



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

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Glades Technical Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Title: Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Facilitator: Houston Tate, Director
Scribe (recorder): Duane Gainer, Senior Planner
Date/Time: April 24, 2014 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Location: South Bay City Hall

Meeting Attendance:

1. Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
2. Rashonda Warren, City of Pahokee
3. Diane Walker, City of Pahokee
4. Houston Tate, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
5. Leondrae Camel, City of South Bay
6. Jermaine Ford, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
7. Trenesia Rozier, Bridges at Belle Glade
8. Shirlon McCarty, Department of Juvenile Justice
9. Mussin Saadatmand, City of South Bay
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Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Comments: Mr. Tate called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and asked for introductions.

2. Special Presentation-Shirlon McCarty, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Roadmap to System Excellence

Ms. McCarty – This started as a review on their policies and procedures to help kids before they get into the system. How are we (DJJ) dealing with the youth? A strategic plan to get the right services, for the right individuals. What are they looking at? Prevention; provide services; improve communication.

She attends a lot of meetings and they talk about the same thing, but everyone is not getting together. DJJ closed a lot of residential beds because of funding. Everyone needs to come and work together so that everyone can be on the same page. They want to provide schools with prevention – like now at Palm Beach Lakes HS they have a probation officer on ground all day. They want to expand this to 10 schools. In the schools, they have females that get in trouble because the females think different than males. They are looking for a place to meet. Mr. Tate stated that he will work with her to find a place.

There are a number of County locations that could be used as a meeting place. If you do not live in certain areas, you may not get the same services as the kids that live in other geographical areas. If they go into their program (DJJ) they do not get a record. They also try to catch them when they come into their Center, especially when they are 1st offenders. They are trying to reduce school arrests. They are increasing family awareness and expanding the areas of the Family Centers and want to increase the opportunity to get a certificate for careers.

Mr. Tate asked how we can find funding to work with the kids to help prepare them for college. Those are the types of programs he is interested in. The City of Pahokee has all IB schools and the Office Of Community Revitalization is working to assist them with implementing a national robotic program entitled, FIRST Robotic Competition.

Ms. McCarty replied that she would be interested in looking into the FIRST Robotic Competition program. She stated that they have residential programs that some youths have to go to because they could be a threat. They have residential homes but very few beds. There are private agencies but a lot of time they cannot afford it. Right now every staff member has to take a “common sense” test just knowing how to work with youth in everyday situations. You cannot just go by the policies; you have to work with youth. DJJ is working to improve employee job satisfaction so they now have an “Employee of the Month”. Each awarded employee has an opportunity to receive a \$25 gift card/ lunch or car detailing. There is constant additional staff training. Ms. McCarty showed different statistics for youth in her power point presentation (presentation available at www.pbcgov.org/ocr).

Commissioner Diane Walker asked Mr. Tate why he thinks attendance is down. She states that this happens around the same time every year when it gets close to the summer.

Mr. Tate replies that the “Glades” are different and that it is necessary to make calls to each committee member and not rely solely on sending emails. Secondly, we will make certain the GTAC distribution list has been updated with the names of new attendees.

Discussion ensued.

Someone suggested meeting with Glades Ministerial group that meets at the hospital as a strategy of better organizing the faith-based sector.

Mr. Tate stated that OCR will review the Glades Regional Master Plan (GRMP) and provide assistance to the Glades Guardian Collaborative Committee (GGCC) to recommend the implementation of community improvement projects. These projects can be completed using resident sweat equity and aligns conceptually with the GRMP.

OCR will schedule GTAC meetings starting with the month of May to focus on how the GTAC and GGCC can begin the adaptive challenge of evaluating the process of the initiative.

4. Adjournment

Comments: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next GTAC meeting is May 22nd in Canal Point.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director

