

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION**

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Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting
Facilitator: Houston Tate, Director
Minutes Prepared by: Audley G. Reid, Senior Planner
Date/Time: November 10, 2015, 10:00-11:30 AM
Location: Palm Beach State College, Public Safety Training Complex,
4200 S. Congress Avenue, Lake Worth, FL 33461

Meeting Attendance:

1. Joanna Aiken	Solid Waste Authority
2. Sargent James Hightower	PBC Sheriff's Office
3. Casey Prancun	PBC Parks & Recreation
4. Michael Owens	PBC School District
5. Ava Parker	President, Palm Beach State College
6. Ramsey Bulkeley	PZ&B Code Enforcement Division
7. Richard Torrence	PZ&B Code Enforcement Division
8. Kenny Willson	Florida Department of Health Palm Beach
9. Debbie Bester	Memory Trees Corp
10. Rudi Bester	Memory Trees Corp
11. Sergeant Angelo	PBC Sheriff's Office
12. Deputy Barricklow	PBC Sheriff's Office
13. Deputy Ellis	PBC Sheriff's Office
14. Deputy Diejuste	PBC Sheriff's Office
15. Deputy Landa	PBC Sheriff's Office
16. Deputy Cullen	PBC Sheriff's Office
17. Deputy Harper	PBC Sheriff's Office
18. Deputy DeLaura	PBC Sheriff's Office
19. Isabelle Philippe-Auguste	Florida Department of Health
20. Quinn Hayes	Florida Department of Health Palm Beach
21. Thomas Totz	Plantation Community
22. Sarah Vizcarrondo	Light House of Hope
23. Laura Martinez	San Castle Community
24. Robin Rance-Hoffman	Commissioner Burdick's Office
25. Audley Reid	PBC Office of Community Revitalization
26. William Wynn	PBC Office of Community Revitalization
27. Chrystal Matthews	PBC Office of Community Revitalization
28. Tammy Fields	Director, PBC Department of Youth Services
29. Anne Helfant	PBC, County Attorney's Office
30. Melanie Borkowski	PBC Department of Economic Sustainability
31. Pam Nolan	PBC Department of Economic Sustainability
32. Ginger Peterson	Academic Affairs, PBSC
33. Erin Mocloskey	Communications, PBSC
34. Peter Barbadas	Student Affairs, PBSC

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| 35. Kevin Fernander | Counsel, PBSC |
| 36. Wayne Padgett | Pastor, Crossroads Baptist Church, Gramercy Park |
| 37. Mark Parks | Director of Finance, City of West Palm Beach |
| 38. Hazel Lucas | Florida Legal Services, Managing Attorney |

Meeting Minutes

- I. Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Tate called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. He welcomed all attendees and stated that this is a special meeting of the CCRT group specifically to hear from the President of Palm Beach State College, Ava L. Parker, and to ask any relevant questions they might have regarding PBSC during the course of the discussion. He asked the group to introduce themselves and encouraged the attending groups to talk about their respective programs and goals.

II. Department Updates

Tammy Fields, PBC Youth Services Dept. representative, reported the following:

- They will be posting on the Youth Services website videos of evidenced-based programming that can be used as a learning tool for issues that social service organizations may find useful.
- Rudi and Debbie Bester were acknowledged for their participation and assistance at the High Ridge Family Center. Volunteers and students organized a total of 8 gardens. The service by the Besters was at no-charge to PBC.
- Houston Tate, OCR Director, commented that the Gramercy Park CCRT leadership might consider utilizing these same services for their area.

Joanna Aiken, PBC Solid Waste Authority representative, reported the following:

- SWA with help from R. Moguillansky, OCR Principal Planner conducted a house inspection for a military veteran resident as part of a Paint Your Heart Out home rehabilitation program for veterans.
- J. Aiken also stated that SWA is partnering with new organizations for future Adopt-A-Spot initiatives.

Chrystal Matthews, Senior Planner and OCR representative reported the following:

- The OCR Resident Education to Action Program (REAP) will begin in January 2016 in the Glades area with the program then switching to eastern PBC later into 2016. She then outlined the goals of the REAP program and what it entails.

III. Presentation- Ava L. Parker, J.D., President, Palm Beach State College

After an introduction from Houston Tate, President Parker welcomed all attendees to PBSC. She provided a comprehensive overview of PBSC and the myriad programs and services it offers to new, current, and continuing students. PBSC services approximately 48,000 students in Palm Beach County. She also commented on the State government's educational emphasis on STEM training and research and how PBSC has responded and taken on the challenge of equipping students with practical skills and education. PBSC offers a number of degrees in various fields, however, President Parker emphasized that there is now an applied sciences with an emphasis on "hands-on learning" and training that new and continuing students can apply to their careers and work field.

President Parker also stated that PBSC offers Post-Secondary Adult Vocational Programs (PSAV), which supports students interested in fields such as welding, auto mechanics, and HVAC specialties.

PBSC also offers an Associates of Arts Degree (A.A.), geared towards students who prefer a smaller classroom setting, or wants to establish a learning base in a teaching as opposed to a research environment before transferring to a research university setting.

PBSC has 4 campuses: Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens, and Belle Glade. PBSC is currently building a new campus located in Loxahatchee Groves opening in Fall of 2016.

The remainder of the CCRT meeting involved a question-and-answer session, as well as various representatives of organizations introducing themselves and speaking about opportunities for partnering with one other as well as with PBSC.

Q&A-Some of the questions and comments from the audience are shown below:

- Can someone speak to access issues to PBSC for students of immigrant, non-citizen background? The State of Florida passed a rule last year stating that as long as a student graduated from a Florida high school and attended that high school for at least two years, they would pay in-state tuition. However, undocumented students within this group would not be eligible for federal financial aid. PBSC has allocated some funds for scholarships, but the amount accounts for only a small portion of the in-state tuition fee. Other states have begun to address this funding gap via state-aid programs, however, Florida has yet to address it in this way.
- Cities are under financial strain over the past several years, is there a way for cities to partner with PBSC administrators to help guide students in our cities towards finding funding opportunities? There are some scholarships that are actually unutilized and there are some classes that have seats that are not filled. I (PBSC administrator) could work with you in your capacity as a representative from West Palm Beach to advertise these types of opportunities for potential students.
- In keeping with the theme of assisting high school students to gain access to colleges and universities, the Drop Back In program allows high school students to take a 13th Year of high school in lieu of working towards a Certificate of Completion. Florida Legal Services has assisted students in taking advantage of this program. Florida Legal Services also offers assistance with garnishment as well as expungement issues, free of charge, to students and other individuals.
- RICO Scholarship Foundation is an organization that assists students in obtaining academic and athletic scholarships to universities. In 2015, 3 university-bound students assisted by RICO gained access to PBSC. RICO focuses on working with low-income students and students from single-family households. RICO is ready to partner with other like-minded organizations, including PBSC, to assist and mentoring economically challenged students who would like to attend college and university. The focus is primarily on empowering young inner-city men by utilizing effective and innovative approaches that enhance their quality of life. ICI would like to partner with PBSC and other groups interested in addressing inner-city issues.
- Healthier Jupiter is an organization that focuses on 3 topics: diabetes prevention, family care giving, and behavioral health. The organization works in Riviera Beach, Delray Beach, Jupiter, the Glades, Lake Worth and Boynton Beach. To learn more information about the work that Healthier Jupiter does, individuals can go to HealthierTogetherpbc.org. The organization is funded by Palm HealthCare Foundation.
- The Florida Dept. of Health-Healthy Communities initiatives would like to work with other groups, including those associated with PBSC, to encourage young people, young adults to get involved in

the Healthy Communities program and to have them participate in strategies that improve the health of PBC neighborhoods.

- The Urban League of Palm Beach County offers over 18 programs including the Financial Empowerment Center. This program focuses on personal and family budgeting, money management, and building wealth. The initiative also includes credit counseling. All of these services are free of charge.
- Florida Training Services, a partner with the PBC School District, provides apprenticeship training. Currently, there are two apprenticeship programs, one in Riviera Beach and the other in Belle Glade. Apprentices are offered training in 6 fields of construction. The focus is on apprentices that have no more than a GED or high-school diploma, or neither. The program does not exclude individuals who were formerly incarcerated. This program provides a pathway to education for those who traditionally may have been excluded.
- Inner-City Innovators is an organization that provides indigenous leadership that deals with the challenges facing inner-city communities. ICI acts as a liaison between new and existing organizations that work in inner-cities and community residents. ICI assists these organizations to establish trust and linkages with community residents.
- The First Tee of Palm Beach and Treasure Coast organization encourages character building and healthy habits among young people through the game of golf. First Tee works with young people ages 8 through 14 and would like to meet with individuals who are interested in linking young people with First Tee.
- Are there any programs at PBSC that provide mentoring and support for girls in middle school thinking about going to college? No, this is not something that PBSC currently offers; however, the possibility of offering some type of career counseling has been mentioned. At this time, if your organization has an existing program, then exchanging contact information with personnel at PBSC may be the best way to begin communicating on this issue.
- Where does Dr. Parker think education as a general issue is going in the state of Florida? Florida Governor Rick Scott is of the view that education should be geared towards maximizing job production. This includes ensuring that students in high school who may not want to go on to college are being educated in a way that leads them to obtaining jobs after graduating high school. For PBSC and other collegiate institutions, "performance funding metrics" are utilized to provide evidence that graduates are obtaining employment in their respective fields. Fields geared towards experiential learning are less of an emphasis in comparison to fields that fit within these performance metrics. The State actively encourages educators at all levels to speak with students, current or prospective, about which fields hold the most opportunity for immediate employment upon graduation. PBSC and other colleges and universities have responded accordingly by emphasizing fields within STEM areas. There is also encouragement by the State for more online education. Again, PBSC has responded to this charge, while at the same time recognizing the importance of face to face and in class education for many of our students. PBSC will continue to offer opportunities to our students utilizing both of these approaches. Finally, the State has encouraged higher education to remain as affordable as possible.

For more information regarding the presentation of President Parker and the proceedings of this CCRT meeting, please contact OCR staff.

IV. New Business

Ruth Moguillansky stated 1) that there will be no OCR staff reports during this special session of the CCRT, and 2) congratulated OCR Director, Houston Tate for receiving a Community Giants Award from the Inner City Golf Association. The award will be provided to Mr. Tate on December 5th.

Mr. Tate Thanked President Parker for her time and presentation, and Thanked all attendees for their time. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director

