



PALM BEACH COUNTY 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, OCR Senior Planner
 Date/Time: October 10, 2023
 Location: 2300 N Jog Rd., Room 1E-60, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

MEETING ATTENDANCE

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| 1. | Alexa Lee | Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition |
| 2. | Amy Chamberlain | Office of Kelly Skidmore, Florida House of Representative |
| 3. | Angela Cleare | Haverhill East Resident |
| 4. | Angenitta Ward | Florida D of 9CF, My Florida Families |
| 5. | Audley Reid | PBC OCR |
| 6. | Belinda Gilbert | Haverhill East Resident |
| 7. | Christine Pelaez-Pena | Epilepsy Alliance Florida |
| 8. | Claire Clum | Boca Museum |
| 9. | Deborah Morgan | Palm Beach Harvest |
| 10. | Elizabeth Gonzalez | PBC Code Enforcement |
| 11. | Fadi Nassar | PBC Traffic Engineering |
| 12. | George Schott | PBC OCR |
| 13. | Gwynne Gonzalez | Office of Kelly Skidmore, Florida House of Representative |
| 14. | Houston Tate | PBC OCR |
| 15. | Jenn Beckett | Lake Belvedere Estates Resident |
| 16. | Johnny Gillins | CAM Estates Resident |
| 17. | Kamiol Segarra | Take Stock in Children Palm Beach County |
| 18. | Katharine King | CAM Estates Resident |
| 19. | Keith Clinkscale | PBC OFMB |
| 20. | Kimberly Briard | Take Stock in Children Palm Beach County |
| 21. | Larry Caraccio | PBC Code Enforcement |
| 22. | Larry Diegert | Plantation Area Resident |
| 23. | Linda Shaifer | Epilepsy Alliance Florida |
| 24. | Margaret Bess | Haverhill East Resident |
| 25. | Michael Owens | School District of PBC |
| 26. | Michael Sklar | PBC HED |
| 27. | Mike Moore | CAM Estates Resident |
| 28. | Mohan Baijnauth | Limestone Creek Resident |
| 29. | Nerlande Delice | Florida Department of Education |
| 30. | Rae Milmore | ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge |
| 31. | Richard Padgett | PBC Code Enforcement |
| 32. | Rick Torrance | PBC Code Enforcement |

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| 33. | Rose Armstrong | |
| 34. | Samantha Corr | PBC ERM |
| 35. | Shaterrica Jones | |
| 36. | Sherika Perez | Florida Department of Education |
| 37. | Sherry McCorkle | South Florida Water Management District |
| 38. | Steve West | The IN-CROWD |
| 39. | Tanya Bostic | SWA |
| 40. | William Wynn | PBC OCR |

MEETING MINUTES

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Houston Tate, OCR Director, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. George Schott, OCR, introduced the CCRT members. Mr. Tate introduced OCR staff and the presenter **Kamil Segarra, Mentor Manager, Take Stock in Children Palm Beach County**.

II. PRESENTATION

Kamil Segarra began her presentation by thanking the CCRT for inviting Take Stock in Children to present. Ms. Segarra introduced Kimberly Briard also a Mentor Manager with Take Stock in Children Palm Beach County.

Program Overview

Take Stock in Children Palm Beach County achieves success through an innovative multi-year program model of one-on-one mentoring, college readiness, accountability, and a guaranteed 2-year college scholarship.

How It Works

- The target population is under-resourced at-risk youth with 2 or more risk factors from the ages of 12-25 from the 6th grade - post secondary education.
- The selection process includes student that receives free/reduced lunch along with a selection committee that interview the students for the program.
- The length of service is from middle school to high school (4 Years) and college retention (3-4 years)
- The output of the program includes one-on-one mentoring, college readiness coaching, FL Prepaid Scholarships and college retention services

Program Recognition

- Non-Profit First - We are accredited as "excellence level" for our handling of confidential client files and commitment to transparency
- Florida Legislature - Take Stock in Children is recognized by the Office of Public Policy and Government Affairs (OPPAGA) as a flagship-mentoring program, outperforming its peers in all seven categories measured.
- Harvard Study - Statistical analysis was performed by Harvard Students in September 2014. Their findings indicated a statistically significant difference between students in the control group and Take Stock students on several indicators tested.
- University of Florida - In 2017 UF conducted a statistical analysis in which Take Stock in Children proved to have a statistically significant impact on all students, especially those of color.
- Luminary Evaluation Group - Take Stock in Children achieved or exceeded all grant-

funded outcomes for the 2019-2020 school year, despite the global COVID-19 pandemic. Outcomes measured include student enrollment, mentor matches, mentor recruitment & and training, mentor/mentee meetings, college success coaching, college readiness workshops, student academic performance, student school attendance, graduation rates, and program sustainability. This achievement was made despite the devastating impact caused by the pandemic. Upon the adoption of social distancing guidelines and school closures in March 2020, Take Stock in Children reacted quickly, moving all services to a virtual approach and creating a proprietary mentoring app.

- National Student Clearinghouse - The “COVID-19 Special Analysis” report from the National Student Clearinghouse found that low-income students experienced an enrollment decline of 11%. In comparison, graduates of the Take Stock in Children program experienced only an 8% decline in college enrollment. Further reporting using National Student Clearinghouse data indicated there was no decline in college graduation rates for those students being targeted for support services as part of our postsecondary degree attainment College Retention program compared to pre-COVID performance.

* A copy of the full presentation is included as an attachment.

III. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Houston Tate, PBC OCR asked about the students who do not have the qualifying GPA. Is there any way can they qualify for the program? Ms. Segarra replied that Take Stock has a high standard. Ms Briard stated that if a student does not qualify financially the student is not looked at any further. The program is for students who are under-resourced and do not have the means to potentially go to college and need the services provided. If a student interviews well but falls short with their GPA the student will be held for the next quarter to see if the grades improve before being accepted into the program.
- George Schott, PBC OCR asked if the program is available for private schools. Ms. Briard replied as of now the program is for public school students only.
- Keith Clinkscale, PBC OFMB asked if there is a way a person could become a mentor virtually. Ms. Segarra replied yes, that there are virtual mentors in the program.
- Michael Owens, School District asked if a person signs up to be a mentor in a certain area of the county. Ms. Briard replied yes, on the application, a person can select what area(s) they would like to mentor.
- Ms. Briard mentioned that male mentors are in demand. There are Zoom virtual orientations being held on October 10th at 5:30 p.m., the 12th at 9:00 a.m. and the 19th at 5:30 p.m. RSVP at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWqxnZoy57ZbKzc8qSqONjGA3BilKKwc4MgyQ_YRLysuikUw/viewform
- Steve West advised that The IN-CROWD does business with the school system as well and the mentors cannot mentor if they are out of state. Is it the same for Take Stock In Children? Ms. Briard advised that Take Stock In Children have an MOU with the school district, which allows their mentors to be volunteers of the school district. The mentors while on a school campus must comply with whatever rules the school has in place. Take Stock In Children mentors are allowed to mentor virtually from out of town and out of state through their monitored app.

- Ms. Segarra advised that the program run from August through May. Take Stock In Children is always looking for new mentors. The new student orientation will be on November 1st. Approximately 15 new mentors will be needed.

IV. OCR UPDATES

- Houston Tate advised that there would be a meeting with Lake Worth West and Traffic Engineering on October 12th in reference to the installation of a new sidewalk on Urquhart St.
- Houston Tate advised that the canal in Gramercy Park has been cleaned of debris and overgrowth by Road & Bridges
- George Schott stated that the Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition will be having a Ride the W.A.V.E. Youth Summit on October 14th from 9 am - 3 pm at the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, 2300 High Ridge Rd, Boynton Beach, FL 33426
- Houston Tate mentioned The IN-CROWD's Love Your Neighbor Program aimed at connecting neighbors with donors for the receipt and distribution of needed items and services. In 2022, The Board of County Commissioners presented a Proclamation declaring the week of February 13-19, 2022 as, "Love Your Neighbor Week".

V. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

➤ Michael Owens, School District

- Advised that the Melaleuca Elementary modernization will be completed after November of 2023 and the student will return from the holding school, Crestwood Middle School.
- Advised that the Wynnebrook Elementary modernization project is anticipated to begin in January of 2024 and is anticipated to be completed by August 2025. During this modernization period, the students will be at the holding school, Crestwood Middle School.

➤ Michael Sklar, PBC HED

- Advised that on October 10th at 8:00 am HED opened up the application for the First Time Homebuyer Program for the first 50 applicants. The application portal closed on the same day with 50 applications received.

➤ Samantha Corr, PBC ERM

- Monthly Trash Cleanups at Palm Beach County's Natural Areas
 - Palm Beach County acquired over 31,000 acres of conservation lands and preserved them as some of the last places to enjoy passive, nature-based activities such as hiking, bird watching, and environmental education. To visit the natural areas are free and open to the public 365 days a year sunrise to sunset. For more details on the natural areas visit pbcnaturalareas.com
- ERM manages these natural areas and oversees the restoration and maintenance of the land. ERM has a Volunteer Program designed to help keep these properties litter-free by holding clean-up events monthly. If anyone needs community service hours or volunteer hours, ERM can accommodate the needs! To see when the next event is going to be, click [here](#)
- The following events are scheduled for October at natural areas near CCRT neighborhoods:
 - 10/11/2023 Volunteer Clean up Event at Winding Waters Natural Area (adjacent to Gramercy Park Neighborhood) 8 am - 11 am. For details click [here](#)

- 10/18/2023 Volunteer Clean up Event at Hypoluxo Scrub Natural Area (adjacent to Sandcastle Neighborhood) 8 am - 11 am. For details click [here](#)
- LagoonFest Saturday, November 4, 2023
 - Bring the entire family out to enjoy a day of fun with educational activities and find your connection to our natural treasure - Lake Worth Lagoon Estuary - along the West Palm Beach Waterfront. This free event focuses on Palm Beach County's largest estuary that spans 20 miles from Ocean Ridge north to North Palm Beach and features wildlife presentations, scientist-guided tours of the estuary, exhibitor booths, demonstrations, a Kids Zone with face painting, lawn games, kids casting, gopher tortoise burrow, artful crafts and more. To see more about this event, click here.
 - ERM is looking for volunteers to help staff the Kids Zone area and will provide community service hours. If you are interested, please contact Samantha Corr at scorr@pbcgov.org or 561-233-2455.

VI. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Katharine King, CAM Estates resident Code Enforcement concerns in the CAM Estates CCRT area community.
 - C-2023-09190018 1148 Cameo Cir. – Tree overhanging the stop sign. Richard Padgett, PBC Code Enforcement advised that the homeowner has been issued a Notice of Violation to remove the vegetation. The compliance date is November 5th.
 - C-2023-09190019 6092 Westover Rd. – School sign issue, Richard Padgett, PBC Code Enforcement advised that the homeowner has been issued a Notice of Violation to remove the vegetation. The compliance date is November 5th.
 - C-2023-09250020 1273 Fair Green Rd. - Tree blocking Stop sign, Richard Padgett, PBC Code Enforcement advised that the homeowner has been issued a Notice of Violation to remove the vegetation. The compliance date is November 5th.
- In reference to the light pole at the community's main entrance, Houston Tate advised that OCR staff is working to resolve this issue obtain the pole number, and will follow up with contacting FPL for pole permitting and bulb replacement.
- Inquired about the sidewalk on the west side of Fernlea Dr. being extended to Belvedere Rd. Fadi Nassar, Traffic Engineering advised that a study will have to take place before any decision can be made on installing a sidewalk.
- Mentioned a dead tree in the center median north of Fernlea Dr. on Brian Way that needs to be removed. Also, a large tree by the main entrance possibility on county property needs to be trimmed or removed. Houston Tate advised that the first thing that will be done is to find out who owns the trees because of the expensive cost of tree removal or trimming.
- In reference to the lawn, care at the community's main entrance on county property. Houston Tate advised that this issue has not been addressed as of yet but has not been overlooked.
- Belinda Gilbert, a Haverhill East resident inquired about the increasing of police present in her neighborhood. Houston Tate replied that he would send PBSO an email with her concerns.
 - Upon receipt of the complaint PBSO began an investigation. It was determined that

narcotics were being sold. A search warrant was drafted which resulted in arrest, and narcotics being seized along with firearms. It was determined that the traffic issue was from subjects purchasing narcotics. PBSO will notify PBC Code Enforcement to follow up and PBSO will continue to monitor the area.

- Angela Cleare, a Haverhill East resident stated that they are having standing water in the right-of-way and standing water in the backyards. Most homes in the neighborhood have septic tanks. There have been issues lately with the septic tanks because of the excessive amount of rain recently. Houston Tate asked for the specific street, and Ms. Cleare responded Pine Knott Ln. Mr. Tate requested her contact information and stated he would follow up with her by the end of the week.
- Larry Diegert, Plantation Area resident stated there is a large tree on county property that is affecting his septic tank. The tree is at 1011 Pineway Drive. Stated that he has spent over \$4,000 because of the tree. Also stated there is a streetlight that is not working at this address.
 - FPL researched the light abutting 1011 Pineway Drive. This is a Town of Haverhill account not a Palm Beach County account. They advised the Resident to call 1-800-4-Outage or report online at <https://www.fpl.com/myaccount/streetlight.html#landingView> [fpl.com]

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director _____