



PALM BEACH COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

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COUNTYWIDE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TEAM VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTeS

Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting
Facilitator: Houston Tate, OCR Director
Minutes Prepared by: William Wynn, OCR Senior Planner
Date/Time: November 10, 2020
Location: WebEx Virtual Meeting

MEETING ATTENDANCE

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| 1. | Jongelene Adams | City of Pahokee |
| 2. | Joanna Aiken | Soild Waste Authority |
| 3. | Queensland Alexis | Velocity Community Credit Union |
| 4. | Jacquelin Binns | PBC Risk Management |
| 5. | Jayme Bosio | PBC Library System |
| 6. | Vivian Brooks | PBC OCR |
| 7. | Robin Bundy | Community Health |
| 8. | Michael Castro | Resident |
| 9. | Keith Clinkscale | PBC Strategic Planning and Performance Management |
| 10. | Stacy Corona | Community Partners of South Florida |
| 11. | Samantha Corr | PBC ERM |
| 12. | Maura Duenas | Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Inc. |
| 13. | Wilneeda Emmanuel | PBC District 7 Commissioner’s Office |
| 14. | Jean Ezerbe | |
| 15. | Meghan Foley | United Way of Palm Beach County |
| 16. | Tanya Gibson | Country Club Acres Resident |
| 17. | Sgt. Greene | PBSO |
| 18. | Lyndy Harvey | Spirit of Giving Network |
| 19. | Fashara Hill | Pahokee Housing Authority |
| 20. | Helene Hvzid | PBC Attorney’s Office |
| 21. | Niels Heimeriks | PBC District 2 Commissioner’s Office |
| 22. | Sgt. Hightower | PBSO |
| 23. | Bonnie Hodges | San Castle Resident |
| 24. | Daryl Houston | Community Foundation Of Palm Beach and Martin Counties |
| 25. | Melissa Jaramillo | Step Up for Students |
| 26. | Bill Johnson | PBC Emergency Management |
| 27. | Coleen LaCosta | Speak Up for Kids |
| 28. | Alexa Lee | PBC Behaviorial Coalition |
| 29. | Chrystal Mathews | PBC OCR |
| 30. | Amy McDonald | |
| 31. | Bill McDonald | Plantation Area Resident |
| 32. | Dorritt Miller | PBC Assistant County Administrator |

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| 33. | Ruth Moguillansky | PBC OCR |
| 34. | Fadi Nassar | PBC Engineering |
| 35. | Michael Owens | School District of PBC |
| 36. | Casey Pranckun | PBC Parks & Recreation |
| 37. | David Rafaidus | PBC Community Services |
| 38. | Syheita Rhoden | Caleb Ephraim Project, Inc. |
| 39. | Darren Romelus | PBC District 7 Commissioner's Office |
| 40. | Sharon Rose | Elder Services Resources Network |
| 41. | Leroy Rouse | Gramercy Park Resident |
| 42. | Virginia Savietto | PBC District 2 Commissioner's Office |
| 43. | Bob Smallacombe | PBC Fire Rescue |
| 44. | George Schott | PBC OCR |
| 45. | Anna Stewart | Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC |
| 46. | Houston Tate | PBC OCR |
| 47. | William Wynn | PBC OCR |
| 48. | Kenesha | |

MEETING MINUTES

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Houston L. Tate, OCR Director, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) members and attendees to introduce themselves.

II. PRESENTATIONS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Presenter: Bill Johnson, Director, Palm Beach County Emergency Management

Mr. Johnson provided a detailed presentation on COVID-19 and government's response to the pandemic. The below paragraphs summarize the main points covered, and a copy of the complete power point presentation can be found at the end of the minutes.

COVID-19

- Coronavirus Disease 2019, or COVID-19, is a contagious respiratory disease that was first discovered in Wuhan, Hubei China in late 2019, and has spread worldwide leading the World Health Organization to declare a pandemic.
- COVID-19 Timeline

Operations Continue at the EOC

- Response efforts continue at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

COVID-19 Response

- The Palm Beach County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated for 239 days in response to the pandemic.
- The response effort is a multi-departmental TEAM effort

COVID-19 Testing

- The County continues to manage 13 State Operated testing sites at locations such as: The FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches – West Palm Beach; South County Civic Center – Delray Beach; and Florida Atlantic University – Boca Raton. A complete list of ALL testing sites can be found at: <https://discover.pbcgov.org/coronavirus/Pages/testing-sites.aspx>
- Palm Beach County currently tests an average of over 5,500 people per day.

COVID-19 Monitoring

- Officials in Palm Beach County continue to monitor several key areas, like Hospital Admissions, ICU Bed and Ventilator Usage, 9-1-1 Calls for COVID-related illnesses, Deaths Related to COVID-19, and “Hot Zones” by Zip Code

Education and Enforcement

- Palm Beach County developed the COVID Education and Compliance Team. This team, which is comprised of representatives from PBSO, Health Department, Fire Marshal, and officials from municipalities, check on various businesses in the county to ensure they are following social distancing and facial coverings guidelines.

COVID-19 and Sheltering in a Disaster

- With the COVID-19 Pandemic continuing, Emergency Management has planned how to respond to other disasters.

Preparing Residents in “The New Normal”

- Palm Beach County has updated the Official Hurricane Planning Guide with important information regarding COVID-19. This includes recommendations to add PPE to disaster kits: Facial Coverings, Gloves, and Hand Sanitizer. A copy can be downloaded at ReadyPBC.com.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS FOR FLORIDA’S SCHOOL CHILDREN

Presenter: Melissa Jaramillo, Community Outreach Manager, Step Up for Students

Ms. Jaramillo shared information on her organization’s scholarship programs available for Florida’s Schoolchildren. Highlights of the presentation are summarized below. Please see complete power point presentation at the end of the minutes.

1. Income Based Scholarships

- Florida Tax Credit Scholarship
- Family Empowerment Scholarship

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship and Family Empowerment Eligibility Criteria

A student may qualify if:

- A member of the household receives SNAP (food stamps), TANF, or FDPIR.
- The household income qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch.
- There is no income threshold for a child who is in foster care, out-of-homecare or homeless.

How The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Works

- Private School Option - The scholarship will pay for the following school expenses, in this order, until maximum award amount is reached, or until all fees are satisfied, whichever is first: 1) tuition; 2) books; 3) registration; 4) transportation; 5) uniforms; 6) testing; and 7) other.

- Transportation Option – The scholarship may pay up to \$750 to assist with transportation costs for a student that attends a public school other than the school the student is assigned.

How The Family Empowerment Scholarship Works

- It can only be used toward private tuition and fees.
- This scholarship will pay for the same school supplies referened under the florida Tax Credit Scholarship.

Florida Tax Credit and Family Empowerment Scholarship Application Process

- Florida Tax Credit: New and renewal families may APPLY NOW for an Income-Based Scholarship for the 2020-21 school year. Families may join the “Interest List” for the 2021-22 School Year.
- Family Empowerment: New families may APPLY NOW for an Income-Based Scholarship for the 2020-21 school year. Families may join the “Interest List” for the 2021-22 School Year.

2. Gardiner Scholarship Program

Gardiner Scholarship Program Eligibility Criteria

- For Children with Certain Special Needs.
- Open to Florida students 3 years old through 12th grade with one of the following diagnoses: Autism spectrum disorder, Muscular dystrophy, Cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Spina bifida, Williams syndrome, Intellectual disability (severe cognitive impairment), rare diseases as defined by the National Organization for Rare Disorders, anaphylaxis, deaf, visually impaired, dual sensory impaired, traumatic brain injured, hospital or homebound as defined by the rules of the State Board of Education and evidenced by reports from local school districts, or three, four or five year-olds who are deemed high-risk due to developmental delays.
- Sudents document requirements (either/or): a formal diagnosis from a licensed physician or psychologist or current individual education plan from a school district.

How The Gardiner Scholarship Works

- To Learn More about how the Gardiner Scholarship may be used, please see the Gardiner Handbook at <https://32n7ya2og9cc2147lx4e0my6-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-21-Gardiner-Scholarship-Amounts.pdf>

3. Hope Scholarship

Hope Scholarship Eligibility Criteria

- For Children who have been victim of one of the following: Bullying, Physical Attack, Threat or Intimidation, Sexual Offenses Hazing, Fighting, Kidnapping, Robbery, Assault or Battery, or Harassment
- K-12 Students

How The Hope Scholarship Works

- Private School Option - The scholarship will pay for the following school expenses, in this order, until maximum award amount is reached, or until all fees are satisfied, whichever is first: 1) tuition; 2) books; 3) registration; 4) transportation; 5) uniforms; 6) testing; and 7) other.
- Transportation Option – The scholarship may pay up to \$750 to assist with transportation costs for a student that attends a public school other than the school the student is assigned.

Hope Scholarship Application Process

- New and Renewal Families may apply for the Hope Scholarship for the 2020-21 school year.
- To apply, parents would need the following: Hope Scholarship Notification Form (Form IEPC-HS1) that the parents receive from the public school's principal or his/her designee that notates the student's eligibility for the Hope Scholarship. Please note that the parent must have the updated form.

How the Hope Scholarship is Funded

- The scholarship is funded through vehicles' sales tax.
- If you purchase your vehicle from a dealership or outside of a dealership, let them know that you would like to support the Hope Scholarship, and they will take care of the rest.
- You can select to designate up to \$105 of the vehicle's sales tax to Step Up For Students to support the Hope Scholarship.

4. Reading Scholarship Accounts

Eligibility Criteria

- Public school students grades 3 - 5
- Struggling readers, scored a Level 1 or 2 on their most recent FSA/ELA 2018-19 Test or Identified in the 2019-20 school year as having substantial deficiency in reading based on their most recent available screening and progress monitoring assessment.
- Currently enrolled in a school that was on the list of Florida's 300 lowest performing elementary schools in 2019 or Currently enrolled in a school that earned a D or F school grade in 2019

How the Reading Scholarship Works

- The scholarships, worth \$500 each, can be used for reimbursement of the following:
 - ✓ Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's certificate, a baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject, an adjunct teaching certificate, or has demonstrated mastery of the subject area knowledge;
 - ✓ Fees for summer and after-school education programs designed to improve reading or literacy skills;
 - ✓ Instructional materials such as books or technology; and/or
 - ✓ Curriculum related to reading or literacy.

Reading Scholarship Application Process

- To apply, parents would need the following: the parents will need either the Reading Scholarship Accounts Program Eligibility Notification Form or the Spring 2019 Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) report.

III. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Anna Stewart, Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC

- Ms. Stewart advised that a person can call or email her if there's an interest in having a virtual land based water safety presentation. Also a number of facilities are closed for the free/reduced swim program. The program will hopefully resume in March or April of 2021.

Fadi Nassar, PBC Engineering

- Mr. Nassar advised that he is working with Audley Reid of OCR on a speed hump project for the Cannongate CCRT area.

Helene Hvizd, PBC Attorney's Office

- Ms. Hvizd, Assistant County Attorney, stated that she represents a few departments in the county which includes Community Services, Youth Services and the Office of Community Revitalization.
- Ms. Hvizd if anyone has any questions about code enforcement, feel free to contact her.

Casey Pranckun, PBC Parks & Recreation (P&R)

- Ms. Pranckun reported that the Belvedere Heights/Bridgeman Drive Park is complete
- Ribbon ceremony for Oswego Oaks Park in Westgate CCRT area.
- Limestone Creek basketball court is under construction and almost complete, and P&R is working with Limestone Creek on their NEAT grant for landscaping.
- P&R was awarded the Keep America Beautiful landscape grant for \$5,000.
- P&R is working through site plan approval for the San Castle basketball court.
- Houston Tate asked if the basketball courts could accommodate other activities such as tennis and volleyball. Ms. Pranckun advised that P&R can't add on to the projects, but may be able to add striping to the court and core bore the court to put in volleyball posts at a later date.

Joanna Aiken, SWA

- No SWA service on November 9th due to Tropical Storm Eta.
- Ms. Aiken expressed her gratitude for the NEAT grants.
- PYHO and Rebuilding Together have been inactive due to COVID-19, but will resume in 2021.

Samantha Corr, ERM

- ERM has a beach re-nourishment project around Juno Beach pier. Beach access will be available during that project.
- ERM sprayed prior to rain events for mosquito control and will spray again once weather permits. This includes west of Military Trail, including the Glades region.
- Several natural areas, been doing wildfire mitigation to prevent potential forest fires.
- ERM hopes to start guided adventures back in 2021.
- ERM website: <https://discover.pbcgov.org/erm/Pages/default.aspx>

David Rafaidus, Community Services

- CARES Act rent, utility and food assistance is still available to those who lost wages or employment due to COVID-19. Applicants previously approved can apply for additional assistance if they have not received the maximum amount of \$10K for rent and 1,200 for utilities. The application deadline has been extended to midnight November 16, 2020.
- For rental assistance visit <https://www.rentalassistancepbc.org>
- Community Services website: <https://discover.pbcgov.org/communityservices/Pages/default.aspx>

Bob Smallcombe, PBC Fire Rescue

- Fire Rescue is doing everything virtually: car seat installation instruction, fire safety, CPR classes and slip and fall prevention.
- The smoke alarm program is on hold due to COVID-19

IV. OCR UPDATES

- Chrystal Mathews thanked the NEAT grant review committee. Also fiscal year 2020 NEAT was approved on August 25, 2020, 16 projects for \$149,500, 3 projects has already completed the implementation phase. All projects have been started. The 2021-2022 NEAT schedule is currently under reviewed. It will hopefully be released by January 11, 2021.

Learn about NEAT at <https://discover.pbcgov.org/ocr/Pages/NEAT-Program.aspx> or contact Chrystal Mathews, Program Manager at cmathews@pbcgov.org.

- Ruth Moguillansky advised that Mr. Tate spearheaded the distribution of food and, through his efforts and partnerships with Living Hungry and the PBSO, the OCR was able to distribute over 10,500 food boxes to families in need in several CCRT neighborhoods since March.
- Ruth Moguillansky gave a recap of the 2020 Back to School PBC! event. This year, the event ended being a modified drive-up type of event to ensure the safety of our volunteers and participating families as a result of COVID-19. Backpacks had to be pre-packed and distributed to our students along with other items that were available at the different locations (e.g. nonperishable 7 day-meal kits, masks and hand sanitizers, shoes, socks, etc). No other activities took place this year.

We were able to distribute 10,619 backpacks to the children in our community. This could not have been accomplished without the commitment from our collaborative partners and the 550+ volunteers who gave their heart out to bring this event to fruition. Our gratitude is extended to all of them.

As it is customary, agencies participating in Back to School PBC! kept remaining prepacked backpacks for distribution to families who couldn't attend the event, and OCR staff coordinated agency pickups as well as reached out to non-attending families to ensure that all backpacks were distributed.

V. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- Jacqueline Binns of PBC Risk Management advised that if anyone has questions for risk management, can contact her at jbinns@pbcgov.org or 561-233-5422
- Michael Owens had a question for Mr. Johnson regarding where you can get a rapid molecular test. Mr. Johnson replied that information can be found at <https://discover.pbcgov.org/coronavirus/Pages/testing-sites.aspx> also a person must be symptomatic to get the antigen test. If negative but symptomatic, you will take a PCR test.
- Sharon Rose asked "What is the length of your scholarships and ongoing sources? For example, grants, private, etc." Ms. Jaramillo replied that it depends on the program. The family can decide how long they want to use the scholarship for, or until the student graduate high school. There are no deadlines. They are open until funds are available.

- Syheita Rhoden asked “Are the scholarships primarily for grades K-12 or college?” Sharon Rose similarly asked “Are you connected with college scholarship programs?” Ms. Jaramillo replied that the scholarships are for K-12 except for the Gardiner Scholarship which is for students ages 3 to 22 with special needs.
- Ms. Kenesha asked “Can a student get the reading scholarship if they have an IEP and also the income-based one?” Ms. Jaramillo replied a student may be eligible for multiple programs, but can only choose one program, so the parent will want to choose the program that the child needs the most. Scholarship programs cannot be combined.
- Ms. Kenesha asked if the CARES Act is available for mortgage. David Rafaidus replied “the Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability may have \$\$\$ for this situation. He advised Ms. Kenesha to look at the HES website for detailed information about the program at <https://discover.pbcgov.org/hes/Pages/default.aspx>
- Syheita Rhoden asked “How does a family receiving the reading scholarship select a provider” Ms. Jaramillo replied the website has a handbook for families who receives the scholarship. If the family knows of a tutor not on the list, they can have the tutor reach out to Step Up For Students to become a provider if the tutor meets the criteria.
- Sgt. Hightower advised that Publix is not allowing events like the past, due to COVID-19. PBSO will be partnering with Toys for Tots. PBSO will be picking up and delivering them.
- Bill McDonald, Plantation Area resident advised that as of late the Plantation area population has doubled with no additional trailers.
- Bonnie Hodges, San Castle resident stated how grateful the San Castle community is for OCR’s support in feeding the community and building relationships.
- Michael Owens asked about information about Emergency Roof Repair program from DHES. Ruth Moguillansky directed him to <https://discover.pbcgov.org/hes/Pages/default.aspx> for information on all DHES programs.
- Houston Tate thanked Sgt. Hightower and PBSO for assistance with distribution of hot meals and box foods to the CCRT communities. He also thanked Maura Plante for bringing these resources to PBC OCR, and the entire OCR team for helping with the distribution of PPE’s to the different CCR communities.
- Houston Tate stated that OCR will be giving away 388 turkeys this year for Thanksgiving, and that approximately 1500-2000 hot meals will be distributed in December at the Roger Dean stadium.
- A full list of all Palm Beach County feeding sites can be found at the following site: <https://pbcgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5bf05ce72b3142d7a3d990acc5b14ba1>
- Syheita Rhoden discussed her program which is a non-profit organization, called Caleb Ephraim Project, Inc. They will be hosting an Employability Skills Bazaar at the IBS Investment Bank on November 24, 2020 @ 9:30 am. The target group will be from ages 15-

19. Refreshments will be provided. For more information you can email Syheita@calebephraim.org or visit www.calebephraim.org/initiatives. Participants will also receive community service hours.

- Tanya Gibson, Country Club Acres resident, stated her gratitude to OCR for assistance with the food box distribution.
- Bonnie Hodges, San Castle resident, praised the health care workers for all that they do.
- Sharon Rose inquired was P&R on the list for an AARP donation of a fitness park for all ages? Casey Pranckun of P&R researched and found that the AARP Fitness Park for all <https://blog.aarp.org/aarp-media-relations/aarp-donating-fitness-parks-for-all-ages> appears committed to providing one fitness park per state, St. Petersburg just opened. AARP also has an AARP Livable Community Grant, which provides funding for park projects that can be implemented quickly, such as site furnishing, gardens and exercise equipment. The due date for this grant has passed, it was in May 2020, however grants tend to be available around the same time every year. This information was forwarded to Ms. Rose by OCR on 11-13-20.
- Bill McDonald, Plantation Area resident, asked about a missing speed hump on Meridian Rd and stop bars on stop signs in the Plantation CCRT area. Audley Reid followed up this on this question with Fadi Nassar, who responded that the south Meridian location already has sufficient petitions to allow for a third speed hump. Traffic has no objection to adding a third speed hump as long as OCR secures the funding and BCC approval. Mr. Nassar also stated that this request for Plantation can be added to the existing request from San Castle for an additional speed hump at 271 Mentone Road.
- Tanya Gibson, Country Club Acres resident, asked about drainage control and roads and bridges. She advised that she will email Houston Tate for Fadi Nassar's contact information.
- Kenesha wanted to know where do we sign up for the virtual CPR classes? Bob Smallacombe advised that she could contact Terry @ 561-616-7033 she will direct her to one of the educators.
- Kenesha wanted to know how to get involved with the turkey giveaway as a volunteer/organizer? She has a high schooler who has volunteered with other organizations. Houston advised that she can contact Ruth Moguillansky, and she will sign them up.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director

