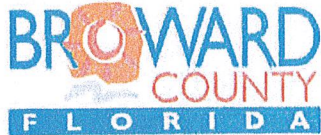


ITEM #50

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
10:00 A.M. REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2015**


**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**



BERTHA W. HENRY, County Administrator

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 409 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7362 • FAX 954-357-7360

TO: Broward County Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Bertha Henry, County Administrator 

DATE: February 5, 2015

RE: Discussion of Implementation of Local Option Food and Beverage Tax

BACKGROUND:

As per the December 3rd, 2014 action of the Continuum of Care Board¹ and direction from the Board of County Commissioners December 9th, 2014, staff has been researching the adoption of a Local Food and Beverage Tax to fund homeless services in Broward County.

Local Option Food and Beverage Taxes, Section 212.0306, Florida Statutes. Any county, as defined in s. 125.011(1), F.S., (which presently lists **only Miami-Dade County**) is eligible to levy these taxes.

The eligible County may impose two separate taxes:

- A tax of 2 percent may be imposed on the sale of food, beverages, and alcoholic beverages in hotels and motels. The funds are used to promote the county and its municipalities as a destination for conventions, trade shows, and pleasure travel.
- A tax of 1 percent may be imposed on the sale of food, beverages, and alcoholic beverages in certain establishments. The county must use at least 15 percent of the funds to build and operate domestic violence centers. The remainder is used to help the homeless or those about to become homeless.

While the statute in its entirety is provided as an endnote¹, with respect to dedicated homeless services revenue sourcing, Sec. 125.0104(5)(b) states:

- ¹(b) For the first 12 months, the proceeds from the tax authorized by paragraph (1)(b) shall be used by the county to assist persons who have become, or are about to become, homeless. These funds shall be made available for emergency homeless shelters, food, clothing, medical care, counseling, alcohol and drug abuse treatment, mental health treatment, employment and

training, education, and housing. Thereafter, not less than 15 percent of these funds shall be made available for construction and operation of domestic violence centers . . . Prior to enactment of the ordinance levying and imposing the tax provided for by paragraph (1)(b), the county shall appoint a representative task force including, but not limited to, service providers, homeless persons' advocates, and impacted jurisdictions to prepare and submit to the governing board of the county for its approval a plan for addressing the needs of persons who have become, or are about to become, homeless. The governing board of the county shall adopt this countywide plan for addressing homeless needs as part of the ordinance levying the tax.

- (c) The county and each municipality in that county shall continue to contribute each year at least 85 percent of aggregate expenditures from the respective county or municipal general fund budget for county-operated or municipally operated homeless shelter services at or above the average level of such expenditures in the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of levying this tax.

Homeless service providers and funders in Broward County have met to recommend ways in which a local option sales tax could address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness. Human Services Department staff provided the following figures associated with permanently housing chronically homeless individuals identified in the recent point-in-time count: approximately \$10M, annually, to provide permanent supportive rental housing to 520+ persons (includes costs of wrap-around case management and social services; assumes disability eligibility and a cost of rent at \$1000 p/month). Staff also advised that some or all the \$6.2M presently invested in emergency sheltering could be redirected to other gaps in Broward's homeless service delivery system. At this time, the Office of Management and Budget has not been able to ascertain how much a local option sales tax might generate, as calculations are dependent upon the legislative approach.

The approach by which a Local Option Food & Beverage Tax could be levied in Broward County:

1. Florida Statute 125.011(1) could be amended to include Broward County; however, it is the position of staff that doing so would be complicated by inapplicable elements of the law relating to Miami-Dade County and its municipalities. Furthermore, the authorizing language itself, drafted in the early 1990s, may not actually meet our community's objectives. The statute pertains to a broader array of services/activities than homeless programs (e.g., domestic violence shelters, tourist development and destination promotion).
2. If attempting to amend the existing statute is the Board's direction, and successful, the County must fulfill the requirement of appointing "a representative task force". It is the position of staff that the Continuum of Care board would meet the statutory requirement.
3. The statute then requires that said task force complete a plan "addressing the needs of persons who have become, or are about to become, homeless". Staff believes that the *Pathways Home* report may suffice to meet this statutory requirement.
4. Adoption of this countywide plan would need to be part of the ordinance levying the tax, which must be adopted by a simple majority vote. While the existing statute authorizing Miami-Dade to impose this tax does not require a referendum, recent actions of the Legislature suggest any new authorization for Broward County will include the requirement of local voter approval.

While we have been advised by a member of our contract lobbying team that a Representative in the Broward Delegation has agreed to file a general bill allowing Broward County to impose a Local Option Food and Beverage Tax, no Senate sponsor has been identified. Intergovernmental Affairs staff has suggested that the political climate, especially in the House, is not conducive to any legislation: (1) increasing taxes, and; (2) expanding local government authority.

The Board of County Commissioners ("Board") considered the pursuit of inclusion in Sec. 125.011(1), F.S., in the late 1990s. Ultimately, and in response to opposition from the hospitality industry, the Board opted to seek a redirection of gas tax/general fund revenues that would serve as a dedicated funding source for homeless services.

A review of State Legislative platforms as far back as records allowed, did not reveal any advocacy position held by the Board related to the imposition of a Local Option Food and Beverage Tax, previously.

¹ The Report referred to during Board's discussion is the action taken below, by Broward Continuum of Care:

The Board, voted to formally request the County to research the adoption of a "Local Option Food and Beverage Tax" to fund homeless services in Broward County.

MOTION: for the CoC Board to go to the County Commission for the recommendation that a tax be looked into that would raise money to help house homeless people in Broward County. Also, an amendment by Steve Werthman to support a food and beverage fund if it requires a referendum.

MAKERS: Keith Costello, Steve Werthman
SECOND: Caryl Hattan

RESULT: Approved unanimously

ii **212.0306 Local option food and beverage tax; procedure for levying; authorized uses; administration.—**

(1) Any county, as defined in s. 125.011(1), may impose the following additional taxes, by ordinance adopted by a majority vote of the governing body:

(a) At the rate of 2 percent on the sale of food, beverages, or alcoholic beverages in hotels and motels only.

(b) At the rate of 1 percent on the sale of food, beverages, or alcoholic beverages in establishments that are licensed by the state to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, except for hotels and motels; however, the tax shall not apply to any alcoholic beverage sold by the package for off-premises consumption.

(2)(a)1. The sales in any establishment licensed by the state to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, except for hotels and motels, that had gross annual revenues of \$400,000 or less in the previous calendar year, are exempt from the tax authorized by paragraph (1)(b).

2. For purposes of determining qualification for this exemption, each such establishment must determine the annual gross revenues of the business at the end of each calendar year. If an establishment's exemption status changes, the establishment must cease or begin collection of the tax effective the following February 1, in accordance with its new exemption status. An establishment must notify the tax collector of the county levying the tax of such change in writing no later than 20 days after the end of the calendar year.

3. Each newly opened establishment must collect the tax authorized by paragraph (1)(b) for 45 days commencing with its first day of business. After such time a newly opened business may cease collecting the tax if its projected gross annual revenues are \$400,000 or less. Projected gross annual revenues shall be determined by dividing gross revenues for the first 45 days by 45, and multiplying the resulting quotient by 365. Newly opened businesses which cease collecting the tax must notify the tax collector of the county levying the tax within 20 days after the last day the tax is collected. A newly opened establishment which has been in business for less than 45 days as of the end of its first calendar year is exempt from the provisions of subparagraph 2. for that calendar year.

(b) Sales in any veterans' organization are exempt from the tax authorized by paragraph (1)(b).

(c) All transactions that are exempt from the state sales tax are exempt from the taxes authorized by subsection (1).

(d) Sales in cities or towns presently imposing a municipal resort tax as authorized by chapter 67-930, Laws of Florida, are exempt from the taxes authorized by subsection (1).

(3)(a) The proceeds of the tax authorized by paragraph (1)(a) shall be allocated by the county to a countywide convention and visitors bureau which, by interlocal agreement and contract with the county, has been given the primary responsibility for promoting the county and its constituent cities as a destination site for conventions, trade shows, and pleasure travel, to be used for purposes provided in s. 125.0104(5)(a)2. or 3., 1992 Supplement to the Florida Statutes 1991. If the county is not or is no longer a party to such an interlocal agreement and contract with a countywide convention and visitors bureau, the county shall allocate the proceeds of such tax for the purposes described in s. 125.0104(5)(a)2. or 3., 1992 Supplement to the Florida Statutes 1991.

1(b) For the first 12 months, the proceeds from the tax authorized by paragraph (1)(b) shall be used by the county to assist persons who have become, or are about to become, homeless. These funds shall be made available for emergency homeless shelters, food, clothing, medical care, counseling, alcohol and drug abuse treatment, mental health treatment, employment and training, education, and housing. Thereafter, not less than 15 percent of these funds shall be made available for construction and operation of domestic violence centers, and the remainder shall be used for the other purposes set forth in this paragraph. In addition, the proceeds of the tax and the interest accrued on those proceeds may be used as collateral, pledged, or hypothecated for projects authorized by this paragraph, including bonds issued in connection therewith. Prior to enactment of the ordinance levying and imposing the tax provided for by paragraph (1)(b), the county shall appoint a representative task force including, but not limited to, service providers, homeless persons' advocates, and impacted jurisdictions to prepare and submit to the governing board of the county for its approval a plan for addressing the needs of persons who have become, or are about to become, homeless. The governing board of the county shall adopt this countywide plan for addressing homeless needs as part of the ordinance levying the tax.

(c) The county and each municipality in that county shall continue to contribute each year at least 85 percent of aggregate expenditures from the respective county or municipal general fund budget for county-operated or municipally operated homeless shelter services at or above the average level of such expenditures in the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of levying this tax.

(4) A certified copy of the ordinance that authorizes the imposition of a tax authorized by this section shall be furnished by the county to the Department of Revenue within 10 days after the adoption of the ordinance.

(5) A tax authorized by this section may take effect on the first day of any month, but may not take effect until at least 60 days after the adoption of the ordinance levying the tax.

(6) Any county levying a tax authorized by this section must locally administer the tax using the powers and duties enumerated for local administration of the tourist development tax by s. 125.0104, 1992 Supplement to the Florida Statutes 1991. The county's ordinance shall also provide for brackets applicable to taxable transactions.

(7) Each county shall also appoint an oversight board including, but not limited to, service providers, domestic violence victim advocates, members of the judiciary, concerned citizens, a victim of domestic violence, and impacted jurisdictions to prepare and submit to the governing board of the county for its approval a plan for disbursing the funds made available for the construction and operation of domestic violence centers. Each member of the county's governing board shall appoint a member, and the county manager shall appoint two members, to the oversight board.

Cassini, Gretchen

From: Cassini, Gretchen
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Barrocas, Scott; Beckford, John; Bertino, John; Bogen, Mark; Busey, Philip; Carbonell, Launa; Carter, Kristin; Clark, Michael; Crooks, Jacqueline; Flury, Barbara; Furr, Beam; Goldstein, Norma; Gotha, Matthew; Grandwilliams, Harrison; Hall, Kathy; Hirschman, William; Holness, Dale; Kiar, Martin; Lamarca, Chip; Leonardi, Frank; Lichtman, Ronald; Lynch, Lauraine; Maroe, Kimberly; Neilson, Christopher; Pauli, Kenneth; Pierson, Kelly; Pryde, Mary; Quintana, Idelma; Ritter, Stacy; Ryan, Tim; Scarlette, Lahoma; Sharief, Barbara; Wesner, Kate; Wexler, Lois; Wolter, Margaret
Cc: Henry, Bertha; Hernandez, Roberto; Cepero, Monica; Coffey, Joni Armstrong; Lukic, Evan; Elwell, Michael; Olsen, Kayla; Labrador, Edward
Subject: Local Option Food & Beverage Tax
Attachments: USF Evaluation Update final Oct 2006.pdf
Importance: High

Greetings:

As a follow-up to the memorandum prepared by staff last week, please see below, a series of questions that were posed by Commissioner Furr, with staff responses:

If the Broward Board of County Commissioner were to adopt a Food and Beverage tax:

1. *How might the language read to specifically address Broward County?*

Intergovernmental Affairs staff is working with our contract lobbyists and legislative bill drafting to develop a separate stand-alone bill to be filed prior to the bill filing deadline, March 3 (the first day of session), that will be driven by direction given by the Board of Commissioners.

2. *What is the dollar amount needed to fill the funding gap in Broward County?*

Defining a funding gap is dependent upon what, and how, services are being quantified, as well as the number of persons needing to access those services. Staff believes that should chronically homeless persons be given presumptive eligibility under either the Social Security Administration or Veteran's Administration (requiring federal advocacy), that the funding gap would be greatly reduced (a successful strategy employed under a federal pilot program that could be reintroduced in this community—see attached report). Homeless service providers and funders in Broward County have met to recommend ways in which a local option food and beverage sales tax could address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness. Human Services Department staff provided the following figures associated with permanently housing chronically homeless individuals identified in the recent point-in-time count: approximately \$10M, annually, to provide permanent supportive rental housing to 520+ persons (includes costs of wrap-around case management and social services; *assumes disability eligibility* and a cost of rent at \$1000 p/month). Staff also advised that some or all the \$7.6M presently invested in emergency sheltering could be redirected to address other gaps in Broward's homeless service delivery system. At this time, the Office of Management and Budget has not been able to ascertain how much a local option sales tax might generate, as calculations are dependent upon the legislative approach.

3. *What kind of system of oversight would we propose?*

The existing Continuum of Care Board would be a reasonable and appropriate oversight system, since it is privy to the entire service delivery structure for persons experiencing homelessness in the county; however, that is a policy decision for the Board of County Commissioners.

4. *How would the money be spent?*

Authorizing legislation, informed by a policy decision of the Board of County Commissioners, will likely inform how the money generated can be spent. It is staff's recommendation that a plan, developed by a local oversight Board and driven by evidence-based practices endorsed by the Federal agency that provides substantial funding to the community (HUD), should be basis for funding decisions. Such a plan exists and is approved by the Homeless Continuum Care Board and the Board of Commissioners for that purpose. It is the recommendation of staff that funding generated by an additional dedicated local revenue source be focused, initially, on rapid-rehousing and wrap-around supportive services to address the most difficult-to-serve population.

5. *What would be required in terms of staffing (i.e. – case managers), and where would staff come from?*

Undetermined until: (1) the amount of funding expected to be generated is known; (2) the Board provides clear policy direction about the way the legislation should be drafted, and what programs are eligible for funding.

6. *Which aspects of the Miami-Dade bill would Broward County want to adopt and which aspects would not be best applied in our County?*

Florida Statute 125.011(1), drafted in the early 1990s, may not meet our community's objectives. The statute pertains to a broader array of services/activities than homeless programs (e.g., domestic violence shelters, tourist development and destination promotion). If it was the will of the Board to pursue a Local Option Food and Beverage Tax, staff recommends inclusion of: (1) specific types of establishments that would be subject to a 1% additional tax; (2) an oversight Board (such as the Homeless Continuum of Care Board) to direct the strategic purpose and funding objectives; and (3) a plan for addressing homelessness with priorities, to be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners as part of the ordinance that permits the levy of such a sales tax.

7. *Would this need to be presented as a referendum?*

While the existing statute authorizing Miami-Dade to impose this tax does not require a referendum, recent actions of the Legislature suggest any new authorization for Broward County may include the requirement of local voter approval.

8. *What is the process to get this proposal in the hands of the legislature during this legislative year?*

It is staff's understanding that a general bill slot is being held by Representative Moskowitz, and that Senators Sobel and Ring have been approached to carry the bill in the Senate. It was staff's recommendation that the contract lobbyist who has indicated that a path has been carved out for success pursuing a local option sales tax, work directly with Leadership and committee staff to draft language to move it through the House and Senate as a committee bill, since our experience over the last fifteen years is that the political climate, especially in the House, is not conducive to any legislation: (1) increasing taxes, and; (2) expanding local government authority. It was also staff's recommendation that an advocacy and legislative strategy be pursued that offered broad latitude to identify opportunities to amend bills that: (1) have leadership's endorsement; (2) move successfully through at least one committee of reference in each house; and (3) are germane to dedicated revenue generation and the issue of homelessness.

GRETCHEN M. CASSINI
BROWARD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
115 SOUTH ANDREWS AVENUE, 409
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301



From: Cassini, Gretchen

Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 5:04 PM

To: Barrocas, Scott; Beckford, John; Bertino, John; Bogen, Mark; Busey, Philip; Carbonell, Launa; Carter, Kristin; Clark, Michael; Crooks, Jacqueline; Flury, Barbara; Furr, Beam; Goldstein, Norma; Gotha, Matthew; Grandwilliams, Harrison; Hall, Kathy; Hirschman, William; Holness, Dale; Kiar, Martin; Lamarca, Chip; Leonardi, Frank; Lichtman, Ronald; Lynch, Lauraine; Maroe, Kimberly; Neilson, Christopher; Pauli, Kenneth; Pierson, Kelly; Popiel, Stephen; Pryde, Mary; Quintana, Idelma; Ritter, Stacy; Ryan, Tim; Scarlette, Lahoma; Sharief, Barbara; Wesner, Kate; Wexler, Lois; Wolter, Margaret
Cc: Henry, Bertha; Hernandez, Roberto; Cepero, Monica; Coffey, Joni Armstrong; Lukic, Evan; Elwell, Michael; Olsen, Kayla; Labrador, Edward

Subject: Feasibility Analysis-- Local Option Food & Beverage Tax

Greetings, Board Members:

Please see attached memo, relating to Board direction given December 9, 2014.

Have a lovely evening,

Gretchen M. Cassini, JD
Broward County Administration
115 South Andrews Avenue, 409
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
(954) 357.7000 (MAIN)
(954) 357.7579 (DIRECT)



HHOPE Team Helps Chronically Homeless Persons with Serious Mental Illness

Evaluation Update



Robert Paulson, Ph.D.
Department of Child & Family Studies
Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute
University of South Florida
<http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu>

The HHOPE Team...

Saves Broward County over \$500,000

Shows fidelity to the ACT Model

Improves coordination of services for participants and consumer choice

Moved 86% of it's participants into permanent housing

Confirms strong satisfaction of participants with HHOPE

September 2006

Formation of the HHOPE Team

The HHOPE team was formed as Broward County's model program funded jointly by five federal agencies as part of an eleven site demonstration of programs to end chronic homelessness. Here in Broward County, an assertive community treatment team (ACT) which provides 24/7 care to up to 100 chronically homeless persons with serious mental illness was formed as the chosen intervention. This team based approach includes specialists in mental health, supported employment, and substance abuse treatment as well as a nurse and general case managers. Seven agencies partnered together to hire the members of the team and form the Steering Committee which provides oversight to the Project. The seven agencies are Broward Addiction Recovery Center

With federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Veterans Administration (VA), the Broward County community was able to implement a pilot program for persons experiencing chronic homelessness, Housing and Health Options Provide Empowerment (HHOPE)

For more information on HHOPE, contact Steve Werthman at 954-357-6101.



(BARC), Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc (BPHI), Henderson Mental Health Center, North Broward Hospital District, Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services, the VA and the Broward County Housing Authority which provides the housing vouchers for participants. The Broward County Homeless Initiative Partnership and the Florida Department of Children's and Family Services District office are also integrally involved in the project.

The HHOPE team began enrolling participants in April of 2004 and now serves 43 persons. Since that time the program has been very successful in improving the lives of the people served. This comes despite the number of hurricanes which stopped their normal operations so they could be sure all participants were safe and recovered from the storms. The loss of many affordable housing units because of the price increases after the hurricanes has made their job much more difficult, making their success even more remarkable.

The agencies making up the HHOPE Team are

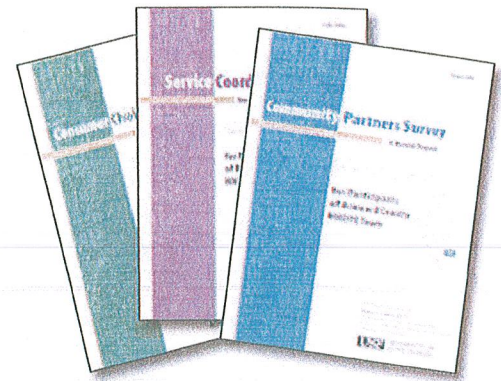
- Broward Addiction Recovery Center
- Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc
- Henderson Mental Health Center
- North Broward Hospital District
- Broward County Elderly Veterans Services
- The VA



HHOPE Participants Are Self Supporting, Housed and Saving Broward County Over a Half Million Dollars

As of May 2006, 86% of those admitted to the HHOPE Program have been living in permanent supported housing for over one year. Eighty-eight percent are now self-supporting. Self-supporting refers to consumers who live in subsidized housing and are able to pay their portion of the rent and their daily living expenses. There were also significant savings in hospitalization, jail time and shelter days. Of the 12 participants the North Broward Hospital District was able to match in its data base there was a 65% reduction in the cost of hospital days resulting in \$160,792 in cost avoidance. Similarly, for all participants, there was a 97% reduction in the number of days in jail for a cost avoidance of \$327,250. There was a 65% reduction in the use of shelter bed days after admission to the HHOPE program for savings of \$104,040. The total cost avoidance is close to six hundred thousand dollars (\$592,082) that would have been spent on services to these persons without the HHOPE Program. As the chart shows,

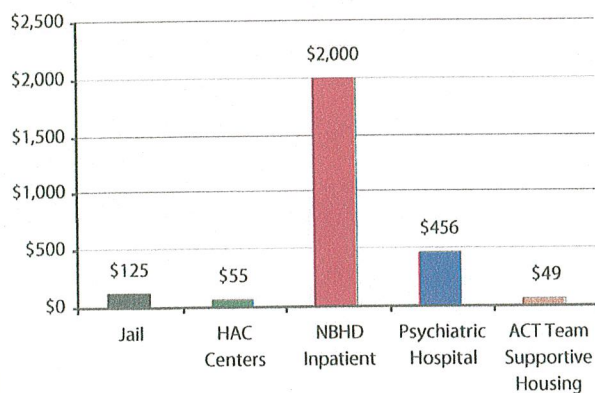
the HHOPE program cost per day is the cheapest of all these alternatives besides being a far better quality of life for the participants.



The HHOPE Team Shows Fidelity to the ACT Model

Two fidelity checks of the teams operations were conducted after 18 months and two years. The fidelity check uses a nationally recognized instrument and process for determining whether or not the HHOPE team had implemented the model correctly. Three major areas are examined, the human resources and structure of the organization, the teams relationship with other parts of the system, and the nature of its services. On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being perfect fidelity the team scored 4.2 at baseline and improved to a 4.4 six months later. This meant that the team was providing services in the proper staff/client ratio of 1-10, was available 24 hours/seven days a week, provided its services in the community in the participants homes or other natural settings, and in general were providing comprehensive services to its participants in a team approach.

Comparison of Cost Per Day Per Person by Service Type



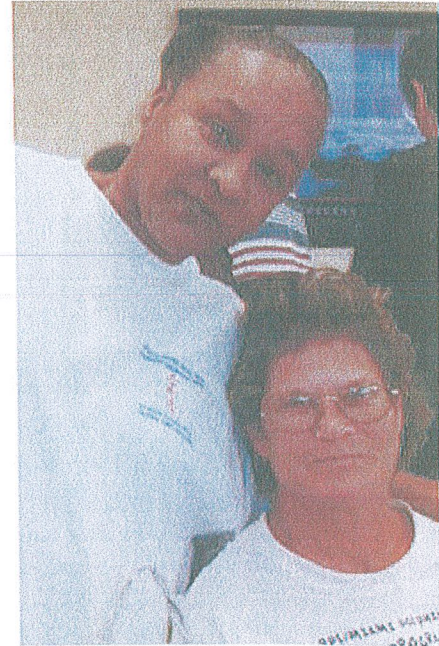
Estimated Savings

Hospitalization	\$160,792
Jail time	\$327,250
Shelter beds	\$104,040
Total Estimated Savings	\$592,082

HHOPE Team Improves Coordination of Services for Participants

Recent federal reports have highlighted the fragmentation of the service system for persons with serious mental illness. This fragmentation results in consumers being referred to multiple agencies with the expectation that they will be able to find transportation to these different agencies. It also means that consumers seeking help need to tell their painful stories multiple times and considerable duplication of paperwork as well as the possibility that there will be conflicting information and contradictory or duplicative services. This is an especially hard burden on persons who have been chronically homeless and mentally ill and are trying to adjust to the totally different lifestyle required to stay in permanent housing. HHOPE participants were asked 18 questions

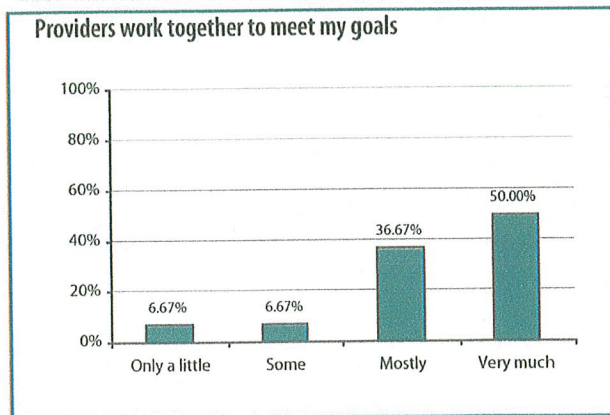
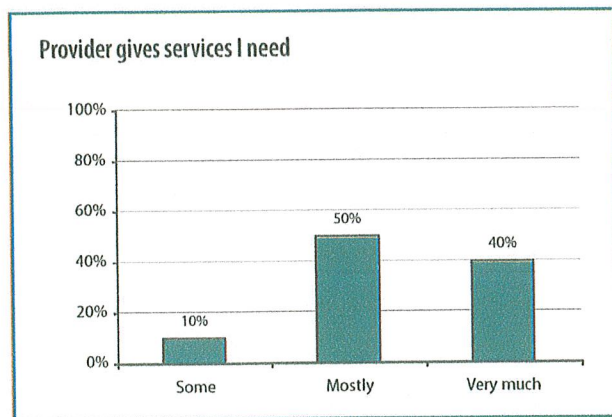
about the coordination of the services they had received six months prior to receiving HHOPE services (baseline) and then at one year after entering the HHOPE Program. Participants reported marked changes between baseline and the one year follow up on all of the questions. For example, the number of persons reporting they received the services they needed tripled from 30% to 90% after one year in the program. Before HHOPE only 60% said they had to find services on their own while one year later that had decreased to 12%. Similarly, only 9% at baseline said paperwork had been kept to a minimum and increased eight fold to over 70%. Overall, HHOPE participants found their services to be better coordinated to a significant degree.



HHOPE Team Welcomed by Existing Service Providers

As the “new kid on the block” the HHOPE team had to establish relationships with the existing service systems. Six months after the team was established they filled out a questionnaire asking them eleven questions about their relationships with 24 separate agencies. The questions covered various aspects of the relationship such as cooperation, accessibility, information sharing, and responsiveness.

At six months the team indicated it had good relationships with all the community funded partners. One year later the relationships between the HHOPE Team and all of the agencies improved. There were no aspects of the relationships which were considered problematic. There were improvements in all areas. It is clear that the agencies providing services have been cooperative and the HHOPE team has been successful in establishing longstanding good relationships with them which are improving over time.



Participants Indicate Strong Satisfaction with their HHOPE Team Interaction

Best practices for serving adults with serious mental illness are recovery-oriented and reflect client-centered practice. This means the program believes people can recover and lead normal lives in the community and that participants should be given choices in all aspects of their lives, including the services they receive. Because this principle was so important to the program model a 33 question instrument was given to participants who agreed to participate in the evaluation exploring all phases of the services they received from HHOPE. Four major areas were explored:

- Were services offered in a timely manner and did participants have good access to those services?
- Did participants have choice around the specific nature of the services, and were they involved in the design of their treatment plan and the services they received?
- Were their wishes respected and were they treated as any person without mental illness would be treated?
- Was receipt of one service contingent on receiving another service or particular behaviors (e.g. taking medications)?

Even in the initial report, which followed the first participants who had been admitted into the program while HHOPE was just getting started and the team still had a lot to learn, the participants had considerable choice in all of the areas. In the follow up which included participants entering later into the program the team's performance continued to improve. The vast majority of the participants indicated that services were offered promptly. Over 90% said the HHOPE staff were available when they had a crisis. The participants were also extremely positive about their choice in how services are delivered.

"This program saved my life"

Over 80% felt their individual needs and choices determined the service they received often or always, and they were usually asked about what was important

to them in choosing different kinds of services. The participants said they were treated respectfully. For example, 92% said the staff respected their choices and 100% said the staff respected their right to privacy.

Similarly, the vast majority of the participants reported that their access to services was not restricted by whether or not they received other services or by their behavior (e.g. taking medications), as would be true for persons who did not have mental illness.

Project Sustainability:

As the project's grant funds end this year, the steering committee is working with the community to ensure that the team's operations are maintained. All of the Partners and Broward County are strongly supportive of these efforts. Given the successful implementation of the program, the successful housing of over 40 formerly chronically homeless persons, and the cost savings to the rest of the system, it is important to sustain this program.



Cassini, Gretchen

From: Anne Sallee <asallee@FRLA.org>
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 12:38 PM
To: Wexler, Lois; Lamarca, Chip; Ryan, Tim; Furr, Beam; Kiar, Martin; Bogen, Mark; Holness, Dale; Ritter, Stacy; Sharief, Barbara; Henry, Bertha
Cc: Scott Rivelli; rgreen@pompanobeachchamber.com; Anne Hotte; Tim Schiavone (wdparrot@aol.com); Cassini, Gretchen
Subject: Broward Local Option Food & Beverage Tax
Importance: High

Regarding the proposed Local Option Food & Beverage Tax to fund a solution Broward County Homelessness:

Homelessness is a community wide problem requiring community wide solutions. It is a national, state and local issue that can only be addressed with the cooperation of all participants. Homelessness is not going to be solved with a single tax or with feeding stations.

It is the position of the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association that it would be unjust to select and tax just one industry as the solution to a community wide problem.

The Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association supports efforts to address the issue of homelessness with productive and comprehensive measures community wide, but does not support the taxing of any one industry as a solution.

Best regards,

Anne

Anne E. Sallee
Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
Chapter Director, Broward
P O Box 5162
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310
Tel. (954) 253-0850
Fax (844) 253-0850
Email: ASallee@frla.org
www.frla.org