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Glades Technical Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Title:

Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Facilitator:

Houston Tate, Director

Scribe (recorder):

Derrek Moore, Senior Planner

Date/Time:

November 19, 2015, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Location:

Belle Glade Civic Center

Meeting Attendance:

1. Joe Kyles, Mayor City of South Bay

2. Marilu Baltazar Pahokee Housing Authority

3. Dr. Holly Bennett Provost - PBSC Belle Glade Campus

4. Ralph Butts City of Belle Glade

5. Leondre Camel, City Manager City of South Bay

6. Rick Christmas Professional FF PBC L2928

7. Sgt. Clinton Cohen PBSO

8. Barbara Davis
9. Bradley Eley
10. Barbara Haider
11. Evelyn Loud
Rep. Rader's Office
Bridges of Belle Glade
On Love, One Community
Bridges of Pahokee – Navigator

12. Captain Ed Luty PBSO

13. Cynthia Mann, Director Bridges at Pahokee
14. Derrek Moore OCR Senior Planner

15. Annette Parchment Dir. of Community Dev. – City of Belle Glade

16. Lt. Daniel Picciolo PBSO

17. Donia Roberts, Esquire
 18. Michelle Rodriguez
 19. Milagros Rodriguez
 20. Trenesia Rozier
 Attorney & LORE
 Community Partners
 PBC Healthcare District
 Bridges at Belle Glade

21. Beverly Scott Asst. to the City Manager – City of Belle Glade

22. Un'Tavious Scott Bridges at Pahokee

23. Javin Walker S. Bay Resident & Contractor (2SBW)

24. Ralph Walker 2SBW

25. Vernell Williams-DesResier Safe Schools – PBC School District

26. Houston Tate Dir. of OCR

27. Lisa Wilson PBC (Comm. McKinlay's Office)

Some attendees did not sign the attendance sheet.

GTAC Minutes Visit: http://pbcgov.com/ocr Page | 1

Meeting Minutes

1. Prayer & Pledge:

Comments: Mr. Tate called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Mayor Joe Kyles (City of South Bay) led 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. This exercise lasted until approximately 10:00 a.m.

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. The President & CEO of CareerSource Palm Beach County will be our next speaker and the meeting will be held at the City of Pahokee's Marina. He also asked that everyone provide the names of anyone that we should invite out to participate in the discussions and 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.

3. Special Presentations

Mr. Tate introduced President Ava Parker, President of Palm Beach State College (PBSC) by re-emphasizing and reading her impressive bio information provided on the OCR published flier & meeting notification. A copy of the flier, with President Parker's bio, is e-mailed out to the list of prior attendees of the GTAC meetings for their convenience. The flier is also provided at the meetings. Mr. Tate expressed his sincere appreciation for President Parker's cooperation and willingness to come out and meet and speak with the GTAC group. Below is an outline of President Parker's speech:

President Parker began her talk by saying that she started with PBSC on July 1, 2015. She has been with the college for five (5) months now and it feels like it has been much longer. She stated that it has been very exciting and interesting so far to serve such a large County and develop a mission and plan that fits and is responsive to such a diverse population. The Belle Glade community is very different from the Boca community; however, it is interesting and exciting to put programs and plans together to address and serve all of the communities that PBSC has campuses located within.

President Parker introduced Dr. Holly Bennett (Provost for the Belle Glade campus), who joined her at the GTAC meeting. She emphasized Dr. Bennett's background and experience in developing programs in rural communities and asked that the attendees introduce themselves and provide their contact information to Dr. Bennett, prior to leaving the meeting. She is tasked with identifying and developing programs that will address the issues and concerns for the Glades campus. She asked that we seek to work with and partner with PBSC and Dr. Bennett to ensure that we provide the right input and feedback to her towards development of a plan and mission that meet the needs of the community.

President Parker is seeking the opportunity to have a dialogue with community leaders to ensure that PBSC is responsive to the needs of the community and to ensure that services and efforts are not being duplicated. One

of her biggest concerns is that we do not duplicate services.

As she has ventured across the County she has made an effort to gain an understanding of the needs and programs in existence and work together with other organizations and agencies to avoid doing the same things. It takes a lot of coordination and talking to people to ensure that we avoid duplication of programs and efforts. We should all focus on the greater good of our community and work towards the adequate, efficient and effective use of our limited/scarce resources.

As an institution, PBSC services approximately 48,000 students annually. There are four (4) campuses. They are located in Lake Worth (Main Office), Boca, Palm Beach Gardens & Belle Glade. A campus is presently being constructed in Loxahatchee Groves. The college serves a diverse group of students at various levels. The change from Palm Beach Community College to Palm Beach State College hasn't affected the aim and goal of serving that original diverse group of students. The target market or group has simply been expanded to include those additional higher levels of education, traditionally found at four year colleges and universities. We have not lost site of our mission. We are focused on changing people's lives and providing a quality education. The college offers three (3) four year degrees: 1) Bachelors degree in Nursing, 2) Bachelors degree in Information Science (Technology), and a 3) Bachelors degree in Management. There are concentrations within these three areas. They are designed and focused on and for those individuals that have somehow gotten off track or derailed from their plan to obtain their four (4) year degrees and want to get back on track and achieve that original goal of obtaining a four (4) year degree. It is also designed to assist those that are interested in moving up in their respective organizations and need degrees or additional training to do so. The average age of the students at PBSC is 22. Many of the classes are offered online.

PBSC also offers an A.A. degree for those students that are interested in proceeding and continuing their education at another four (4) year institution. They can start with PBSC and continue wherever they have an interest in attending.

President Parker tells students that there are three primary reasons why they should come to PBSC: 1) The smaller classes, 2) Staff works to get financial aid for the students, & 3) PBSC employs Instructors/Teachers that really want to teach. One of the big differences between PBSC and larger universities is most of the people at the larger institutions are there for research purposes. In fact, graduate students oftentimes teach the bachelors level classes at these institutions. The professors are focused on research, writing, and publication. What's fabulous about PBSC is PBSC Instructors/Teachers have gone to college, and oftentimes work in their fields, and have a passion or commitment to returning or giving back what they have been blessed with. This is not a knock or criticism on her alma mater (University of Florida) or of the larger institutions; it is just how the system presently works. If you are aware of students that seem to fit the focus or predisposition for PBSC, please send that or those students to the college.

The college also offers A.S. programs. These programs are designed for those individuals who only plan to go to school/college for two years. Some of the two year programs at PBSC college are: 1) Nursing, 2) Architecture, 3) Interior Design, 4) Graphic Design, 5) Public Safety, 6) Engineering, and others. These students are ready to work after they complete their two year program. PBSC also has vocational programs: 1) Cosmetology, 2) Welding, 3) Diesel & Auto Mechanics, 4) Emergency Management Training, 5) HVAC, and others. We are no longer a one size fits all community. We have pushed people towards college. It was seen as the great equalizer. The four year degree was the prize and goal. Now, we need to look at college as an option, but it isn't the only option. Some students are better working with their hands as opposed to sitting or working behind a desk. They will be happier; they will make more money and life will be all around much better for that individual. History and statistics have clearly shown that people do better and excel at things that they love to do. Getting a degree in fields and areas that do not interest people will only result in mediocre output from those individuals. People will excel and advance in those areas that they have a passion for. We want to get people into the areas that they are interested in and have a passion for.

Statistics clearly reflect that how students do in college is a reflection of how they did in high school; however, it is also clear that students have options and more options than they have had in the past. The focus must clearly be on identifying the option best for that individual and that is what PBSC focuses on and is good at.

Please also know that there are options and programs for students that have received "Certificates of Completion", and not diplomas.

President Parker shared a rumor that she has heard regarding students in the Glades. It is that students see college and they become afraid of the challenges associated with being a college student. Parents, grandparents, and siblings did not attend college and I can't afford college. President Parker asked the audience to work with her on dispelling this rumor or notion and encourage students to come to the college to explore the possibilities and options that are open to them. There is a clear commitment to assist people with their preparation to get an education and job.

PBSC wants to make a difference and wants to be an integral part of the community and the solutions to the problems in the community.

Loxahatchee Groves: One of the first things President Parker had to do when she arrived on July 1, 2015 is develop a plan for the campus and dispel the myth or notion that the campus will negatively impact the Belle Glade campus. Belle Glade and Loxahatchee will both be strong. There will simply be different options at those campuses. Although, some programs will be at both campuses. Nursing is one of those programs. The Belle Glade campus will retain a nursing program, even though Loxahatchee is getting the program as well. There is demand and a long list of students wanting to be in the Belle Glade nursing program.

The Integrated Technology and Health Sciences focus at the Loxahatchee Groves campus. Medical records maintenance is one of the high demand areas for the Glades and Countywide. Some of the areas include: 1) Medical Coding, 2) Medical Information Sciences, & 3) Health Information Sciences. All of these areas help support medical offices and hospitals. PBSC is expanding these programs at this campus. We plan to expand the bachelors in nursing program as well.

There has been some demand and requests for programs in Veterinarian Tech & Horticulture; however, we are not sure at this point if we will be able to offer those programs at this time. We are looking to be as responsive as possible to the needs of the surrounding communities.

In conclusion, President Parker discussed a concept to facilitate better partnership and collaboration with stakeholders. We are not getting enough of our local high school students attending PBSC. Don't want to duplicate programs. Can we treat this situation as a "triage". Can we interview (West Tech, PBSC, CareerSource, etc...) and talk to the students and steer them in the appropriate direction. Resources are scarce for all of us. If we work together in this endeavor and "triage" the student to assist the student and steer them in the right direction, regardless of their choice(s), we should attract more students and become more successful in our assistance to the students, regardless of their choice(s). The focus should be on assisting the student in making the best choice, given their background, interest, and focus. Let's not duplicate or offer the same programs. Let's give the students individual attention, early in their high school careers, and assist them in finding their way to the appropriate environment and institution to improve their chances of success. Let's not marginalize our chances for success. When our children do well, we do well. When one of us do well and have success(es), we all have success(es)! Let's work together!

President Parker asked the group if there is something already like this (i.e., "Triage" the student – work together) in place?

Attorney Donia Roberts responded and stated that Dr. Shoemaker, Area 3 Superintendent, has this same type of vision for the school district for Area 3. She went on to mention that several of the individuals at this meeting serve on or attend the Glades Career Readiness Roundtable (GCRR). She chairs and serves with this organizational group and is working closely with the school district to try to ensure that those individuals that do not want to go on the college aren't falling between the cracks and getting lost and forgotten in the process. She went on to mention that she supports the "triage" approach and stated that the schools are letting this fall on the shoulders of the high school guidance counselors and there is no way they can serve or assist all of the students properly or adequately in identifying their options. Additionally, many of these kids do not have the family support to assist them with identifying & pursuing their options. She agrees that we have to work together with the college and other stakeholders to reach out and touch each of the kids to assist them with considering their options and pursuing them. Despite budgetary constraints, if we work together we can accomplish this task.

Atty. Roberts also mentioned that Mr. Tate has suggested that we have to literally go door-to-door to accomplish this task and Mrs. Roberts agreed that this may be a part of that door-to-door effort and commitment that will be needed. We will have to touch each child individually, whether the parent is present or not. GCRR will support the "triage" concept and looks forward to partnering with the college in this effort.

Mr. Tate followed up on Mrs. Robert's comments and reiterated his view that we have to go door-to-door if we want to be successful in assisting these young people. He briefly mentioned OCR's efforts with the Robotics program and our partnership with the school district. He then asked Bridges to provide their thoughts and input into the discussion.

Mrs. Trenesia Rozier from Bridges of Belle Glade responded and stated that Bridges begins their work very early with the children that they work with to attempt to nip any potential delays in development in the bud before they develop. Bridges would like to work with the college to try to close any gaps that may exist or develop to ensure that the children get an opportunity to explore and pursue their options.

Atty. Roberts commented that we need to do what we can to address those homeless kids and others within the community. It a great place to start.

Mrs. Barbara Haider suggested that we begin our efforts with preparing children to consider their options sooner and at the middle school level. She explained that we have a population of kids with parents that do not understand college. They never went to college and may not have completed elementary, middle or high school. They cannot provide their children with any informed valuable direct advice or support in the option selection process. Perhaps the college(s) can come out to the parent/teacher meetings and talk with the children about their options and college opportunities. Discuss how wonderful it is to go to college and experience some of these other options with the kids and their parents.

Mr. Derrek Moore commented that there has been a huge effort in the Glades to ensure and encourage young people to continue their education and training towards procuring jobs. OCR, GCRR, PBSC, PBC School District and others have shown a clear commitment to assist our young people in finding their interest and/or identifying their passion(s). Based upon Mr. Moore's experience in the educational process and field will help is to identify "Ambassadors" within the various systems or areas to go out and engage the young people about their hopes, dreams, and desires. These individuals should be other students, peers, and people with an interest and knowledge of the various educational options available to these potential students. These "Ambassadors" need to be committed and dedicated to helping others find their way through the various options available. We are all sometimes more prone to and apt to listen to our peers than our parents and other significant parties in our lives. Oftentimes those closest to us do not have the knowledge to properly advise us. It will continue to take all of us to support this effort, if it is to be successful. He fully supports the "triage" approach and believes it will help with increasing enrollment, if combined with an "Ambassador" type effort

GTAC Minutes Visit: http://pbcgov.com/ocr Page | 5

as well.

President Parker reiterated that this initiative is not about getting more students for PBSC or increasing its enrollment. It is about getting the student to the right educational or training system/institution that fits that particular individual's interest, abilities, and passion(s). She just wants to make sure we provide the options to the students and assist him/her in making the best choice for her or himself.

Mr. Moore agreed with her approach and comments.

Mr. Tate commented that we have to determine who the players are and where they can get involved. We must also look at student's gifts and talents and focus on these gifts & talents. Additionally, who are the players that are involved that are engaging with our kids. We have to make education a part of the Glades Master Plan. This has also been recommended by Atty. Roberts and the GCRR group. He also commented about President's Parker's statement that "You can only be successful in those things that you are passionate about". OCR's Abundant Community Initiative (ACI) program is premised on the same concept and driving force. Once we identify their interest and passions, we should be able to assist them with finding and attending the right institution. We can only be successful in those things that we are passionate about. It will take all of us. PBSO does a lot of community policing; all of these measures help with assisting our children find their way through the options available to them.

Q & A & Comments:

- 1. Mrs. Vernell Williams-DesRosier commented that she and Mrs. Milagros Martinez both come from a health services background and they clearly understand what President Parker means when she refers to and use the term triage. It means we get, take, focus or address the worse case(es) first. When you're dealing with the homeless, you're dealing with the worse cases in our communities. She also likes that President Parker is not just focused on PBSC. She related her experience with her grandson and how she had to push him through high school, because he was a potential drop-out. He passed the FCAT and enrolled in college; however, he wants to do something with his hands and she is trying to assist him with the options available that involves working with his hands. She thanked President Parker for her comments and helping her to reassess her approach to assisting her grandson in finding his way through other possible options that are available to him. She also mentioned that she has been trying to get PBSC more involved in the community and she is pleased to have the opportunity to meet and interact with Dr. Bennett, this morning. She wants to connect with everyone in the room to work together to assist our children. She will be meeting with Dr. Bennett. She wished that Dr. Avossa (PBC Supt. of Schools), Dr. Shoemaker (PBC Area 3 Supt.) and Dr. Lockhart (Lakeshore Elem. School Principal) and other leaders in the PBC school district were present, this morning. This is an extremely valuable discussion. She further commented that despite the challenges to being homeless, she has several homeless students that are excelling and some of them excel beyond those that are not homeless. She is supportive of the "triage" approach shared by President Parker.
- 2. Mr. Tate spoke briefly about the Robotics program and a meeting that he recently had with Dr. Abrams (Pahokee Elem. School Principal) and a non-profit (The Education Foundation) that is interested in assisting with providing financial support to advance the Robotics program at Pahokee Elem. School. He commented that children are interested in coming to school for many reasons and various activities and programs attract those students and keep them engaged in the educational process. You may be good in math, but are they coming for Math & Science or are they coming for the Robotics activities and program? Last year, First Robotics signed a lease with the Convention Center. It's happening right now and we are going from school to school to implement the program.
- 3. **Mayor Joe Kyles** stated that he supports the triage approach and he has been meeting with Dr. Bennett, and she has already been attempting to implement the triage concept in the Glades. He has been a part of the "Glove" meeting twice a month where a group assembled by Dr. Bennett has been

attempting to address the enrollment and triage issues. Mayor Kyles was on that committee. Because of the lack of participation, Dr. Bennett disbanded the Glove Committee. There has been a lack of interest in meeting to discuss ways of addressing these issues. It hasn't worked. Dr. Bennett has been making every effort possible to meet, discuss, and address these issues. Mayor Kyles stated that he was elected in March 2015 as Mayor of South Bay and they have been meeting every month and only 4 or 5 people were coming to the meetings and eventually only he and Dr. Bennett were attending the meetings. She has flip charts in her office that will reflect the triage approach. The good ideas are discussed, but the commitment from residents has not been visible or evident. The people that started the initiative dropped out of the process. Dr. Bennett has the passion and commitment to implement and make successful the triage idea; however, the residents will need to make the commitment as well. He encouraged everyone to go out and meet with Dr. Bennett to see the flip charts and discuss the Glove Committee's efforts towards a triage program.

- 4. **Mr. Tate** commented that we need to work towards building relationships to help our children. Dr. Parker asked him earlier today, "Where have you been?" Mr. Tate stated that this is an indication that we have to continue to work together to address these items/issues in our communities.
- 5. Mr. Ralph Walker commented and identified himself as the Public Relations person for 2SBW and he stated that their mission is to be involved in the Tri-cities. They have learned from the 5 year strategic plans of the three cities that the future work and jobs for the area will be in the area of construction. 2SBW has signed on 4 or 5 students to work for them. The new requirements, for all of the new buildings, are "Lean Green". The construction must give consideration to making the environment a "Green" environment. PBSC does not presently have this as a part of its curriculum. Can we get that program or at least be able to take advantage of that program at PBSC? Especially since we know these "green" projects are coming. With those certifications we can gainfully employ more residents.

President Parker responded by saying yes she and Dr. Bennett we will certainly look into these programs and the possibility of offering them at the Glades campus. Also, we have to always assess whether it is the best thing for us to do or is there someone or another entity in the community better suited for the task. We just want to make sure that we're not duplicating efforts or competing with other organizations and that we have the best entities for the right job or task(s). PBSC is not looking to be all things to all people. If PBSC is the best place to offer the course, we will be happy to do so. Dr. Holly will be in touch with you about this item.

Mrs. Vernell commented that she wanted to apologize to Dr. Bennett for not inviting her to the GIN (Glades Interagency Network) and PATCH (Planned Approach To Community Health) meetings the third Tuesday of every month for a number of years. We were unaware of the Glove meetings; however, we will make every effort to get involved and assist Dr. Bennett with her Glove initiative. She will speak with the President of GIN (Mrs. Shirley Walker-Turner) about coming to the college on the third Tuesdays for their GIN meetings to facilitate discussing Dr. Bennett's "triage" plans.

Mr. Tate acknowledged and thanked Mrs. Lisa Wilson's from her presence and attendance from Commissioner Melissa McKinlay's office.

6. Mrs. Milagros Rodriguez commented that we need to make sure we give our teens options and we can strategize on how to do that. How can we make it happen? What is the target population? I believe we should begin at middle school.

Mr. Tate commented that we have a five week training program called REAP. During one of our previous REAP programs, we had an intergenerational discussion between our youth and our delegates. How did it happen? How did we get everyone out to the meeting? PBSO committed to

bringing seven young ladies to every single meeting. They picked them up and brought them to the meeting. We have to work together as a team!

Atty. Roberts commented that one of the things that she has tried to do is organize everyone to attend one meeting. We are all very busy and there are too many meetings. That is why we have the Glades Career Readiness Roundtable meeting. To try to get everyone around the table at one meeting to discuss and address these issues. We may have missed some people and we continue to work on that. We have to stop diminishing our returns by going from meeting to meeting to meeting and try to focus our efforts and attention in and on one or two meetings to attempt to solve our problems. Let's get all of our decision makers in one room to address these problems. There has been a convergence on our community recently to address these issues and she just wants to applaud President Parker and everyone for their interest and commitment to address these issues. The Lord is directing our efforts. They are all mission driven.

7. Mr. Moore posed the following questions to President Parker: What's the mid-range & longrange goal & direction for this campus and what are some of these goals and plans for the college as a whole for the future? President Parker responded by saying that she has made a commitment to listening to everybody's ideas and thoughts before formulating a plan or path for the college and individual campuses. She stated that she does not have a full answer at this time. She has been here since July of this year and she would like to wait until, at least, the end of the year before she develops and release her plan. The anticipation is that some of those plans will be ready for release early next year. She did share a couple of things and they were: 1) Getting students placed in jobs when they are finished with their degree(s) and 2) Looking focus more on the students and to ensure that students get out faster or complete their programs faster, and 3) Developing an institution without walls. Courses are being offered online and there is a sense of urgency to facilitate completion of programs at a faster rate, while maintaining quality. Our 3 year completion rate for our full-time students is far below the state-wide average. The statewide average is about 42 – 44 percent. PBSC is in the high thirties. The governor has made it clear that he will be vetoing projects that require expansion of facilities. He believes we should be maximizing the use of existing facilities. This will mean that we will be reaching out to other institutions to offer some of our courses on their premises. Perhaps more classes can be offered on high school campuses and similar locations. This may be less expensive than building another building. She agreed to come back to provide an update on her plan for the campus and college.

Mr. Tate commented that we must focus on the kid and what their interests are and provide information about the options around those interests. There are several avenues within the school system to motivate our kids and provide options for them to stay in school and continue their interest in those things that they have an interest in and are passionate about.

Mrs. Vernell made a comment that the school counselor's just don't have enough time to properly advise the students. She went on to say that sometimes the students (especially her 11th & 12th graders) are told that they miss the FCAT score needed to graduate by one or two points. She then return to the counselor to find out what area(s) the student missed one or two points in, because the counselor does not share that information with the student. This will help prepare the student to study to retake and pass the FCAT the next time.

GTAC Minutes Visit: http://pbcgov.com/ocr Page | 8

Upcoming Important Dates:

Nov. 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving Holidays

Dec 4 - Tri-Cities Barbecue - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Dec. 7 - Glades Career Readiness Roundtable Meeting – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Dec 7 - City of Pahokee's Christmas Parade

Dec 8 - Legislative Delegation meeting – Lakeside Hospital – 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Dec 8 - LORE Meeting

Dec 15 - GIN Community Partners Holiday Luncheon & Gift Exch 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Dec 17 - Mr. Houston Tate – Guest Speaker at Pahokee Rotary – 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Dec. 17 - President & CEO of CareerSource PBC – Steve Craig - 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

4. Participant Updates/Comments

See above!

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 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 December 17, 2015, at the the City of Pahokee's Marina. Mr. Steve Craig (President & CEO of CareerSource Palm Beach County) will be the guest speaker.

DAM

Date: December 14, 2015

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director

Date