

**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](mailto: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: December 17, 2015, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM  
Location: City of Pahokee's Marina

### Meeting Attendance:

---

1. Mary Adams	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
2. Pastor Patti Aupperlee	First United Methodist Church of Pahokee
3. Keith Babb	Dept of Senior Services
4. Beatrice Bailey	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
5. Whitney Baldwin, Esquire	FL. Rural Legal Services, Inc.
6. Marilu Baltazar	Pahokee Housing Authority
7. Regina Bohlen	Exec. Dir. of Pahokee Chamber
8. Johanna Bryant	Pahokee Housing Authority
9. Leondre Camel, City Manager	City of South Bay
10. Inger Cheves	Community Partners
11. Charles Duval	CareerSource PBC
12. Barbara Davis	Rep. Rader's Office
13. Bradley Eley	Bridges of Belle Glade
14. JoAnn Finney	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
15. Florence French	Enroll America
16. Greta Godaert	Pahokee Resident
17. Captain Ed Luty	PBSO
18. Cartheda Mann	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
19. Cynthia Mann, Director	Bridges at Pahokee
20. Derrek Moore	OCR Senior Planner
21. Lester Mosely	PBSC
22. Lt. Daniel Picciolo	PBSO
23. Trenesia Rozier	Bridges at Belle Glade
24. Patrice Schroeder	211 HelpLine
25. Un'Tavious Scott	Bridges at Pahokee
26. Ralph Walker	2SBW
27. Vernell Williams-DesRosier	Safe Schools – PBC School District
28. Houston Tate	Dir. of OCR

**Some attendees did not sign the attendance sheet.**

## Meeting Minutes

---

### 1. Prayer & Pledge:

Comments: **Mr. Tate** called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and introduced **Pastor Patti Aupperlee** (First United Methodist Church of Pahokee) to lead us in prayer. She also led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. She briefly commented that the church also partner with community groups and agencies to serve the residents of the community and she looks forward to partnering with groups in the GTAC meeting.

### 2. Welcome & Presentations:

**Mr. Tate** welcomed the attendees and opened by commenting that developing relationships and finding the collective impact of those people that want to and like to work together to make things happen. He commented about having just spoken at Pahokee Rotary and forging partnerships with other organizations and agencies and the benefits of doing so. How do we work together to get things done? What are those things that residents can do for themselves? What are those things that residents can do with government? and What are those things that residents need government to do for themselves? These are the key questions to be answered for any community. We need to invest in the assets and talents in the residents in our communities.

**Mr. Tate** asked each person to introduce him/herself and as an ice breaker, he asked them to share with everyone their name, favorite movie, and pet's name. This exercise lasted until approximately 9:55 a.m. Mr. Tate explained that we have to be able to share with each other a little about ourselves so that we can better understand and get to know each other. He then asked **Mr. Charles Duval**, West Area Manager for CareerSource Palm Beach County, to read our Neighborhood Statement (It's displayed at each CCRT & GTAC meeting). Mr. Tate commented that the mission of the GTAC participants is "To make the Glades the best community on planet earth." We all will assist with getting there by leveraging our resources and efforts with each other to reach the above goals. We stumble upon success. We need to be moving in the right path and we will find the success that we are seeking together. We have the power to make the change necessary to improve and empower our communities and residents.

### 3. Special Presentations

**Mr. Tate** introduced President & CEO of CareerSource, Mr. Steve Craig by reading his bio information provided on the OCR published flier & meeting notification. A copy of the flier 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 to Mr. Craig for his willingness to come out and meet and speak with the GTAC group. Below is an outline of Mr. Craig's presentation/speech:

After reading Mr. Craig's bio information to the group, **Mr. Tate** commented that we need to assist Mr. Craig in achieving his goals for CareerSource and the County. It will result in more people getting jobs and improving the economy, as a whole. Mr. Tate also shared with Mr. Craig that how pleased he has been to work with Mr. Duval over the past few years. He commented that Mr. Duval has been very supportive and supportive in the work that he has been trying to accomplish in the Glades. Palm Beach Broadcasting that was having a Soul Food Festival and Mr. Duval drove with Mr. Tate to every restaurant to get the Glades restaurants to come over and participate in the festival. The plan was to get the Glades restaurant owners to participate in the festival and to thereafter get the festival organizers to come do the festival in the Glades. We



felt that this would bring business and visitors to the Glades, which would hopefully, develop into an event that would have long-term ramifications and impact and improve the Glades economy.

**Mr. Craig** began his talk by saying that the Pahokee venue is a beautiful location and has lovely scenery.

**Mr. Craig** began his speech by asking the following questions: 1) Who are we and what do we do? 2) How do we help the local economy thrive? 3) How do we help businesses? 4) How do we help job seekers? and Finally, we will discuss some of our Glades initiatives. Mr. Charles Duval will assist with the discussion and comment about the Glades' projects. **Mr. Craig** mentioned the difficulty in replacing Mr. Denny Abbott, when he retired and some the work Mr. Abbott did in the Glades, while working for the then, Workforce Alliance, Inc..

CareerSource Palm Beach County is a part of a statewide network of 24 regions in Florida and PBC is one of the top performing areas under Workforce CareerSource. Over the last two programming years, they have helped to put over 50,000 people in jobs in PBC. The entry level wages for those individuals was just a hair over a billion dollars. The unemployment rate for PBC is around 4.5%; however, the real number is probably closer to double this figure, because some people have just given up and others are not reporting. Especially in the Glades area, where the unemployment rate is closer to 24 or 25%. We work with about 10,000 businesses in PBC. We do a lot of recruiting and training to prepare workers for the jobs across PBC. Also, we work closely with the Business Development Board (BDB) and surrounding cities to assist with their overall efforts of providing jobs and growing the economy. We work with over sixty businesses to provide training. Palm Beach State College (PBSC) is one of those training locations/institutions. Over six hundred courses are offered by these training institutions or groups. Approximately \$3.3 million were spent this past year training workers to prepare or improve their employability. Because of budget decreases, the services provided by CareerSource have changed and reduced over the past few years. We have three centers: 1) Belle Glade, 2) One on airport property, and 3) A recruiting center in Boca Raton. We are working on a virtual career center. Everything that we do is online and can be accessed online. The vast majority of our services can be accessed and completed on our website. 200 jobs are being provided by the Convention Center project. There are some job fairs going on across PBC. We have a few youth programs that involve putting them through intensive training in soft skills. We also have a summer youth program.

**Mr. Craig** introduced **Mr. Charles Duval** and he gave the group information about the Glade's projects. He talked about the partnerships that CareerSource has become a part of. He mentioned the purpose and mission of the Glades Career Readiness Roundtable and what they have managed to accomplish. Their focus is on providing jobs for the Glades. They have their meetings at West Tech. What started as pre-apprenticeship programs have developed into Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical & Carpentry programs. Carpentry has seen three classes completed in two years. Welding has also been added to the curriculum. All of the programs are free. There is no charge to the participants. Florida Training Services does the training for one of the programs. The programs have become so successful the groups on the coast are looking to model their efforts and programs after the Glade's programs. A Career College has been developed, which involves a partnership between PBSC and PBC School District. We're asking the businesses to provide us with information about what they need and we are tailoring the training to those needs. Mr. Duval also mentioned his involvement with LORE (Lake Okeechobee Regional Economic Alliance). We have recently worked on two major large businesses to attract to the Glades.

Sunshine State Biomass - City of Pahokee. Projected to bring 225 jobs in three years.

Substance Abuse Project – City of Belle Glade. They will occupy the old hospital's property in Belle Glade. Both are expected to start hiring next Fall, 2016.

In conclusion, **Mr. Craig** explained that everybody on the coast is in support of their efforts in the Glades. They are very supportive. There has also been a clear recognition and plan to provide incentive to employers



and project managers to hire local people. This is not always easy, but there is a clear consensus to favor local hires. An extra effort is being made to assist the Glades in attracting businesses and provide skills training for and to the residents.

### Q & A & Comments:

1. **Ms. Greta Godeart** mentioned her experience going through the REAP program and how it helped her to better understand how to work with organizations and government to get things done. Her question to Mr. Craig was: Are there any courses related to entrepreneurship that she or residents can take to improve their entrepreneurship abilities? She also mentioned some of the difficulties that some of the individuals that have criminal records have seeking employment in the Glades. Also, is it possible to partner with the Small Business Bureau to create that synergy to assist with improving residents' chances of getting what they need to become employed? Are there programs to assist with transportation? What can we do to change the schools in the Glades to community schools? Are GED programs being offered? Mr. Craig responded that CareerSource does have a GED program in Belle Glade. An agreement has just been worked out to offer GED courses at our East center as well.
2. **Ms. Patrice Schroeder asked**, How can we help our residents get ready and how can we support the effort? What is being done? **Mr. Duval** responded by saying that we do have some time to prepare and what we are doing and asking businesses to do is to advise us of the types of jobs and training needed and we will seek out the necessary tools and avenues to get people ready for those jobs. We usually have to customize training for the various groups and jobs available.
3. **Mrs. Vernell DesRosier** commented that when businesses come to the Glades they oftentimes bring their own employees and when our residents go out to inquire about jobs they are turned away because they are told that there aren't any vacancies. How do we address this issue and concern? **Mr. Duval** shared his frustration and comments about this issue and said that CareerSource has had the same problem with some of the outside contractors doing work in the Glades. We are continuing to approach these contractors to question and encourage them to use local workers for their projects in the Glades. We are working with the Glades cities to have city officials press contractors to use local employees. This has been an ongoing initiative in the Glades and we will continue our efforts to emphasize the importance of hiring local people. Mrs. Vernell also mentioned SFWMD projects, years ago, and how those individuals trained did not get work. **Mr. Craig** commented that his office was asked to assist with the training and several thousand dollars (approx. \$200,000) were spent by CareerSource to provide the training and SFWMD did not do the project. CareerSource did not see any return on this investment in training for the project. It was a bad deal for CareerSource.
4. **Mr. Ralph Walker** asked three questions: 1) 10% local preference participation: Does this 10% include local contractors? **Mr. Craig** responded that the answer is yes. **Mr. Duval** expounded on the answer by stating that the County and local municipalities have passed resolutions supporting local preference approaches to increasing employment in the Glades. **Mr. Walker** explained that 2SBW is a local contractor that is having difficulty getting work in the Glades. His second question is: How do we get involved in ensuring that local businesses or contractors get their fair share of the work in the Glades? **Mr. Duval** applauded 2SBW for their efforts in supporting the first group of trainees that came through West Tech. 2SBW assisted with mentoring and training for the group. For information on the HUD zone, you can contact representatives from the County's Dept. of Economic Sustainability. **Mr. Craig** explained that the cities have to have and place expectations on the contractors to hire local residents and CareerSource can assist with identifying the residents for the jobs. **Mr. Walker** explained that we have the local preference rules, but the contractor brings in their worker and claim that their worker is qualified and the local person is not up to that standard. He went on to ask what can we (2SBW & the community) do to ensure that we get to participate in these jobs so that the residents can benefit from the jobs brought to the Glades through these projects?

5. **Ms. Patrice Schroeder** followed up by asking, How can we put teeth into the requirements and requests to hire local workers? What can we do to put pressure on local officials to ensure that the 10% local preference requirement happens or is adhered to by contractors & vendors? **Mr. Tate** responded by mentioning that Mrs. Verdenia Baker is committed to making sure that Glade's residents get the opportunity to participate in work programs and projects that come to the Glades. He reminded the group that Mrs. Baker will be here in January to participate in the GTAC discussion and he will make sure that she is aware of the concerns and questions centered around this issue. Additionally, we need to make sure that we invite those individuals and officials to the table to participate in these discussions to address these questions and concerns. **Mr. Craig** commented that this is an ongoing problem and contractors like bringing in their own workers to complete the projects that they get awarded in the Glades.
6. **Mrs. Cartheda Mann** commented that there must be monitoring of the awards and proposals granted in the Glades, and while this may sound simplistic, it really is a matter of monitoring. **Mr. Craig** responded that when they use CareerSource to assist with the hiring process, they track and monitor all of the information associated with the project; however, they are not always used and they in turn are not aware of the details of the project or employment process or data associated with the project. **Mr. Duval** echoed Mr. Craig's comments and stated that he makes every attempt to engage contractors and vendors when they come to the Glades to work with CareerSource to facilitate the hiring process and data collection.
7. **Mr. Babb** commented that the Bio-Tech (the recycling plant) project in Pahokee originally was projected 200 – 250 jobs. That number has been reduced. What is the current rationale for the reduction in projected employment numbers for that project? **Mr. Duval** responded that he was not aware of a reduction in the projected employment numbers for that project. The information that he has projects the numbers to be 225 over three years.
8. **Ms. Schroeder** asked about the bid process and how it works regarding ensuring that local residents get a share of the jobs? **Mr. Duval** responded that he would have to get more information on the process and get back to her. **Mr. Tate** also responded and briefly shared his experiences with bid processes and officials efforts trying to ensure that the local preference standard is adhered to.
9. A **Resident** asked, about going online to register for jobs on CareerSource's website. **Mr. Duval** answered to her question advising her on how to go online to complete the process.
10. A **Resident** asked, Do you offer any technology training? **Mr. Craig** answered in the affirmative and stated that CareerSource offers approx. 600 courses through their partners. We also add courses based upon need or demand.
11. **Mrs. Vernell** commented that she works with the homeless population and she regularly refer them to CareerSource, Ms. Tillman, and they are always assisted and provided with some type of work through her efforts. She wanted to thank CareerSource, and specifically Ms. Tillman for partnering with her to assist the homeless population.
12. **Mr. Tate** mentioned our partnership with Mrs. Cartheda Mann & the Deltas regarding the emergency operations in the Glades.
13. **Mr. Moore** briefly reminded everyone about Mrs. Baker coming out to present/speak next month (January 28, 2016). He also asked PBSO, the Deltas, Mr. Babb & Mr. Tate to stay a few minutes after the meeting to discuss the emergency operations plan the Deltas are initiating for the Glades.



**Upcoming Important Dates:**

Dec. 24 & 25 - Christmas Holidays

Jan. 1, **2016** - New Year's Day Holiday

Jan. 11 - Glades Career Readiness Roundtable Meeting – 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Jan. 12 - LORE meeting – 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Jan 18 - Dr. Martin Luther King's Holiday

Jan. 25 - City of Pahokee's State of the City 11:00 a.m.

Jan. 27 - EOA1 Meeting – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Jan. 28 - County Administrator – Mrs. Verdenia Baker - 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**4. Participant Updates/Comments**

Mr. Tate commented that we have to come to these meetings and work together to identify and develop solutions to the issues and problems within the communities that we serve. He also 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.

**5. Adjournment**

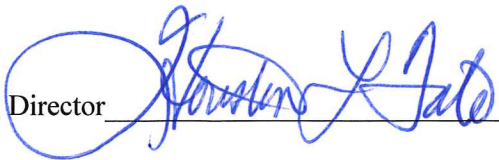
Comments:

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The **next meeting** will be held **January 28, 2016, at the City of Belle Glade's Civic Center. Mrs. Verdenia Baker (County Administrator for Palm Beach County)** will be the guest presenter/speaker.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!**

DAM 

Date: December 31, 2015

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director 

1/5/2016  
Date