

## **Recap of the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting August 28, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 A.M. by Chairman Kay Doughty. The members in attendance were: Kay Doughty, Jim Mills, Aakash Patel, Jay Vickers, Jeffrey Rhodes, Calvin Johnson, Jake Piascik, Anthony Arena, Ginnie Carlson, Deborah Cope, and Gaye Townsend. Members absent were: Bea Black, Jennifer Closshey, and Don Coryell. A quorum was present. Staff in attendance: Brandon Wagner.

The CAC conducted the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by introductions by each member. Mr. Arena explained the role and responsibilities of the CAC for the viewing audience.

**Meeting Recap** – The recap of the July CAC meeting was reviewed and approved unanimously.

**Public Comment #1:** Mr. Jermaine Wilcox spoke to the CAC regarding health care and budget cuts.

**Budget Update by Eric Johnson, Management Services Administrator and Budget Manager** – Mr. Johnson began by clarifying the definition of a strategic plan, and that responsibility for that plan rests with the County Administrator. He explained that the County's Strategic Plan has 66 items and was written at a time of high revenues. Mr. Johnson announced that an updated Strategic Plan is going to be crafted and suggested that the CAC's input could be helpful.

Mr. Johnson updated the CAC on the budget drafting process, noting that the Board continues seeking revenue diversity away from a reliance on ad valorem property taxes. The Board is utilizing one-time revenues to retire debt that is economically feasible to eliminate. Additional budget cuts are anticipated in FY 2011. Staff continues seeking additional efficiencies and collaborations that will reduce the cost of doing business and save front-line services.

**Presentation on the Hillsborough County Health Care Program by Ray Reed, Division Director** – Mr. Reed opened with an explanation of the origins of Hillsborough County's Health Care Program in 1991 to provide services to the County's indigent persons as required by Florida statute via a half-cent sales tax. In that time the Program built a \$90 million reserve. With the economic downturn and corresponding reduction in sales tax revenues the reserve fund has been reduced to \$60 million, and is declining by approximately \$2 million per month. Current levels of service can continue through 2010. Increased revenues and efficiencies must be made for 2011 or there may be a reduction in services. Clients are re-enrolled every 6 months, allowing for fresh health data and contact information.

**Moral Courage Award** – Members discussed the qualifications of the three nominees. It was decided that while the achievements of each was admirable, they did not meet the criteria of the Moral Courage Award. A motion was offered by Mr. Arena and seconded by Mr. Piascik to not recommend anyone for the Moral Courage Award, and to recommend consideration of Mr. Keller for the "Favorite Sons and Daughters Award," and Ms. Montague and the Town & Country Senior Stars for the "You've Made a Difference Award." The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business** – Staff thanked Amy Mortellaro and Carol Michel for their assistance in the Moral Courage Award process. The CAC asked staff to see if a presentation could be made at the September meeting on the Cone Ranch issue. Staff was directed to invite Eric Johnson to the October CAC meeting to further discuss the Strategic Plan and how the CAC can be involved, and to add the matter to the October meeting agenda. Staff was directed to invite Veteran's Services to the October meeting, and to request a brief presentation on Florida's Sunshine Law for the new members. Staff was also directed to bring back information on the "Phyllis!" award.

**Public Comment #2** – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.