

Board Meeting Agenda Item Executive Summary

Supt.'s Office Use Only

Board Meeting 5-6-08

Agenda Consent

Item No. G.9.

Board Meeting Date:	May 6,2008
Submitted By:	Maria Eunice, Director Food and Nutrition Services
Item Description:	Alachua County School Board to Co-Sponsor a Hunger Summit

Purpose and Explanation:

A Hunger Summit is being planned by the Alachua County Poverty Reduction Program and is anticipated to take place in the fall of 2008. The School Board of Alachua County is being asked to co-sponsor this event in name only. Additional sponsors include the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, United Way and the Department of Children and Families.

It is recommended that the School Board of Alachua County co-sponsor this Hunger Summit in name only.

<p>Staff Attorney (Review and approval required for contracts, agreements, and policies.)</p>	Other:
<p>Date: _____ Initial: _____</p>	Amount:

Summary/Update of Hunger Summit Planning March 3, 2008

- On Feb. 4, 2008, Minnie Rolark, John Skelly, Arupa Freeman and Bob Freeman met with Comm. Rodney Long pursuant to Arupa's request that the City and County sponsor a town meeting regarding hunger issues.
- After review of issues such as access to USDA food programs, and unprecedented stress on local food banks, charities, soup kitchens, USDA commodities distributors, faith-based organizations, and other entities which attempt to address hunger and food insecurity in Alachua County, Comm. Long asked staff to plan a Hunger Summit, to be sponsored in collaboration with City of Gainesville and other appropriate entities such as the school district and DC&F.
- The Summit would conclude with community agreement to proceed with a planning process similar to the Homelessness 10-Year Plan development process, leading to a community plan to address: access to federal programs; coordination among food/meals providers; local marketing activities; recommendations regarding optional (to states) rules changes to how federal food programs are administered; and local positive economic benefits to private businesses because of increased access to federal food dollars. USDA and other estimates suggest tens of millions of dollars economic impact is available if we increase participation in Food Stamps by 5% to 10%. (Only 55% of eligibles in Alachua County obtain Food Stamp benefits.)
- John Skelly was able to meet with Mayor Hanrahan on Feb. 28, 2008, and obtained her commitment that the City would co-sponsor the event, provide some funding for expenses associated with the event, waive MLK Center fees, and devote staff to assist in planning for the event.
- John Skelly has contacted DC&F regarding their interest in also co-sponsoring the event. SBAC will also be contacted soon regarding co-sponsoring.
- These activities are in close collaboration with the Alachua County Coalition for Homeless and Hungry - Hunger Work Group, the Poverty Reduction Advisory Board, the DC&F ACCESS program (to improve access to Food Stamps, TANF and Medicaid), as well as the Florida Coalition to End Childhood Hunger and its 10 Point Plan.
- **Next steps include recruitment of a planning committee to plan the Summit event agenda, speakers, requested action etc., as well as establishing a date, location and a plan for all associated Summit logistics.**
- The event will occur as expeditiously as possible, anticipated to be sometime in **June or July 2008** depending on leadership and speakers schedules.