*)
2. Program Outcome Results & Demographic Data for FAA Agencies currently receiving funding (*Attachment B*)
3. FAA RFP FY2015 (*Attachment F*)
4. Palm Beach County Health & Human Services Element (*Attachment G*)
5. Report of Health & Human Services In Palm Beach County – Based on Key Community Indicators (*Attachment H*)
6. Palm Beach County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Annual Report (2013) (*Attachment I*)
7. State of Florida – Attorney General’s Faces of Fatality Statewide Report (2014) (*Attachment J*)

The two (2) Public Forums were audio taped and are posted on the following link <http://www.pbcbgov.com/communityservices/programs/financiallyassisted/>

Attendees and the agency they represented at the two (2) Public Forums and CAC Regular Committee meeting are listed on *Attachment C*.

Staff Recommendation for FAA RFP Priorities (FY2015/2016)

Staff recommendations for the Domestic Abuse/Sheltering FAA RFP (2015/2016) are as follows:

Domestic Abuse/Sheltering: Programs and services in this category should address outcomes and performance measures that demonstrate positive change toward the goal of assisting the victims of domestic violence. This could include: Community-based domestic violence and runaway services; identifying and improving service quality and performance; promoting public awareness and education which lead to prevention; and providing information to the public regarding domestic violence and runaways and available services.

Expanded resources to address some unmet needs in the Domestic Abuse/Sheltering service category and that the current mix of services reflect the highest priority needs of the continuum of care. Services aimed at maintaining the current shelter beds and services to high risk youth in need of shelter because of domestic violence or tertiary prevention should be top priority if funding is flat or decreased. Emphasis for additional funding should address targeted public awareness and education projects that will lead to long term prevention. Use of evidence based programs similar to those implemented by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and expansion of PBSO models for public awareness should receive high concentration.

Domestic Abuse/Sheltering Definitions

Domestic violence – means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.

Family or household member – means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.

*Sources: Online Sunshine – Statutes and Constitution – Title XLII, Domestic Relations
Report of Health & Human Services in Palm Beach County – Based on Key Community Indicators Page 57*

Domestic Abuse/Sheltering Goals

Goal #1: Develop a county-wide protocol for law enforcement to standardize the response to domestic violence investigations to ensure the victims countywide receive the same level of service.

Goal #2: To continue to identify new avenues for education and public awareness campaigns

Goal #3: Continue to collect, analyze and report statistical data on domestic violence that would assist in current and future responses to domestic violence.

Goal #4: Collaborate with the PBC Domestic Fatality Review Team and provide funding so that accurate data collection tools could be used county-wide to assist in the review of domestic homicides and the prevention of future homicides

Goal #5: Collaborate with the two certified shelters within Palm Beach County to assess the current needs to include the potential of increasing the number of beds available to victims.

Goal #6: Develop a county-wide protocol to standardize the response to youth domestic violence to ensure youth countywide receive the same level of diversion opportunities and wraparound services.

Notes:

Minimal differences in criteria, unmet needs, and services that were posted in the FAA FY2013 RFP were expressed during Domestic Abuse/Sheltering public forums. Review “*Summary Results of Responses to Questions – Public Forums*” (Attachment E) for additional details.

The FAA RFP (FY2013) noted five (5) Goals for Domestic Abuse/Sheltering (Attachment K). Each Goal stipulates Action Steps, a time frame, proposed partners, annual cost and funding status information.

Public Forum participants unanimously concur with staff recommendations for Domestic Abuse/Sheltering as listed above.

The results of the Domestic Abuse/Sheltering public forums are intended to be used in final Financially Assisted Agency (FAA) funding decisions. Additionally, it is meant to be something that will be part of ongoing dialog with the Board of County Commissioners and Citizens Advisory Committee on Health & Human Services to help the County know the general direction of future funding.

ATTACHMENT "A"

FINANCIALLY ASSISTED AGENCIES RECOMMENDATIONS FY 2013:

This report indicates the need for expanded resources to address some unmet needs in the Domestic Violence/Shelter services category; however, we feel the current mix of services reflects the highest priority needs of the continuum of care. Services aimed at maintaining the current shelter beds and services to high risk youth in need of shelter because of domestic violence or tertiary prevention should be top priority if funding is flat or decreased.

We feel the request for proposals should allow for applicants to address the recommendations in this report in years two (2) and three (3) of the funding request should additional funding become available. Emphasis for additional funding should address targeted public awareness and education projects that will lead to long term prevention. Use of evidence based programs similar to those implemented by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), expansion of PBSO models for public awareness or other mentioned in the report should receive higher consideration.

ATTACHMENT “B”

Program Outcome Results & Demographic Data for FAA Agencies Currently Receiving Funding

ATTACHMENT "C"

List of Individuals Contributing at Domestic Abuse/Sheltering Public Forums *

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Chief Deputy Michael Gauger	CAC/HHS Chair & Palm Beach County Sheriff Office
Patrick Halperin, Ph.D.	CAC/HHS Member & Palm Beach County Sheriff Office
Nate Nichols, Ph.D.	CAC/HHS Member
Sergeant Erick Dominguez	Palm Beach County Sheriff Office
Brenda Oakes	CAC/HHS ex-officio Member & Youth Services Department
Tammy Fields	Youth Services Department
Sandra Chamblee	CAC/HHS Member (Glades representative)
Suzanne Turner	Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)
Clay Walker	Department of Children and Families
Pamela O'Brien	Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA)
Pam Gionfriddo	Mental Health Association
John Bartosek	CAC/HHS Member & Children's Services Council
Christine Koehn, Ph.D.	CAC/HHS Member & Farris Foundation
Barbara Jacobowitz	CAC/HHS Member & Keiser University
Houston Tate	CAC/HHS ex-officio & Office of Community Revitalization
David Rafaidus	Staff – Project Manager
Mike Tomczak	Homesafe
Brian McCaney	Homesafe
Idalmis Moreno	Homesafe
Stacy Scott	Palm Beach County Sheriff Office
Sandy Sisson	Palm Beach County Sheriff Office
Heather Simmons	Palm Beach County Sheriff Office
Victoria Milkin	Palm Beach County Sheriff Office
Warren Reasoner	Palm Beach County Sheriff Office
Frank Whity	Palm Beach County Sheriff Office
Johnny Trujillo	Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA)
Mary Cauther	Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)
Marsha Gutharie	Children's Services Council
Carol Messan-Gordon	Public Safety – Victims Services
WP Kenny	Palm Beach County Sheriff Office
Brittney Garth	Legal Aid of Palm Beach County
Kathy Serock	Childrens Home Society
Rosalind Murray	Criminal Justice Department
Elizabeth Hernandez Cayson	CAC/HHS Vice Chair & Health Care District
Barbara Cox Gerlock, Ph.D.	CAC/HHS member
Anne Gerwig	CAC/HHS member & League of Cities representative
Edward Holloway	CAC/HHS ex-officio member

ATTACHMENT "C"

List of Individuals Contributing at Domestic Abuse/Sheltering Public Forums *

(continued)

Cheryl Checkers	NAMI
Meagan Rappatta	Magellan Complete Care
Becky Walker	Behavior Health of SE Florida
Seth Bernstein	Father Flannigan's (Boys Town South Florida)
Sonja Swanson Holbrook	Staff
Nadia Barreto-Najarro	Staff
Geoffrey Downie	Staff
Amalia Hernandez	Staff
Taruna Malhotra	Staff
Roger Nielsen	Staff
Vivian Blackmon-Taylor	Staff
Mary Woodward	Staff
Channell Wilkins	Staff
Sharon O'Neil	Staff
Helene Hvizd	County Attorney's Office

**Note: Several names have not been listed due to legibility of handwriting on "sign in" rosters. Mis-spelling of names is possible due to legibility of handwriting on sign in rosters.*

ATTACHMENT "D"

Domestic Abuse/Sheltering Public Forum
(February 6th, 2015 & February 24, 2015)

Question #1

Is it necessary to change the definition of Domestic Abuse/Sheltering?

Yes

No:

Domestic Abuse/Sheltering

Domestic violence – means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.

Family or household member – means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.

*Sources: Online Sunshine – Statutes and Constitution – Title XLII, Domestic Relations
Report of Health & Human Services in Palm Beach County – Based on Key Community Indicators
Page 57*

If yes, what is the recommended new definition and why?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

ATTACHMENT "D"

Domestic Abuse/Sheltering Public Forum
(February 6th, 2015 & February 24, 2015)

Question #2

Is there a need to modify the existing five (5) Domestic Violence/Sheltering Goals stated within the last FAA RFP?

Yes:

No

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Goal #1: Develop a county-wide protocol for law enforcement to standardize the response to domestic violence investigations to ensure the victims countywide receive the same level of service.

Goal #2: To continue to identify new avenues for public awareness campaigns

Goal #3: To obtain county funding and resources to collect, analyze and report statistical data on domestic violence that would assist in current and future responses to domestic violence.

Goal #4: Collaborate with the PBC Domestic Fatality Review Team and provide funding so that accurate data collection tools could be used county-wide to assist in the review of domestic homicides and the prevention of future homicides

Goal #5: Collaborate with the two certified shelters within Palm Beach County to assess the current needs to include the potential of increasing the number of beds available to victims and expanding existing shelters to allow pets which have been identified as a hurdle in providing services to victims.

Source: PBC Request for Proposal FAA FY2013 pages 13 - 17

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If yes, what are the proposed modifications & justifications?

1. _____

ATTACHMENT "D"

Domestic Abuse/Sheltering Public Forum
(February 6th, 2015 & February 24, 2015)

Question #3

Are there any gaps or unmet needs that affect the current Domestic Abuse/Sheltering Service Goals or outcomes?

Yes:

No

If yes, what are the gap(s), unmet need(s) or proposed outcome(s)?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

ATTACHMENT "E"

SUMMARY RESULTS OF RESPONSES TO PUBLIC FORUM QUESTIONS

Question #1

Is it necessary to change the definition of Domestic Abuse/Sheltering?

Answer: No

Collective agreement: The domestic violence definition is consistent with Florida Statutes and other statutes address child/juvenile issues/abuse.

Question #2

Is there a need to modify the existing five (5) Domestic Abuse/Sheltering Goals stated within the last FAA RFP (2013)?

Answer: Yes. Minor modifications are recommended for Goal #2, Goal #3, and Goal #5. Also, a proposal was made to add an additional Goal #6.

Goal #1: Develop a county-wide protocol for law enforcement to standardize the response to domestic violence investigations to ensure the victims countywide receive the same level of service.

Goal #2: To continue to identify new avenues for education and public awareness campaigns

Goal #3: ~~To obtain county funding and resources~~ Continue to collect, analyze and report statistical data on domestic violence that would assist in current and future responses to domestic violence.

Goal #4: Collaborate with the PBC Domestic Fatality Review Team and provide funding so that accurate data collection tools could be used county-wide to assist in the review of domestic homicides and the prevention of future homicides

Goal #5: Collaborate with the two certified shelters within Palm Beach County to assess the current needs to include the potential of increasing the number of beds available to victims. ~~and expanding existing shelters to allow pets which have been identified as a hurdle in providing services to victims.~~

Goal #6: Develop a county-wide protocol to standardize the response to youth domestic violence to ensure youth countywide receive the same level of diversion opportunities and wraparound services.

ATTACHMENT "E"

SUMMARY RESULTS OF RESPONSES TO PUBLIC FORUM QUESTIONS

(continued)

Question #3

Are there any gaps or unmet needs that affect the current Domestic Abuse/Sheltering Service Goals or outcomes?

Answer: Yes. There was consensus that there are gaps and unmet needs in the following areas:

1. Youth offenders (gaps in services)
2. Juveniles (gaps in services)
3. Prevention (gaps in services)
4. Transitional housing – increase transitional housing by prioritizing domestic violence as an issue to qualify for housing and utility services
5. Streamline the process and/or change policies to increase access to housing and continuum of care for victims of domestic violence
6. There is a gap and need for services for pregnant women and women with small children
7. Additional emergency funds (financial assistance) for individual financial issues (rent/utilities/food)