



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

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Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting
 Facilitator: Houston Tate, OCR Director
 Minutes Prepared by: William Wynn, Senior Planner
 Date/Time: September 8, 2015
 Location: 2300 N Jog Rd., Room 1E-60, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Meeting Attendance:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Robert Avossa | Superintendent, PBC School District |
| 2. Joanna Aiken | Solid Waste Authority |
| 3. Carol Clinton | Lake Worth West Regional Planning Group, Inc |
| 4. Tammy Fields | PBC Youth Services |
| 5. Robin Rance-Hoffman | PBC Commissioner's Burdick's Office |
| 6. Anne Helfant | PBC County Attorney's Office |
| 7. Casey Prancun | PBC Parks and Recreation |
| 8. Pam Nolan | Department of Economic Sustainability and Water Utilities |
| 9. Michael Owens | PBC School District |
| 10. Anna Stewart | Drowning Prevention Coalition |
| 11. Carlos Poveda | FAU CHC |
| 12. Kenny Wilson | Florida Department of Health Palm Beach |
| 13. Shirlon McCarty | DJJ |
| 14. Chris Sapp | YMCA of South Palm Beach |
| 15. Harlene Zweig | In Jacob Shoes |
| 16. Cynthia Freedman | In Jacob Shoes |
| 17. Judy Traub | National Council of Jewish Women |
| 18. Cynthia George | PBC School District |
| 19. Sergeant Rich Angelo | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 20. Sergeant James Hightower | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 21. Deputy John DeLaura | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 22. Deputy Shawn Mancino | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 23. Deputy Steve Banuchi | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 24. Deputy C. Fleming | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 25. Ken Wilson | PBC Department of Health |
| 26. Rudi Bester | Memory Trees |
| 27. Debbie Bester | Memory Trees |
| 28. Barbara Haider | One Love One Community |
| 29. Joseph Sophie | PBC Legislative Affairs |
| 30. Joseph Pierre-Louis | Limestone Creek Community |
| 31. Bill McDonald | Plantation Community |
| 32. Lana Martinez | San Castle Community |
| 33. Sandy McCarty | San Castle Community |
| 34. John McCarty | San Castle Community |
| 35. Mary Johnson | Lantana Homes HOA |
| 36. Loren Johnson | Lantana Homes HOA |
| 37. Meschal St. Amour | Ministry |
| 38. Delano Allen | State Rep Office of Bobby Powell Jr |

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|------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 39. Tradrick McCoy | State Rep Office of Bobby Powell Jr |
| 40. Dora Godd | PBC School District |
| 41. Ramsay Bulkeley | PBC Code Enforcement |
| 42. Houston Tate | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 43. Ruth Mognuillansky | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 44. William Wynn | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 45. Chrystal Mathews | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 46. Derrek Moore | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 47. Michelle Dryer | |

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Houston Tate called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and asked the group to introduce themselves.

II. Department Updates

Michael Owens-Palm Beach County School District

- Mr. Owens reported that PBC School has begun.
- Mr. Owens also reported that the district has 1800 more students enrolled than last school year including Pre-K.
- Mr. Owens announced that two school modernization projects have been completed and the schools opened without issues. The schools are Gladeview Elementary located in Belle Glade and Rosenwald Elementary located in South Bay. He advised these two school modernization projects will be the districts last two large capitalization projects for a while.

Anna Stewart, Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County

- Ms. Stewart reported that the Drowning Prevention Coalition will be conducting land based water safety presentations for pre-school, elementary, middle and high school students. This free presentation is also made available to adults.
- Ms. Stewart also stated that during the presentation “how to escape a sinking vehicle when it goes into a body of water” will be discussed. This is the 3rd leading cause of drowning in Palm Beach County.
- The Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County staff is willing to come out and speak to any organization on the topic of drowning prevention at no cost.
- If anyone would like to learn more about the program please contact her at astewart@pbcgov.org.

Carol Clinton, Executive Director, Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group, Inc

- Ms. Clinton advised that their fall classes’ registration is being held the week of September 8th and the classes will begin the week of September 14th.
- Ms. Clinton advised the group that their annual block party will be held on Friday, September 18th. All parties are welcome to attend.

David Rafaidus, Senior Planner, Community Services

- Mr. Rafaidus reported that on Thursday, September 10th, the Community Advisory Committee will be meeting to discuss Health & Humans Services in the Glades, Seniors in Palm Beach County. In addition, there will be a presentation on the Abundant Community Initiative by Houston Tate, OCR Director.
- Mr. Rafaidus also stated that Community Services has approximately 12 million dollars that will be allocated for financial assisted agencies to provide services within Palm Beach County. The approval of this funding went before the Board of County Commissioners on September 8th.

Erica Whitfield, Palm Beach County School Board

- Ms. Whitfield stated that it was great to be back in attendance at the CCRT meeting.
- Ms. Whitfield asked all participants to contact her at erica.Whitfield@palmbeachschools.org if there are any questions about schools.

Tammy Fields, Director, Youth Services

- Ms. Fields advised hopefully by the next CCRT meeting there will be someone from her office permanently assigned to the CCRT.
- On September 30th, there will be a summit titled What Works. It's a summit about evidence based programs. The summit is being co-hosted by Youth Services, the Children's Services Council, PBC School District, United Way and Career Source. It will be held at the PBC Convention Center. It is a free event, and those interested in attending can register on the PBC Youth Services or the Children's Services Council websites.
- On October 3rd, Youth Services along with Parks & Recreation and OCR will be hosting the Glades Family Fun Fest from 10am – 2pm at Glades Pioneer Park located in Belle Glade.

Pam Nolan, Economic Development Specialist, Department of Economic Sustainability (DES)

- Ms. Nolan distributed brochures on the DES Micro Loan Program for start up businesses.

Casey Pranckun, Landscape Architect, Parks and Recreation (P&R)

- Ms. Pranckun reported that P&R is close to breaking ground for the playground at the Westgate Community Park and Recreation Center. Ground breaking will commence following the processing of the Davis-Bacon documents.
- Ms. Pranckun advised once the construction begins on the Westgate Park P&R will begin working on the Watergate Park. P&R has new construction documents for the Watergate Park.

Ms. Moguillansky inquired about a projected construction date for the Watergate Neighborhood Park. Ms. Pranckun advised that work will begin on the Watergate Park once the permitting process is completed. No tentative date was provided.

III. Presentation- Robert M. Avossa, Ed.D., Superintendent of the School District of Palm Beach County

Dr. Avossa stated that the community plays a significant role in public education, and he credits the community as the reason for his success. His belief is that communities win and lose together and that success that is created when one group is down and the other groups step up to help that group.

Dr. Avossa also stated that there are a lot of positive things going on in the school system but there are also a lot of things that need to be worked on as well.

Dr. Avossa advised that since he has been Superintendent he has engaged over 4000 people and what he has found overall is that all had much to say about the school system. Parents want more options for their kids, teachers feel undervalued and not appreciated. They have fallen behind with their pay.

The school district needs to come up with ways to better serve the students instead of the one size fit all approach.

The latest statistics show that only 50% of African-American males are graduating in Palm Beach County. The best way to change outcomes is to address the things that are not going well. The reason that kids are not being successful and are uncomfortable for different reasons must be addressed.

Dr. Avossa believes that from a cultural standpoint the district must work really hard making big feel small. There has got to be a place and space where the district cares deeply about every child. The district has to identify what success looks like for the school district. The district has launched an internal strategic planning process that involves staff and board members for their opinions on what does success look like. This will help identify what the districts goals should look like. The community must also help in this process. There must be a reasonable amount of goals that can be accomplished. This planning process will begin in January of

2016, and the district will launch the plan in February. This is the time when organizations can raise their hand and state to the district what the organization can do to help.

Dr. Avossa believes there is an over dependence on state and local assessments. More of working together to solve problems is needed.

Dr Avossa discussed his being made aware of the issue of so many absentees amongst bus drivers. To better understand some of the reasons, he met with a group of bus drivers and found some of the reasoning why so many days are being missed from work without pay by the drivers on a regular basis. After meeting with the drivers, Dr. Avossa found that most of the drivers had to miss a certain amount of days without pay so they could continue to receive housing assistance from HUD, and he feels that this may be one of the root causes that he can't get enough bus drivers to work. He is currently working with HUD and other agencies to see if there is a solution to this issue.

Dr. Avossa stated that he is working on recommendations to the Board of Education that will probably not be popular with adults but will be important for the children. He feels that some of the top teachers with incentives should be placed in some of the lower performing schools instead of putting new teachers with no experience in a school where there is already issues. New teachers typically do not reach their teaching potential for several years. This is what Dr. Avossa considers to be strategic staffing, bringing in strong teachers for other teachers to follow.

Dr. Avossa feels that organizations will be able to fit into the district strategic plan. The district will have a call to action to launch the plan.

Dr. Avossa stated we all need to work together to make sure the children of Palm Beach County have a world class education. There are great things going on in Palm Beach County; a new Palm Beach State College president, a new FAU president and a new County Administrator. Dr. Avossa stated the new leaders as well as him want to be forward thinking and strategic. They would like to create a five year strategic plan with fifteen to twenty things on the initiative side with three or four big goals. He also stated that he would like the community organizations to come together to reach these goals. Win or lose together!

Dr. Avossa thanked everyone for the things they do within the community, He also stated that he believes that we all have to be positive and should use our energy to be solution driven and to push systems whether it is the school system, government, criminal justice, etc. Our job as community partners is to push large organizations to do better and better.

In closing, Dr. Avossa stated that he is "relentless in his efforts to make sure that all kids have a world class education".

IV. Comments

Judy Traub, National Council of Jewish Women

The organization has a community service project called Kids Community Closet (KCC). They provide clothes to selected schools in emergency closets. They are currently located in eight schools within Palm Beach County about to open a ninth. The schools are selected based on the percentage of students that receive free and reduced lunch and aren't getting clothes from other sources.

Ms. Traub had questions that were read by Mr. Tate. The questions were:

- Does OCR or PBSO have storage space for the KCC inventory and other assisting organizations?
- What is already going on in the community in terms of improving education?
- What organizations, businesses, civic organizations and non-profits are involved in improving education?
- What other organizations might help and how can they be approached?

Mr. Tate advised that OCR staff met with Dr. Matthew Shoemaker, Area 3 Superintendent, PBC School District, with Dr. Joseph Lee, Asst Superintendent, PBC School District and Ms. June Eassa, Director of PBC School Districts Safe Schools. The group began reaching out to a number of organizations to figure out logistics and how to begin leveraging resources.

Dr. Avossa advised Ms. Traub to look into the Education Foundation. The Foundation is currently raising money for a store. He advised Ms. Traub to look into seeing if the KCC could put some of their clothing in the store for teachers that may have students that don't have uniforms and other items.

Mr. Tate advised the Education Foundation's first pilot project will be in the Glades area. He also stated that all the organizations should have a meeting to look at what each has to offer and how to better leverage resources.

Tammy Fields, Director of PBC Youth Services Department, commented that the school stores should also have hygiene products for the students to help deter bullying. This is another reason why children will not attend school. She also advised that Youth Services is creating a Youth Master Plan in conjunction with the school district and other partners. Youth Services will be reaching out to partners to be involved as they move forward with the Youth Master Plan.

Barbara Haider, One Love, One Community

One Love, One Community primarily operates in Title 1 schools providing clothing, shoes and hygiene products to students. These are primary items that students do not have and the primary reason for which they will not attend school or after school programs. There are many issues that arise within schools that hinder children from attending school. One Love, One Community is currently in five schools in Delray Beach and is in the process of looking at three more schools in the area (Boynton Beach and the Glades).

Cynthia Freedman, In Jacob Shoes

Ms. Friedman wanted to thank the OCR for inviting Jacob Shoes to the CCRT meeting. Ms. Freedman stated that Jacob Shoes began in 2009 providing shoes to children in the school district that were in need. Instead of providing shoes in any condition these shoes are new or barely worn. To insure hygiene, the worn shoes are washed, cleaned and sanitized by volunteers before given to any child. Ms. Freidman also advised that it would be an honor for Jacob Shoes to assist the school district in achieving its goals.

Chris Sapp, YMCA of South Palm Beach County

Mr. Sapp expressed that the YMCA is volunteer led and driven. The YMCA is currently involved in partnerships with PBC P&R, the Drowning Prevention Coalition, and over fifty schools in the district. The YMCA also does camps in Title 1 schools. Mr. Sapp also stated that the YMCA is very interested in partnerships and volunteering on a larger scale with other organizations.

Anna Stewart, Drowning Prevention Coalition (DPC)

Ms. Stewart stated that the DPC is a two person operation that goes into schools to provide water safety and drowning prevention information. Ms. Stewart also stated that swimming is the only sport that can save a child's life and so is learning how to swim. The DPC would like to work closer with the school district to implement some type of water safety program in the schools. DPC feels that the need to learn to swim is a life saving issue. Ms. Stewart feels that the DPC and the school district should meet to discuss drowning prevention.

Tammy Fields, Director, Youth Services Department

Mr. Tate mentioned that Youth Services has a wonderful mentorship program titled My Brother's Keepers (MBK) and asked Ms Fields to provide information on the program. Ms. Fields explained that My Brother's Keepers is an initiative started by President Obama for young men of color. Youth Services is charged with implementing the mentoring program within Palm Beach County.

She also explained that there are three ways that one can volunteer time as a mentor: a one on one mentoring (one child to mentor), group mentoring (more than one child at a time), and family mentoring. Youth Services is working with the United Way on the screening process of potential mentors. Any male that is interested in becoming a mentor or want more information should go to the Youth Services website at http://www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/brothers_keeper.htm . The goal is to have at least one thousand mentors by November of 2015.

Cynthia George, School District of Palm Beach County

Ms. George gave information on the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program Grants. These grants start at the federal level. The School District of Palm Beach County has more of these grants than any other school district in the state of Florida. The School District of Palm Beach County has six grants that serve twenty-nine Title 1 schools. These grants provide children and their families with opportunities they would not ordinarily be able to obtain.

David Rafaidus, Community Services

Mr. Rafaidus commented on the strategic plan mentioned by Dr. Avossa. Mr. Rafaidus wanted more details on this plan such as who will be involved, what roles each organization will play and how will it be implemented.

Erica Whitfield, Palm Beach County School Board, responded by stating that the School Board feels that the current strategic plan is not acceptable, and as a result, the district has hired an outside company to come in assist with the creation of a new strategic plan for school district.

Tammy Fields, Director of the PBC Youth Services Department responded that her department will assist in this effort as a result of their Youth Master Plan. She suggested that all those who have an interest in this type of initiative should take a look at the King County, Washington Youth Master Plan. The Youth Services Department wants to embark on a similar plan with the school district, United Way, CSC and Career Source. Recently there was a meeting held with several organizations. Each organization was asked to post their strategic plans and initiatives. After posting the plans, it was revealed that there is a lot of duplication of services. Implementing a Youth Maser Plan will reduce the duplication of efforts and help determine which organization should focus on what initiative(s). This plan will ultimately allow the sharing of information.

V. Resident Comments

Mary Johnson- Lantana Homes HOA

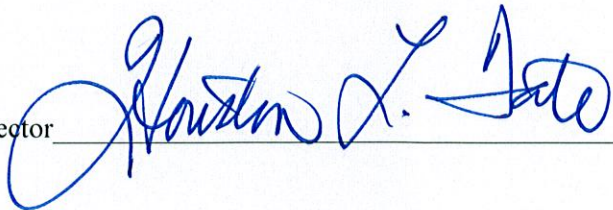
Ms. Johnson wanted to commend Dr. Avossa for being candid during his presentation and her interest of being involved with some project even if it is only on the social side. Ms. Johnson also expressed her concern regarding the need for more recreation for the children in her community.

VI. Follow-ups

N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director



10/5/2015