



**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: September 21, 2021  
 Location: WebEx Virtual Meeting

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

- |     |                           |   |
|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 1.  | Joanna Aiken              | Solid Waste Authority   |
| 2.  | Daisy Aguirre             | Belle Glade Resident  |
| 3.  | Myron Baa                 | Gramercy Park Resident  |
| 4.  | Mohan Baijnauth           | Limestone Creek Resident  |
| 5.  | Maya Hawk Booth           | Country Club Acres Resident   |
| 6.  | Jayme Bosio               | PBC Library System  |
| 7.  | Teesha Buddle             | Congresswoman Lois Frankel Florida's 21 <sup>st</sup> District Office |
| 8.  | Reginald Brown            | Florida Department of Health PBC                                      |
| 9.  | Marie Charleus            | Lantana Resident  |
| 10. | Marie Briene Estime       | San Castle Resident   |
| 11. | Bambi Fanto               | Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County                    |
| 12. | Deputy J. Fresneda        | PBSO  |
| 13. | Randee Gabriel            | 211   |
| 14. | Mary Ann Hernandez Gudiel | Florida Department of Health PBC                                      |
| 15. | Margaret Humphrey         | Lutheran Services Florida South Bay Early Head Start                  |
| 16. | Tammy Kausch              | Country Club Acres Resident   |
| 17. | Deputy S. King            | PBSO  |
| 18. | Leila                     |   |
| 19. | Chrystal Mathews          | PBC OCR   |
| 20. | Ruth Moguillansky         | PBC OCR   |
| 21. | Michael Owens             | School District of PBC  |
| 22. | Amber Pelish              | Country Club Acres Resident   |
| 23. | Sherry Praed              | Country Club Acres Resident   |
| 24. | Casey Pranckun            | PBC Parks & Recreation  |
| 25. | David Rafaidus            | PBC Community Services  |
| 26. | Dr. Merlene Ramnon        | Florida Department of Health PBC                                      |
| 27. | Audley Reid               | PBC OCR   |
| 28. | Eddie Rhodes              | Belle Glade Resident  |
| 29. | Edna Runner               | Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center  |
| 30. | Vivian Ryland             | PBC OCR   |
| 31. | George Schott             | PBC OCR   |
| 32. | Milory Senat              | Agency for Persons with Disabilities                                  |
| 33. | Sherry                    |   |
| 34. | Michael Sklar             | PBC Department of Housing and Economic Development                    |

|     |                    |  |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 35. | Anna Stewart       | Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County |
| 36. | Houston Tate       | PBC OCR  |
| 37. | Maria Thirbenny    | Woodcrest Resident                                 |
| 38. | Cornelia Wantz     | PBC Traffic Engineering                            |
| 39. | Deputy J. Williams | PBSO   |
| 40. | William Wynn       | PBC OCR  |

## MEETING MINUTES

### I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Houston Tate, OCR Director, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

George Schott, OCR Planning Technician, introduced the CCRT members.

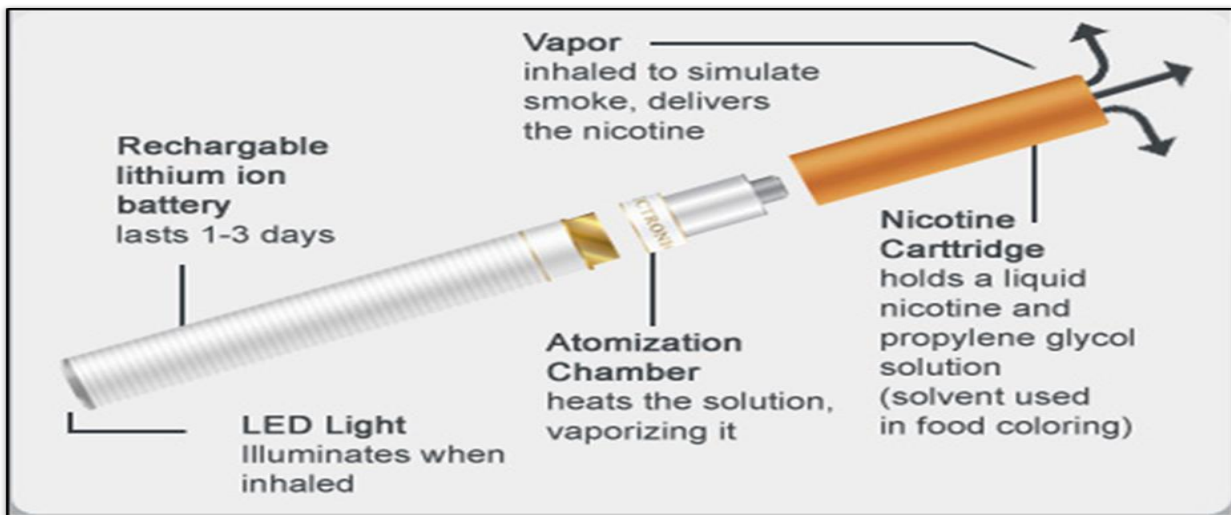
Mr. Tate introduced the speakers for the meeting Merlene Ramnon, Ph.D., Director, Community Health, Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County, Mary Ann Hernandez Gudiel and Reginald Brown, Community Health-Tobacco Free Florida

### II. PRESENTATION

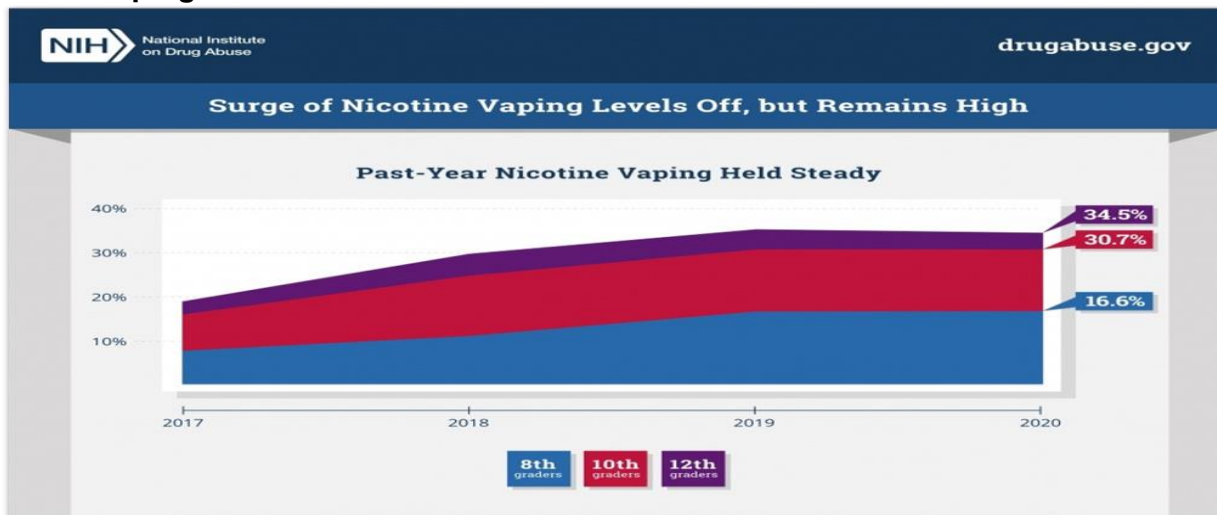
#### **Mary Ann Hernandez, Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County, Community Health-Tobacco Free Florida**

Dr. Ramnon introduced Mary Ann Hernandez Gudiel. Ms. Gudiel began her presentation by stating that youth and e-cigarettes have become an epidemic since 2017. Florida Department of Health has worked with many agencies but there is still a lot to do. Big tobacco companies are constantly trying to find ways to get to the youth. Students Working Against Tobacco is a statewide movement that advocates for the changing of policies.

- **What are E-Cigarettes?**
  - E-cigarettes devices were created in 1980. They were created with the intention to help adult smokers stop smoking. E-cigarettes have had the opposite effect on the youth.
- **What Exactly Are Electronic Vaping Products (EVP)?**
  - Personal vaporizers Electronic cigarette is the most common
  - Can be rechargeable or disposable
  - Battery operated devices made of plastic or metal and contain a cartridge filled with liquid
  - 1st, 2nd and 3rd generations



- **Health and Risk Implications**
  - Chronic Bronchitis, Pneumonia
  - “Popcorn Lung”
  - Decreased immunity
  - Increased risk of developing heart disease, high blood pressure, and cancer
  - Nicotine Dependence and Addiction
- **Nicotine effect on the developing teenage brain.**
  - Brain development is affected
  - Attention disorders like ADHD can be present.
  - Impulse control issues
  - Increase the risk for future addiction to other drugs
  - Mood disorders
- **Vaping and COVID-19**
  - Suppresses immune function in the lungs.
  - Higher risk of getting lung and chest infections
  - Higher risk of dying from respiratory infections.
- **CDC - 1 in 5 High School Students reported using e-Cigarette in 2020.**
- **Vaping Use in Youth**



- FTYS 2020-Florida

**Florida Youth Ages 11-17: 2014 - 2020**

| PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH WHO HAVE  | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2014 - 2020       |                   |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
|   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Percentage change | Percentage change |
| Ever tried cigarettes   | 17.5 | 14.9 | 13.7 | 12.7 | 11.4 | 9.5  | 10.3 | 41.1              | ▼                 |
| Ever tried cigars   | 12.7 | 10.7 | 9.0  | 7.9  | 8.0  | 6.5  | 6.7  | 47.2              | ▼                 |
| Ever tried smokeless tobacco  | 6.1  | 5.5  | 5.0  | 4.1  | 4.4  | 3.7  | 3.7  | 39.3              | ▼                 |
| Ever tried hookah   | 14.1 | 14.1 | 15.3 | 12.6 | 9.3  | 7.0  | 6.0  | 57.4              | ▼                 |
| Ever tried electronic vaping  | 14.3 | 26.2 | 24.5 | 22.3 | 26.3 | 27.9 | 26.4 | 84.6              | ▲                 |
| Ever tried flavored cigarettes or flavored cigars                         | 10.8 | 9.4  | 8.1  | 6.8  | 6.6  | 4.8  | 5.6  | 48.1              | ▼                 |
| Ever tried cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco                       | 23.4 | 20.5 | 18.5 | 17.1 | 16.6 | 14.3 | 15.1 | 35.5              | ▼                 |
| Ever tried cigarettes, cigars, smokeless, hookah, or electronic vaping    | 30.6 | 35.5 | 32.7 | 30.3 | 33.1 | 34.3 | 32.5 | 6.2               | ▲                 |
| Ever tried inhaled nicotine product*                                      | 30.1 | 35.1 | 32.1 | 29.9 | 32.6 | 33.6 | 32.1 | 6.6               | ▲                 |
| <b>PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH WHO</b>  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                   |                   |
| Currently use cigarettes  | 4.3  | 3.8  | 3.0  | 2.5  | 2.2  | 1.5  | 1.5  | 65.1              | ▼                 |
| Currently use cigars  | 5.4  | 5.0  | 3.4  | 2.7  | 3.0  | 2.2  | 2.5  | 53.7              | ▼                 |
| Currently use smokeless tobacco   | 3.3  | 2.8  | 2.2  | 1.8  | 1.7  | 1.2  | 1.3  | 60.6              | ▼                 |
| Currently use hookah  | 7.1  | 6.3  | 4.8  | 3.8  | 3.0  | 2.4  | 2.3  | 67.6              | ▼                 |
| Currently use electronic vaping   | 7.2  | 10.9 | 11.6 | 9.8  | 15.7 | 16.6 | 14.5 | 101.4             | ▲                 |
| Currently use flavored cigarettes or flavored cigars                      | 4.6  | 4.1  | 3.3  | 2.9  | 3.0  | 2.0  | 2.8  | 39.1              | ▼                 |
| Currently use cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco                    | 9.2  | 8.2  | 6.3  | 5.1  | 5.2  | 3.8  | 4.1  | 55.4              | ▼                 |
| Currently use cigarettes, cigars, smokeless, hookah, or electronic vaping | 15.4 | 16.9 | 16.3 | 13.8 | 19.1 | 19.1 | 17.1 | 11.0              | ▲                 |
| Currently use inhaled nicotine product*                                   | 14.7 | 16.3 | 15.8 | 13.4 | 18.9 | 19.0 | 17.0 | 15.6              | ▲                 |

- FTYS 2020-Palm Beach County

| PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH WHO HAVE  | 2014   |       | 2016   |       | 2018   |       | 2020   |       |
|---|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
|   | County | State | County | State | County | State | County | State |
| Ever tried cigarettes   | 17.0%  | 17.5% | 9.7%   | 13.7% | 8.0%   | 11.4% | 10.3%  | 10.3% |
| Ever tried cigars   | 13.8%  | 12.8% | 7.1%   | 9.0%  | 7.4%   | 8.0%  | 6.1%   | 6.7%  |
| Ever tried smokeless tobacco  | 5.1%   | 6.1%  | 2.3%   | 5.0%  | 2.8%   | 4.4%  | 3.2%   | 3.7%  |
| Ever tried hookah   | 17.2%  | 14.1% | 18.0%  | 15.4% | 11.8%  | 9.3%  | 10.4%  | 6.0%  |
| Ever tried electronic vaping  | 13.8%  | 14.3% | 25.7%  | 24.5% | 28.8%  | 26.3% | 29.2%  | 26.4% |
| Ever tried cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco                       | 23.5%  | 23.4% | 14.2%  | 18.5% | 14.1%  | 16.6% | 13.8%  | 15.1% |
| Ever tried cigarettes, cigars, smokeless, hookah, or electronic vaping    | 31.5%  | 30.7% | 33.1%  | 32.8% | 35.0%  | 33.1% | 36.0%  | 32.5% |
| <b>PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH WHO</b>  |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |
| Currently use cigarettes  | 4.1%   | 4.3%  | 1.7%   | 3.0%  | 1.4%   | 2.2%  | 1.6%   | 1.5%  |
| Currently use cigars  | 5.8%   | 5.1%  | 2.4%   | 3.4%  | 2.8%   | 3.0%  | 2.1%   | 2.5%  |
| Currently use smokeless tobacco   | 3.1%   | 3.0%  | 1.1%   | 2.2%  | 0.7%   | 1.7%  | 1.7%   | 1.3%  |
| Currently use hookah  | 9.1%   | 7.1%  | 6.0%   | 4.8%  | 3.9%   | 3.0%  | 3.2%   | 2.3%  |
| Currently use electronic vaping   | 6.8%   | 7.2%  | 12.4%  | 11.6% | 17.9%  | 15.7% | 17.5%  | 14.5% |
| Currently use cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco                    | 9.1%   | 9.0%  | 3.8%   | 6.3%  | 3.9%   | 5.2%  | 4.0%   | 4.1%  |
| Currently use cigarettes, cigars, smokeless, hookah, or electronic vaping | 15.5%  | 15.3% | 15.8%  | 16.3% | 21.2%  | 19.1% | 20.5%  | 17.1% |

- Product Marketing



- **Marketing Tactics Are Similar to Those Used to Market Traditional Products**



- **The tobacco industry spends more than \$1 million/hour in marketing at the Point of Sale**
- **How can you help?**
  - Advocate
  - Educate the Community
  - POLICY CHANGE!
- **Contact Us**
  - Tobacco Free Florida [www.tobaccofreeflorida.com](http://www.tobaccofreeflorida.com)

\* **PowerPoint Presentation Available Upon Request**

**Questions/Comments:**

- Ms. Gudiel stated that Tobacco Free Florida are looking for partners to work with them. There are partnership meetings every quarter. The next meeting will be on September 22, 2021.
- Edna Runner thanked Reginald Brown for coming out to Jupiter High School to discuss tobacco, e-cigarettes and vaping.
- Bambi Fanto stated that she always thought that there was a clear distinction between tobacco and vaping. Is vaping more dangerous than smoking cigarettes? Mr. Brown replied that they cannot say with certainty that vaping is more safe than traditional cigarettes.
- Dr. Ramnon stated that when you have a distinction between vaping and tobacco they both contain nicotine. One way or the other it is not good. A person may favor one over the other because vaping looks cool. Teens are very visual and to them vaping looks cool.
- Ruth Moguillansky asked are there specific programs targeted to schools. Ms., Gudiel replied there is the Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) program. All the counties in the state of Florida have groups in schools and communities. In addition, the American Heart Association have programs within schools as well as other organizations.
- Mr. Brown shared two more resources the Tobacco Free Florida Quit Your Way program free of charge to anyone in the state of Florida and the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) a free of charge program.
- Ms. Gudiel stated that they collect data by doing cleanups in parks. There are 4.5 trillion cigarettes buds littered every year around the world. Now disposable e-cigarettes are being littered as well.

- Deputy Williams asked is there any knowledge of vaping being connected to smoking hookahs. Ms. Gudiel replied that the nicotine in vaping devices is like the starting point. Hookahs is included in tobacco products.
- Mohan Baijnauth asked is vaping addictive. Dr. Ramnon replied that there is a lot of evidence based to show whether vaping is nicotine addictive. This is why awareness is brought to teens to help assist them in moving away from vaping. Education and understanding has to be provided to teens to let them know that all these products whether it is vaping or cigarettes they are all chemicals and chemicals harm the body. Before COVID, there were kids on ventilators from vaping and tobacco.
- Mohan Baijnauth asked is there any documentation showing the damage vaping can do like popcorn lungs? Ms. Gudiel replied that these products are so new they do not have evidence yet about second hand smoke from the vaping products.
- George Schott asked about the decline in cigarette use. Mr. Brown replied stated that they have seen a decline in traditional tobacco products mainly because of the difference in marketing because vaping is up and trending. Vaping marketing is attractive and targeted towards teens.

### III. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- David Rafaidus, PBC Community Service
  - Mr. Rafaidus advised that this will be his last CCRT meeting because he is retiring after almost 35 years on September 30, 2021.
- Anna Stewart, Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC
  - October 1, 2021 the free reduce class swim program will begin for children ages 2-12 as well as their immediate caregiver. Interested persons should apply online starting October 1, 2021.
  - Virtual programming for water safety and drowning prevention is still ongoing
  - A free presentation on how to escape a sinking vehicle and the ABCDs of water safety can be done at a communities request
- Bambi Fanto, Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC
  - Ms. Fanto stated that she is available to do a presentation for schools, daycares, businesses and communities. The presentation can also be done in Spanish.
- Cornelia Wantz, PBC Traffic Engineering
  - Ms. Wantz stated they are working with OCR on the Country Club Acres CCRT area speed hump project. Currently working on getting the petitions and map finalized.
- Joanna Aiken, SWA
  - During the month of August over 1,000 gallons of paint was donated to residents
  - There have also been Rebuilding Together projects
  - Through PYHO, homes were recently painted in Gramercy Park, Cabana Colony and Seminole Manor
- Jayme Bosio, PBC Library System
  - Libraries still have on site Community Services staff helping with applications for rental assistance and utility assistance from 10am -4pm Monday through Friday
  - Virtual story time and activities are still being offered through the libraries

- The Wellington branch library is scheduled to reopen in November 2021. Once there is a definite date, it will be posted on the library website.
- The Lantana branch library may reopen in December 2021. Once there is a definite date, it will be posted on the library website.
- Michael Owens, School District of PBC
  - Concerning COVID there is a dashboard on the school district's website that gives daily updated information.
  - After being closed for modernization Melaleuca Elementary is scheduled for an August 2023 reopening
  - Pine Grove Elementary is set for modernization and is scheduled for an August 2023 reopening
  - George Schott asked about the Devious Lick challenge where students are destroying bathrooms. How has this affected PBC schools? Michael Owens replied that he has never heard of this but will research it.
- Michael Sklar, Housing and Economic Development
  - SHIP program opened on September 20, 2021 for purchase assistance, utility connection, foreclosure prevention and owner occupied rehabilitation. The rehabilitation is open only for seniors and veterans up to \$75,000 in repairs.
  - Ruth Moguillansky asked could people begin to apply. Mr. Sklar stated yes.
  - Ms. Moguillansky asked how long the process is. Mr. Sklar replied if a person has all the documentation that has needed it could take approximately two weeks.
  - Ms. Moguillansky asked does a person have to have a property chosen to apply for funding assistance. Mr. Sklar replied that the person has to have a mortgage first. Purchase assistance is a second mortgage, forgivable loan after 30 years. The maximum assessed value of the home must not exceed \$331,000. The home can be a single family home, townhouse, villa, duplex or condominium cannot be a manufactured home. The number of applications is limited to the first 100 eligible applicants, meaning the person has all the needed documentation. Rehab it is the first 50 eligible applicants and with foreclosure prevention it is the first 35 eligible applicants.
- Casey Pranckun, PBC Parks & Recreation
  - George Schott asked about the status of the park in CAM Estates. Ms. Pranckun stated that the park site between WUD and CAM Estates (Paulette Burdick park) is on hold at this time

#### IV. OCR UPDATES

- Vivian Ryland, Senior Planner
  - There is a new program called the Resident Empowerment Program. It is a training program comprised of 7 sessions, which was slated to be in person and interactive but due to COVID the classes are virtual. There has been two classes thus far. The idea of the classes is to educate residents how to organize, how to be a leader, how to advocate for your community and what are the county resources. The next session will be on September 25, 2021 from 9am -11am on "building your volunteer base". The October 9, 2021 session will be "be prepared be safe".
- Audley Reid, Senior Planner
  - OCR is working on revising the speed hump petition to make it more user friendly.

- OCR is beginning the work on a speed hump project in Melaleuca Lane
- A speed hump agenda item for three projects will be going before the BCC for approval on October 5, 2021.
- Sky Ranches Estates area has shown interest in a speed hump project.
  
- Chrystal Mathews, Senior Planner
  - Ten NEAT grants for FY 2022 were approved by the BCC on September 14, 2021. This grant cycle will run one year from the BCC approval date.
  - \$150,000 is allocated yearly for the NEAT grant program with a \$10,000 limit per grant.
  - Currently working on the CCRT reassessment.
  
- William Wynn, Senior Planner
  - Seminole Manor street lighting project will go before the BCC on October 5, 2021 for approval.
  
- Ruth Moguillansky, OCR Principal Planner
  - OCR is currently working on implementing the Home Improvement Program (HIP). The HIP Program assists Palm Beach County Homeowners in designated CCRT areas with exterior and interior home repairs, to specifically address or alleviate Code Violations, which are owned and occupied by current residents making less than 80% of Palm Beach County's Area Median Income (AM). The goal is to assist low-income homeowners in need, while increasing neighborhood livability, safety, and ultimately real estate values. Eligible HIP improvements may include roofing, minor structural repairs, electrical work, handicap accessibility modifications) plumbing and some exterior improvements. HIP repairs will range in cost up to \$20,000 for repairs.
  - On October 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> OCR staff along with two CCRT area residents will be attending Reconnect! Making Community Essential an online gathering lead by the Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement. It will bring together government, businesses and community leaders from all across the United States to generate solutions. This will also consist of master classes. A Community-Based COVID Recovery, Innovative Municipalities Strengthening Community and Building Resilience, Asset-Based Community Development and Building a Neighborhood Strategy to Reconnect Community

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director \_\_\_\_\_