

Highlights of the October 19, 2011 COBWRA Meeting at Palm Isles

Dave Aronberg: Prescription Drug Abuse

Dave Aronberg is Special Prosecutor for Prescription Drug Trafficking for the State of Florida under Attorney General Pam Bondi. Aronberg began by stating that 7 people in Florida die from prescription drugs every day. One dies every day in our County. Prescription drug abuse is the #1 public safety threat in Florida today.

- “Pill Mills” made **Florida the number 1 feeder** of prescription drugs for the nation and world.
- A pill mill is in a strip mall, takes cash only, never takes insurance and has out-of-state cars in the parking lot and a security guard at the door.
- Drug dealers switched from cocaine and heroin to prescription drugs since they are more lucrative.
- **Retired doctors**, mostly from other countries, write scripts for drugs and can make \$3,000/day in cash! They prescribe and sell the drugs on the spot.
- People come **from other states** to buy pills and sell them for ten times what they paid back home.
- There are **more pain clinics than McDonalds** in Palm Beach County. Same for the State of Florida.
- It took the Florida Legislature **ten years** to approve a prescription drug database that 39 other states already had. The database became active on Oct 17, 2011.
- Oxycodone is the **main killer**. If you take it for 3 or more days, you can get hooked.
- Working with the Sheriff, pill mills are raided and shut down. One had \$4M in cash in his mom’s attic!
- Now the pill mills are calling themselves urgent care and detox centers or medical clinics.

Officials’ Reports

Congressman Ted Deutch, District 19 stated people all across the country are saying, “It is time for Congress to get something done to create jobs for America.”

Commissioner Shelley Vana, District 3 said COBWRA made a difference by speaking on the county budget to keep both PBSO District 6 and Green Cay Nature Center open. COBWRA can be proud!

Commissioner Burt Aaronson, District 5, reported the BCC endorsed a hospital on the campus of Scripps Institute. This was always a part of the bio-tech plan. An ordinance is planned to regulate cab companies more closely because PBC has a hodge-podge of 600 taxis.

Susan Bucher, Supervisor of Elections stated that all absentee ballot applications from the past expired. New applications are required. New laws forbid organizations from soliciting voter registrations; doing so is a felony. Her office helps with registrations, address changes and absentee ballot applications at COBWRA meetings.

Captain Marty Bechtel, PBSO, thanked COBWRA for supporting the Sheriff’s Office in budget negotiations. In September, District 6 arrested 15 drunk drivers and

investigated 186 vehicle accidents. There were 20 stolen vehicles, 4 business burglaries, 56 residential burglaries and 82 vehicle burglaries. **Please lock your homes and cars and never leave valuables inside your car.**

District 6 is partnering with the **Caridad Center** in the **Adopt-a-Family Program** for holiday presents by adopting nine families. COBWRA asks all member communities to consider adopting a family to make their Christmas merry. To adopt a family, call the Caridad Center and speak to **Scarlett Favé at 737-6336, X115.**

COBWRA Reports

Growth Management. COBWRA Delegates voted:

- To support **Bellaggio** and recommend denial of both requests for a DOA for Type 1 Fast Food restaurants including one with a drive-through in **Mission Lakes Plaza** (Super Target at Lantana & US441/SR7). (As approved in 2004 with no Type 1 restaurant.)
- To recommend approval of GL Homes requests to:
 - Reduce the size of **Valencia Reserve** by 18 units.
 - Rezone 18 acres in the Hyder Ag Preserve for a PUD to Ag Reserve.
 - Waive the limit on the number of cul-de-sacs.

Osprey Oaks. People are asking “What is happening on the east side of Jog south of Hypoluxo where land is being cleared?” This is Osprey Oaks Residential PUD, approved in June 2007. The PUD will contain 171 single family homes in 5 pods plus 37 units in “Attainable Housing” (now called Workforce Housing.)

Bethesda Day at Aberdeen Golf & Country Club.

Lew Doctor, Past President and Alternate for Aberdeen, reminded people of Aberdeen’s first annual fund raising event for Bethesda West Hospital with a day of golf and fun on **Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011.** He asked all

COBWRA member communities to consider how they can support this event by playing golf, taking an ad or attending the reception. Call **561-737-7733 X85600** or click on www.bethesdahospitalfoundation.org for more information or to contribute.

COBWRA Articles of Incorporation. COBWRA Minutes show the amended Articles were adopted unanimously by the Delegates on Oct 21, 1998. Our attorney confirms these Articles were accepted for filing by the Secretary of State’s Office and are now official.

Future Meetings (Open to the public)

Nov 1, 6:30 pm: Growth Management, PBSO District 6

Nov 16, 9:30 am: COBWRA Delegates meeting at Valencia Pointe, Woolbright Road between Jog & Hagen Ranch Roads. Speakers: **“Law & Order”** by Sheriff Bradshaw & State Attorney McAuliffe.

—Ken Lassiter for COBWRA Communications
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