

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION****ADDRESS:** 2300 North Jog Rd
West Palm Beach, FL 33411**PHONE:** (561) 233-5311**FAX:** (561) 656-7963**E-MAIL:** ocrnews@pbcgov.org**WEBSITE:** <http://pbcgov.com/ocr>

Glades Technical Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Title: Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Facilitator: Houston Tate, Director
Scribe (recorder): Derrek Moore, Senior Planner
Date/Time: October 22, 2015, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Location: South Bay City Hall

Meeting Attendance:

1. Joe Kyles, Mayor	City of South Bay
2. Oscar Alvarez, Director	PBC Contract Certification
3. Whitney Baldwin, Esquire	Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc.
4. Regina Bohlen, Exec. Dir.	Pahokee Chamber of Commerce
5. Ruadean Butts	Resident – Belle Glade
6. Leondre Camel, City Manager	City of South Bay
7. Getsy Castillo	Bridges of Belle Glade
8. Inger Cheves	Community Partners
9. Steve Clark	AIM Engineering (FDOT)
10. Bradley Eley	Bridges of Belle Glade
11. Dr. JoAnn Finney	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
12. LaTanya Ford	Resident – Belle Glade
13. Ivan Eloi	Resident – Belle Glade
14. Sgt. Jeff Garten	PBSO – Dist. 11
15. Mayra Gomez	Bridges at Pahokee - CDS
16. Barbara Haider	On Love, One Community
17. Cynthia Harris	Community Partners
18. Stephanie Jefferson	Resident
19. Jimmy Kellerher	IBEW
20. Evelyn Loud	Bridges of Pahokee – Navigator
21. Cynthia Mann, Director	Bridges at Pahokee
22. Derrek Moore	OCR Senior Planner
23. Michelle Rice	Bridges at Belle Glade
24. Milagros Rodriguez	PBC Healthcare District
25. Trenesia Rozier	Bridges at Belle Glade
26. Shilondra Sheppard, Director	Bridges at Belle Glade
27. Houston Tate	Dir. of OCR
28. Willie Jean Thomas	Resident – South Bay
29. Lisa Wilson	PBC (Comm. McKinlay's Office)

Some attendees did not sign the attendance sheet.

Meeting Minutes

1. Prayer & Pledge:

Comments: Mr. Tate called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. The speaker was delayed. Mayor Joe Kyles (City of South Bay) lead us in prayer. He also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, as well.

2. Welcome & Presentations:

Mr. Tate welcomed the attendees and asked each person to introduce themselves and as an ice breaker, he asked them to share with everyone their favorite food and their favorite movie. He also asked them to share with the group why they liked those items. This exercise lasted until 10:30 a.m. We proceeded to announce and discuss upcoming events and had residents to share any information that they felt everyone should be aware of. I will place those items at the end of the minutes; in there normal location within the minutes.

Mr. Tate briefly reminded everyone of the list of exciting speakers scheduled to speak/present at the upcoming GTAC meetings and encouraged everyone to come out and support the speakers. President Ava Parker will be our next speaker and the meeting will be held at the Belle Glade Civic Center. He also asked that everyone provide the names of anyone that we should invite out to participate in the meetings. Some may want to connect with others attending our meetings. It's all about collaboration and connecting neighbors, organizations, and communities together. He thanked everyone for coming out and went on to mention a few other items listed below:

3. Special Presentations

Mr. Tate introduced Mr. Patrick McNamara, President & CEO of Community Partners Group (CP). He read a portion of Mr. McNamara's biography from the publication flier distributed by OCR noticing the meeting. A copy of the flier, with Mr. McNamara's bio is attached for your convenience. Mr. Tate expressed his sincere appreciation for the partnership and cooperation that OCR has received from Mr. McNamara. OCR has provided and received great support from Mr. McNamara and the organization that he serves for a number of years. Training has been received and provided to and by both organizations over the past years. It has been a great partnership. Below is a brief outline of the material and information that Mr. McNamara covered during his presentation:

He started by discussing **"The Odds"** & trying to change the odds. He quoted an author shown below:

"Imagine if Scientists discovered a toxic substance that increased the risks of cancer, diabetes and heart, lung, and liver disease for millions of people. Something that also increased one's risk for smoking, drug abuse, suicide, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence and depression – and simultaneously reduced the changes of succeeding in school, performing well on a job and maintaining stable relationships? It would be comparable to hazards like lead paint, tobacco smoke and mercury. We would do everything in our power to contain it and keep it far away from children right? Well, there is such a thing, but it's not a substance. It's been called toxic stress."
David Bornstein, Protecting Children From Toxic Stress, October 30, 2013 New York Times

The quote from Mr. Borestein's work led to Mr. McNamara's discussion about "Adverse Childhood Experiences" (ACEs). They cluster in low income communities; however they are not exclusive to low income communities. ACEs are very common. Over 70% of all communities have experienced an ACE at one time or another. A large part of Community Partner's goal and objective is to help bring awareness to communities of these issues and some of the science and issues that has come out about ACEs. He asked the audience how many of us have heard of ACEs. There were very few hands raised out of the 25 attendees at the meeting. He wants to make all of us aware of ACEs and the fact that we can do something about it.

There was a very expensive longitudinal study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control & Kaiser Permanente (Large insurance company out west) almost 20 years ago and replicated many times over the past years. ACEs is a relatively simple concept that falls into three main areas:

1. Abuse
2. Neglect &
3. Household Dysfunction

Mr. McNamara mentioned the "Dose response effect". If you've ever experienced physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect, you would count that as one for each type of instance; on a scale of one to ten. If you or your parents have experienced divorce, or either parent has experienced the criminal justice system, substance abuse issues, physical or mental health issue; anyone of these things count as one on a scale of zero to ten. There is a direct correlation between the higher number of ACEs and your health outcome. Persons with four ACEs or more are statistically more likely to suffer things like: heart disease, to have a much lower life span by as much as 30 years, to become future smokers, picking up tobacco other addictive related habits and behaviors, be involved in the criminal justice system; the list goes on and on. The study and list has been replicated and confirmed over and over again.

Mr. McNamara is a licensed Clinical Social Worker and has worked in this field for a number of years. He has done social work all of his adult life. The field has intuitively known these correlations, but now the data is in place to confirm the earlier unsubstantiated beliefs. Has everything to do with ACEs and the preponderance of ACEs. Most of the communities and ACEs problems are found in the communities that we are trying to revitalize.

Community Partners' Mission is "We partner with communities to change the odds for our children and families facing social, emotional, & financial adversity".

A gentleman by the name of Johnathan Rose, brilliant developer from New York, gave a lecture at Harvard University, last year. Some of his comments to people steeped in housing policy was as follows:

- He said housing is a necessary ground of a stable base from which well-being grows, but housing alone is insufficient to transform the lives of families of living with toxic stress, insecurity, high levels of neighborhood disorder and low levels of collective efficacy.

Improving the lives and healthy environments that our children are raised in will improve our communities.

One of CP's main or key partners is Children's Services Council (CSC) – primary supporter of Bridges (unique neighborhood centers). Bridges staff are placed in communities where there is a clear correlation of risk & poverty. The main thrust is focused on parenting & early childhood development. Much of the work is based on the trust of the community and looking and/or leaning on the residents for the answers. They have the answers for their communities. The solutions can only be arrived at through our partnership with the residents who ultimately come up with the answers to the problems in their communities. There is an

approach called “touch point approach”. It honors the fact or approach that that child’s parent knows the child better than anyone else. It helps the parent identify some of those touch points in their child’s development. They can help accentuate the positive in those touch points. The people who attend or use the Bridges centers are not clients of the centers; they are members of the centers. It is a true partnership. We are not going in with answers. We are working with people to bring out and pull down the strengths that they already have.

Mr. McNamara mentioned that this was his first time coming to South Bay. He also discussed the strength found in relationships and how those relationships help build communities. He focused on the relationships that Community Partners have with other agencies to increase and improve the quality of services to residents across Palm Beach County. Mr. McNamara discussed the partnership with OCR in the San Castle Community Center project and how that project has been a great partnership for CP and OCR. The grand opening for the facility is scheduled for November 7, 2015. He invited everyone to join the grand opening and explained how the partnerships between OCR, PBSO, and others have supported our efforts in changing the odds within the community. He reviewed the “infographic” (small pamphlet “Changing the Odds” – handout). The focus was on developing more self-sustaining families/homes. He briefly mentioned the Prosperity Center (provides free financial assistance) & VITA (provides free tax assistance). Both of these services are offered at the Belle Glade Bridges location. Under the Prosperity Center, there is a savings program that allows residents to save up to \$2,000.00 that will be matched for use in the following permissible manners: 1) Buying a home, 2) Starting your own business, or 3) Continuing your education. This program has been very successful on the coast and in the Glades area. Since 2007, 170 low income families have been helped in their efforts to buy homes through the program. There hasn’t been one default (Applause)! Cynthia Harris was present and she is responsible for overseeing that program and everyone applauded her efforts. Mr. McNamara referred to her as a “Specialist Extraordinaire”! Ms. Harris also assists people with credit repair.

A great deal has been done to assist with foreclosures. Back in 2008, Community Partners began to assist with helping people keep their homes and have become experts in the foreclosure area. CP is still very active in assisting people become home owners.

Neighborworks America is a partner that assists with this area and we partner with some banks to provide support for residents to buy homes; however, there are limited funds available to match residents’ dollars towards the purchase of a home. CP is working with the County on the Community Land Trust to try and ensure affordable housing and rentals are available in Palm Beach County. Just completed a partnership with a developer on a project in Evernia Place (corner of Evernia & Sapodilla). This is an 85 unit affordable apartment complex for senior citizens; 62 and over. CP is still involved in supporting asset building. CP helped 172 families, since 2007 with the purchase of homes. CP hasn’t had one default! They also provide supportive housing for folks with disabilities. CP provides homebuyer education & counseling.

Q & A:

1. **Does Community Partners partner with the Jerome Golden Centers?** Yes, we do. Mr. McNamara talked about and explained the history of the mental health unit of the Jerome Golden Center. Parent Child Center is one of two parts that comprise Community Partners Group. It was formerly known as the Children Mental Health unit/service to the Jerome Golden Center, back in the 70s. It was originally called the 45th Street Mental Health Center. Because of some problems in the

early 2000s, the state asked Community Partners to take over the mental health unit. CP assumed this part of the Jerome Golden Center. He concluded this question by stating that the mental health delivery system has a long way to go.

2. **How does your organization work with the Federation of Families?** We have worked collaboratively with the Federation of Families in brain submissions and program delivery over time. We do not have a current collaborative service delivery at this time, but we have worked together when it comes to advocating for families.
3. **When do you think it will be a Bridges in South Bay?** That will be a question for Children Services Council (CSC). They are the primary funder and supporter of the Bridges. There are 10 Bridges sites located across Palm Beach County. CP runs six (6) of them and the Children's Home Society (CHC) operates the other four (4). Bridges serves five (5) core functions: 1) Navigation, 2) Positive Parenting Coach (Triple P), 3) Healthy Beginnings Program (CSC) (Prenatal Care), 4) Outreach (Partner with all Childcare centers) (wait list is over 7,000), & 5) Family & Financial Literacy. He keeps hearing the African proverb: **"Whatever you do for me without me, you do to me"**. I can't speak for CSC, but I think they would say that they would hope that the Bridges at Belle Glade is providing sufficient services to South Bay residents. If that is not the case, then we should talk further about how we can make it more the case. So far, CSC has been pleased with the Bridges initiative. CSC and Children's Home Society have been good partners and very instrumental in developing the Bridges model. While it's music to my ears to hear that the residents of South Bay would like to see a Bridges in South Bay, funding is a big part of the decision to place a Bridges in South Bay. There are no immediate plans to place a Bridges in South Bay.
4. **What portion of your services is dedicated to mental health services?** We have over 200 employees and 85 of them are dedicated to mental health services.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Oct 24 - REACH Health Fair – Belle Glade - 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Oct 29 - National Night Out Against Crime – S. Bay (Tanner Park) 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Oct 29 - Turn-up The Heat: Break the Silence - Fremd Village (Pahokee) – 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Oct 31 - Halloween
- Nov 4 - Pahokee Mr. & Miss Muck Bowl Pageant – 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 10 - LORE Meeting
- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day
- Nov 16 - Glades Career Readiness Roundtable Meeting – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Nov. 19 - President Ava Parker's Belle Glade Civic Center 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

4. Participant Updates/Comments

Mr. Tate thanked Mr. McNamara for coming out to speak with the GTAC group and asked everyone to give Mr. McNamara a round of applause. Mr. Tate repeated the announcement about San Castle's "Grand Opening" scheduled for November 7, 2015. He went on to further explain the collaboration between OCR and Community Partners Group. He mentioned the pilot project and the three communities involved in the

pilot (i.e., San Castle, Plantation & Cabana Colony). He also explained how the old head start building is being converted to a community center for that community. He discussed the partners involved in the project and thanked PBSO for their support.

South Bay's City Manager Leondre Camel commented that Mr. Tate has put Mr. McNamara in a bad position because South Bay has an old head start building that can be converted into a community center for South Bay residents. He referred back to the question asked by a resident earlier in the meeting regarding Bridges coming to the City of South Bay. He also referred to South Bay's Mayor and stated that he will also want to know why Community Partners Group and CSC can't work together to place a Bridges in that vacant City of South Bay owned building.

Mr. Tate went on to say that once people had a chance to exchange ideas and experiences, 52% of the time people changed their minds. While those statistics may not hold true all the time, it is a good thing to have the dialogue and the dialogue could not occur if Mr. McNamara and our other speakers are not at the table to have the discussion(s) with residents. With all parties (i.e., the Mayor, City Manager, Residents and OCR) making South Bay's wishes and concerns known, perhaps a pilot program can be placed here in the City of South Bay, as well.

Mr. McNamara stated that Community Partners Group would love to take that problem on (Applause!). He explained a little more about the funding of the San Castle's Community Center and how CP is funding the daily operations for the center. He further explained that funding will need to be set aside to run the day-to-day operations of the facilities. The operating expenses are about \$22k per year. CP has to become creative to fund the staffing, but the funding issues have to be addressed to facilitate the operations of the community centers. This allows us to get back to engaging the community and building upon the assets that already exist within the community. We are not looking to come in and take over, but we want to listen and help create the answers together with the community.

City Manager Camel commented that Sgt. Garten, PBSO, is about to be put out of his office and so PBSO will be seeking a nice place to put him. The community center would be perfect! Perhaps Sheriff Bradshaw, PBSO will assist with some of those capital expenses as well. Parks & Recreation will be willing to assist by providing some funding towards the operation of the facility, should CP decide to place or manage a Bridges in the City of South Bay. The Mayor supported City Manager Camel's comments by stating that the building is vacant and needs to be utilized and Bridges would be an excellent addition and use of the facility. The City Manager interjected that the building is 7500 square feet and that the City of South Bay owns the building.

Mr. McNamara recommended that they set up a meeting between Mr. McNamara, the City of South Bay's representative(s) and Mr. Randy Paylo from CSC to further discuss the idea. It's Mr. Paylo's job to address this request (Applause!!!).

Mr. Tate re-emphasized the purpose of our meetings is to identify, discuss, and resolve problems that are brought to the meetings. He briefly discussed the three separate approaches to solving problems: 1) Residents can solve problems on their own, 2) Residents solve problems with government, and 3) Problems that can be resolved by government only. He shared a part of a discussion he recently had with Comm. Burdick. She said that 72% of the kids attending the Plantation school (one of our pilot communities) exceeded expectations. It was the first school where Black students, whether middle class or not, were always behind the performance of White students. Now, that has risen in the Plantation community (Applause!!). Comm. Burdick stated that the reason she believes the performance of the students improved is because of the collectiveness of organizations that are working together. The County isn't doing it all, but when we leverage our efforts with other partners, it has a more dramatic impact in the communities that we serve.

Mr. Tate thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He re-emphasized the calendar for the upcoming

GTAC meetings and invited everyone to come out to participate in future meetings. He also asked for any names of individuals or groups that should be invited to the various meetings.
Another round of Applause!

Mayor Kyles mentioned the tour that Mayor Vana & County Administrator Baker came out to the Glades and took last week. He felt that it was a clear indication of their commitment to the Glades and their efforts to try to make a difference by making things better in the Glades.

5. Adjournment

Comments:

Mr. Tate announced the upcoming REAP dates and encouraged everyone to come out to the workshops and apply for the grants. He mentioned that Lake Worth West received 47% of the grant funds in the last round of REAP grant awards. He stated that Commissioner Burdick would like to see a broader distribution of grant awards across PBC communities. He announced the dates for the Glades Reach Fair and National Night Out Against Crime. He further encouraged the audience to bring their ideas and partners to the meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held November 19, 2015, at the Belle Glade Civic Center. President Ava Parker (PBSC) will be the guest speaker.

DAM

Date: October 27, 2015

Approved by: Houston L. Tate Director

10/30/2015
Date