



PALM BEACH COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

2300 N JOG RD., WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33411

PHONE: (561) 233-5303 | FAX: (561) 656-7963

EMAIL: OCRNEWS@PBC.GOV | WEBSITE: [HTTP://PBC.GOV/OCR](http://PBC.GOV/OCR)



COUNTYWIDE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Title:	Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting
Facilitator:	Houston Tate, OCR Division Director
Minutes Prepared by:	William Wynn, OCR Senior Planner
Date/Time:	April 15, 2025
Location:	2300 N Jog Rd., Room 1E-60, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

MEETING ATTENDANCE

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Aminta Culver | Melaleuca Avenue-Pine Air West Resident |
| 2. Angela Dwyer | PBC Youth Services |
| 3. Angela Smith | PBC Office of Equal Business Opportunity |
| 4. Catherine Martinez | Former Glades Area Resident |
| 5. Christina Stodd | PBC Code Enforcement |
| 6. Chrystal Mathews | PBC OCR |
| 7. Cleidy Anchelia | PBC OCR |
| 8. Cornelia Wantz | PBC Traffic Engineering |
| 9. Daniel Duenas | PBC Parks & Recreation |
| 10. Darrin Emmons | PBC Code Enforcement |
| 11. Deputy S. Plesnik | PBSO |
| 12. Deputy J. Williams | PBSO |
| 13. George Schott | PBC OCR |
| 14. Houston Tate | PBC OCR |
| 15. Jack Porrata | SWA/Paint Your Heart Out |
| 16. Joanna Aiken | SWA Retired |
| 17. Kareem Graham | PBC Code Enforcement |
| 18. Katharine King | CAM Estates Resident |
| 19. Katia Cavale | PBC Youth Services |
| 20. Lana Blackman | SWA of PBC |
| 21. Larry Diegert | Plantation Area Resident |
| 22. Laura Waterman | Gulfstream Goodwill Industries |
| 23. Linda Moreno | SWA of PBC |
| 24. Liz Cabral | Palm Beach County Food Bank |
| 25. Maria Fernandez | Epilepsy Alliance Florida |
| 26. Maria Thirbenny | West Palm Beach Resident |
| 27. Michael Gauger | PBSO Retired |
| 28. Mikayla Guerrier | Florida Rural Legal Services |
| 29. Natalie Balaguer | ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge |
| 30. Niccole Smith | Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. |
| 31. Nicole Prieto | ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge |
| 32. Patricia Valldeperas | Family Impact PBC |
| 33. Paul Gonsalves | SWA of PBC |

34.	Paul Kelso	PBC Code Enforcement
35.	Paul Pickett	PBC Code Enforcement
36.	Rae Milmore	ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
37.	Richard Sena	PBC Attorney's Office
38.	Samantha Corr	PBC Environmental Resources Management (ERM)
39.	Shanna Walker	Cabana Colony Resident
40.	Sherika Perez	Florida Department of Education
41.	Stefania Russell	PBC HED
42.	Steve Newell	PBC Code Enforcement
43.	Steve West	The IN-CROWD
44.	Susan Foley	PBC Behavioral Health Coalition
45.	Tanisha Lewis	School District of PBC/McKinney-Vento Program (MVP)
46.	Tequella Collins-Snipe	Project Lift
47.	William Muth	Palm Acres Estates-Congress Meadows Resident
48.	William Wynn	PBC OCR

MEETING MINUTES

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Houston Tate, OCR Division Director, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. CCRT members, OCR staff, and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

II. PRESENTATION

Houston Tate, OCR Division Director, introduced the presenter, **Steven Gustafson, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of CareerSource Palm Beach County (CSPBC)**, as a guest speaker. Mr. Gustafson provided an overview of CareerSource Palm Beach County's initiatives and discussed the vital role of local workforce development boards.

Mr. Gustafson began his presentation by introducing himself and the purpose of CSPBC. CSPBC serves as a bridge between businesses, educators, government agencies, and community organizations, ensuring workforce development aligns with the county's economic needs. CSPBC directly administers federally and state-funded employment programs that connect businesses with skilled talent and provide individuals with the resources and training needed to build sustainable careers.

- **Powering Palm Beach County's Workforce**
 - CSPBC collaborates with local businesses to build a strong talent pipeline, focusing on Palm Beach County's fastest-growing industries. The priority sectors include Healthcare, Information Technology, Skilled Trades, and Manufacturing.
- **Providing Pathways to Careers**
 - CSPBC connects community members to sustainable, in-demand careers through industry-informed training and career services:
 - Career Coaching
 - Skills Training & Certification
 - Job Readiness & Placement
- **Local Economy Return on Investment**
 - CSPBC's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult program helps adults, especially those with barriers, gain skills and find quality jobs through training scholarships, supportive services, and case management.
- **Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA)**
 - A federal program that helps individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI)

benefits find jobs more quickly. It provides reemployment services to RA claimants who are identified as needing additional support in their job search. RESEA uses statistics to determine which individuals are most likely to exhaust their unemployment benefits before finding work, and these individuals are then offered services like career coaching and access to the training program

- **Workforce Programs**

- WIOA Adult Program (Adult)
- WIOA Dislocated Worker Program (DW)
- WIOA Youth Program
- Wagner-Peyser Act Services (WP)
- Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG)
- Get There Faster Veterans Initiative (GTF Veterans)
- Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA)
- SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T)
- Rapid Response Services (RR)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
- Hope Florida – A Pathway to Prosperity (Hope Florida)
- Welfare Transition Program (WTP)
- Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program (NCPEP)

* A copy of the full presentation is included as an attachment.

Questions/Comments

- William Muth, a Palm Acres Estates-Congress Meadows Resident, asked if there were any programs for the disabled. Mr. Gustafson replied that there are partnerships for vocational rehabilitation services provided.
- William Muth, a Palm Acres Estates-Congress Meadows Resident, inquired about individuals who have a criminal history. Mr. Gustafson replied that they get notifications, work with the county, and have access to the individuals coming directly out of the system. They have to train all of our frontline staff to understand how to address that situation.
- Aminta Culver, Melaleuca Avenue-Pine Air West Resident, asked if the CareerSource qualifications are based on income. Mr. Gustafson replied that there are certain services that you have to qualify for and are related to income and household.
- Mr. Gustafson was asked if there was a program for 17-year-olds. Mr. Gustafson replied CareerSource does have a youth program.
- Houston Tate, PBC OCR, asked does CareerSource reaches out to veterans. Mr. Gustafson replied yes, but it is always a challenge because veterans usually wait until the last minute to ask for help. CareerSource has access to the state system. The veterans are all within the system. CareerSource does a lot of text calls or direct calls to those individuals to let them know. CareerSource works closely with the Veterans Administration.

III. PRESENTATION

Houston Tate, OCR Division Director, introduced the presenters, **Katia Cavalie, Chief of Community-Based Services with the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department (YSD)**, as a guest speaker. Ms. Cavalie shared valuable information about the Youth Services Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division.

Ms. Cavalie began her presentation by introducing herself and Angela Dwyer. Licensed Therapist with the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department.

The YSD mission. “Growing brighter futures by providing quality services, education, and access to resources and opportunities.”

- **Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division**

Mission: Provide free, accessible and professional trauma-informed mental health services and educational programs to youth and families of Palm Beach County to support healthy development and promote overall well-being.

- Division structure:
 - Highridge (residential)
 - Education & Training Center (outpatient, training, and outreach)
 - Youth & Family Counseling (outpatient and school-based)
 - Family Violence Intervention Program
- **Highridge Family Center**
 - 3-4 month, weekday residential program for youth, ages 11 to 16
 - Trauma-informed programming that focuses on home, school, and peer issues
 - School instruction is provided on campus in a small classroom setting by the School District
 - Character development is enhanced through teaching the values of the 7 Commitments along with therapeutic coping strategies
 - Youth reside in a dormitory-style “house” of up to 12 youth
 - 24-hour supervision and nursing
 - Youth go home on the weekends, providing an opportunity to practice new skills
- **Education & Family Center**
 - Psychological Evaluations
 - Assessment of intellectual, academic, behavioral, and personality/social functioning
 - Comprehensive integrated reports and feedback sessions
 - Therapy (youth through age 22)
 - Family Therapy (brief model)
 - Individual Therapy (ages 18-22)
 - Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT; ages 2-7)
 - Group Therapy (based on demand)
 - Parenting
 - Group and Individual formats
 - Evidence-Based/Supported Programs offered
 - Community Presentation & Outreach
 - Didactic Training
 - Presentations at conferences and events
 - Lunch & Learns
 - Social Media Posts
- **Youth & Family Counseling**
 - A three to four-month community-based program providing free therapeutic services for families with children and youth up to 22 years of age.
- **Common Presenting Concerns**
 - Grief
 - Bullying
 - Self-esteem
 - Family Violence
 - School Concerns
 - Legal involvement
 - Behavioral Problems
 - Poor communication
 - Separation & Divorce
 - Parenting skill issues
 - Parent-child interaction issues
 - Substance use/experimentation

* A copy of the full presentation is included as an attachment.

Questions/Comments

- Darrin Emmons, PBC Code Enforcement, asked if mentorship was a part of the program. Ms. Cavalie replied that the Residential Treatment and Family Counseling Division does not have mentoring, but the Outreach & Community Programming division of the YSD does have a mentoring program. Also, the United Way of PBC has mentoring programs that the YSD utilizes.
- Does the county offer therapy? Ms. Cavalie replied that the YSD does not, but the Community Services department offers many different services.
- William Muth, a Palm Acres Estates-Congress Meadows Resident, asked if after-school programming was offered by the YSD. Ms. Cavalie replied that the YSD does have a summer camp. The Summer Camp Scholarship Program provides full-tuition and fees for summer camp for children residing in families with income at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Houston Tate, PBC OCR, asked about the Mental Health Family Day Camp. Ms. Cavalie replied that during the camp, topics such as therapy and having better communication will be discussed. Families could be able to explore the types of communication they have. The need to listen rather than just talk. It will be very hands-on. Many interactive activities for the family, not just the kids, the parents.
- PBSO inquired where the family day camp would be held. Ms. Cavalie replied, May 10th, 9 am – 3 pm, Okeeheelee Nature Center, 7715 Forest Hill Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33413

IV. PRESENTATION

Houston Tate, OCR Division Director, introduced the presenters, **Lana Blackman, Community Service Coordinator with the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) of Palm Beach County (PBC)**, as our guest speaker. Ms. Blackman shared exciting information about the Paint Your Heart Out (PYHO) Palm Beach County, Inc., Joanna Aiken Leadership Scholarship.

MS. Blackman began her presentation by introducing herself and the PYHO board members in attendance.

Established in 1997, PYHO is a nonprofit organization that uses recycled paint to beautify single-family homes in PBC. The PYHO vision is to enrich single-family homes, communities, and lives in PBC.

Recipients must own and live in their single-family home and fall within the HUD Very Low-income guidelines. They must also meet one of the following criteria: 60 years or older, single parent with young children, living with a disability, or a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

In the PYHO program, the recycled paint is donated by the SWA. The recycled paint comes in five colors. Each resident is allowed to choose one base (wall) color and one trim color. Also, each homeowner is responsible for having their home pressure-washed before a PYHO event. If not financially able to do so, PYHO will cover the cost.

<http://www.paintyourheartoutpbc.com/application2.html>

In March and April, four homes were painted in Gramercy Park and Forest Hill Village. Currently, there is one home pending in Limestone Creek and two in Gramercy Park.

Contact Paint Your Heart Out at 561-697-2700, ext. 4701, or email Lana Blackman at lblackman@swa.org

Paint Your Heart Out Palm Beach County Scholarship Program

PYHO for the first time has a scholarship program. This scholarship is named after Joanna Aiken! Joanna Aiken is a monumental figure in the community relations world. She served as the

President and driving force behind Paint Your Heart Out Palm Beach County, Inc. (PYHO) for nearly three decades. Joanna led the charge along with supporting staff, board members, and volunteers to impact thousands of lives. Joanna is truly a gem to work with! Her smile is infectious, and she never gives up until the job is done! Joanna attended. She thanked the PYHO board, the SWA and everyone in attendance for the recognition.

This \$1000.00 scholarship will be awarded to one Palm Beach County High School graduate who is entering into the field of Environmental Science, Social Work, Engineering, Finance, Public Relations, Information Technology, or the Construction Industry. The recipient could be a high school graduating senior or have obtained a GED Certificate. The scholarship registration will be from May 22nd to June 26th and will be awarded on July 24th.

If there are any questions about the scholarship application, please contact Lana Blackman at 561-697-2700, ext. 4701, or email at lblackman@swa.org

* A copy of the full presentation is included as an attachment.

Questions/Comments

- Aminta Culver, Melaleuca Avenue-Pine Air West Resident, asked what the scholarship provides. Ms. Blackman replied that the scholarship would be awarded to one Palm Beach County High School graduate who is entering into the field of Environmental Science, Social Work, Engineering, Finance, Public Relations, Information Technology, or the Construction Industry. The recipient could be a high school graduating senior or have obtained a GED Certificate.
- William Muth, a Palm Acres Estates-Congress Meadows Resident, asked if the PYHO program paints roofs. Ms. Blackman replied that the program only paints the exterior walls of single-family homes in PBC.

V. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- Stefania Russell, PBC HED
 - Palm Beach County Department of Housing and Economic Development announced the availability of \$3,000,000 in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funds for the Purchase Assistance Program. Funding will provide up to \$100,000 to assist income eligible applicants/households to acquire their first home. The online application portal will open on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 12:00 pm, and close on Friday, May 23, 2025 at 11:59 pm (or until 100 applications have been submitted).
 - \$1,000,000 is available through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME). The only eligible use of the HOME funds is the Local Government Area of Opportunity Funding (LGAOF) contribution for the 2025 RFA. The funds will be provided to one (1) developer as a loan commitment conditioned on Florida Housing Finance Corporation's (FHFC) award of the 9% Housing Credits. To obtain a copy of RFP HED.2025.1, complete the RFP registration form located at [Registration Form RFP HED.2025.1.pdf](#)
 - Foreclosure Prevention Program, contact the Mortgage and Housing Investments Division, located at 100 Australian Avenue, 5th Floor, West Palm Beach, FL, or by phone at (561) 233-3600 (Receptionist)
- Samantha Corr, PBC Environmental Resources Management (ERM)
 - There is over 30,000 acres of conservation land in PBC. Taxpayers for this public land paid extra taxes in the 1990s. Free guided tours on the conservation land are being offered by ERM lead by ERM scientist.
 - ERM events. <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/pbc-dept-of-environmental-resources-mgmt-erm-11041382410>

- Daniel Duenas, PBC Parks & Recreation
 - The Mack Bernard Park community center, formerly the Gramercy Park community center, is still under construction. Due to construction delays, the new completion date is mid-July 2025.
 - Submitted CDBG grants for shade structures for the playgrounds at the following CCRT area neighborhood parks.
 - Affron Park
 - Lake Worth West Park
 - Sanders Drive Park

VI. UPDATES

- Susan Foley, Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition (PBCBHC)
 - PBCBHC aims to stop the Start of substance use in our community and support healthy behavioral health. Prevention@pbcvhc.org.
 - The PBCBHC thanks OCR for support in outreach invitations, printing prevention stickers, and building a healthier community.
 - The PBCBHC plans to participate in the Back To School PBC! event and would love to have the newest poster stickers printed again, if possible.
 - Concluded our 15th annual school bus media drug prevention contest.
 - During Poster Day in March, volunteers installed over 3000 posters
 - Students created alcohol free, vape-free messages that were installed on over 800 buses. Daily, about 55000 students see these positive prevention messages on the Palm Beach County district school buses.
 - May is Mental Health and Trauma-Informed Care Awareness Month
 - 2025 Get Your Green On (GYGO) campaign. The Get Your Green On campaign aims to raise awareness by creating visible support and fostering safe spaces to talk openly about mental health and trauma. Inviting everyone in Palm Beach County to "Get Your Green On" and wear green on Thursday, May 15, 2025.
- Steve West, The In-Crowd
 - Mr. West gave an overview of the In-Crowd, Love Your Neighbor initiative. The In-Crowd Partners help to collect the featured goods of the month. These goods are chosen by community request. Examples of these goods include computer equipment, small kitchen appliances, home goods and furnishings, clothing, and baby items. They may also include flower and vegetable seeds for gardening.
- Tequilla Collins-Snipe, Strong Families Coordinator and Case Manager with Project Lift
 - Project Lift three programs
 - The boys and girls program is run on Monday and Tuesday for boys, and Wednesdays and Thursdays for girls. These are our kids that are in high school that are 14 in the 9th grade to 18 years old. The after-school boys and girls receive an incentive through behavioral sobriety and attendance. They have to meet three criteria (behavior, sobriety, and attendance), and they receive \$50. \$25 a day, so that is \$50 a week for the boys and \$50 a week for the girls. \$100 every two weeks. They attend Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm. If they fail either program, fail a drug test, the money that they earn is taken away for five weeks. If they come in after intake and they are still positive, they have five weeks to get themselves cleaned. Once they become clean, then they start earning money back, but anytime that they are positive, they lose the money and they start over, forfeiting the money and starting over for five weeks.
 - Career rising program, which is for young adults who either have dropped out of high school or are out of school, coming to learn a trade or to get their high school diploma.
 - Strong family's program group that is held every Tuesday from twelve to one for the parents of the participants. The parent program has to go hand in hand. Within the strong family's program, the parents come and they received \$20

gift cards every week for participation and attendance. They also receive raffle tickets every week for 16 weeks, so throughout the 16 weeks, they are secure raffle tickets every week at the end of the 16 weeks, there is a graduation celebration to celebrate. Whose names are pulled that day wins a free car. The only exception is that the parent has to provide their tag. Insurance and registration.

- Houston Tate, PBC OCR, advised that several teens from Project Lift have participated in the Glades area food distributions.
- Liz Cabral with the Palm Beach County Food Bank
 - The food bank will be partnering with Flipany to offer summer meals for children. They would love to partner with any organizations that have summer programs or camps for children. The food bank would love to provide meals. If interested, contact Liz at (561) 670-2518 ext. 304 or email at liz@pbcfoodbank.org or programs@pbcfoodbank.org

VII. RESIDENT QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Aminta Culver, Melaleuca Avenue-Pine Air West Resident
 - The community still would like to pursue speed humps due to vehicles driving through the community at excessive speeds.
 - New Horizon Worship Center Community Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 19th, from 11 am to 1 pm, 4281 Palm Ave, West Palm Beach, FL, United States, Florida. A free family event for children 2 to 13 years old.
- Katharine King, CAM Estates Resident
 - Ms. King inquired about the status of the sidewalk project in CAM Estates. OCR will follow up with Fadi Nassar of PBC Traffic Engineering.
 - Ms. King inquired about the status of the tree on the north side of Belvedere Rd at the main entrance to CAM Estates. Mr. Tate advised that OCR is working on this. OCR will follow up with PBC Road and Bridge on this matter and advise Ms. King of the outcome.
 - Ms. King mentioned that she is in contact with Chrystal Mathews about getting solar lighting through the NEAT grant.
 - Ms. King stated that the box truck from 1021 Cameo Circle is now parked across the street at a neighbor's property. PBC Code Enforcement stated that they would have to issue a new case because this is a different address location.
 - Ms. King stated that there is another vehicle being parked illegally at 6129 Fair Green Rd. PBC Code Enforcement took down the information and will look into it.
- Larry Diegert, Plantation Area Resident
 - Stated that he will be contacting the news outlets about the old Town of Palm Beach dumpsite, which he believes is contaminated. The dumpsite needs to be removed before any future building can take place on this site.
- William Muth, Palm Acres Estates-Congress Meadows Resident
 - Mr. Muth resides at 2895 Holly Rd. He is concerned about the constant noise coming from the property owners at 2915 Holly Rd and 2877 Holly Rd. He said that he is constantly attacked and watched by his neighbors. He has complained to PBSO about the noise. PBC Code Enforcement stated that Mr. Muth should contact PBSO and get a case number, then contact them with the PBSO case number for the noise complaint.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director _____