



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

ADDRESS: 2300 North Jog Rd
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
PHONE: (561) 233-5311
FAX: (561) 656-7963
E-MAIL: ocrnews@pbcgov.org
WEBSITE: <http://pbcgov.com/ocr>

Countywide Community Revitalization Team Minutes

Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting
Facilitator: Houston Tate, Director
Scribe (recorder): Derrek Moore, Senior Planner
Date/Time: October 13, 2015, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Location: 2300 N. Jog Road, Room 1E-60, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Meeting Attendance:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Sgt. Rich Angelo | Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) |
| 2. Rudi Bester | Memory Trees |
| 3. Debbie Bester | Memory Trees |
| 4. Melanie Borkowski | PBC DES |
| 5. Cynthia Freedman | In Jacob's Shoes |
| 6. Barbara Haider | One Love-One Community |
| 7. Anne Helfant | PBC Attorney's Office |
| 8. Hazel Lucas | Florida Rural Legal Services |
| 9. Jonetha Maness | PBC Youth Services Dept. |
| 10. Lana Martinez | San Castle Resident |
| 11. Chrystal Mathews | PBC OCR |
| 12. Patrick McNamara | Community Partners (Pres. & CEO) |
| 13. Ruth Mougillansky | PBC OCR Principal Planner |
| 14. Derrek Moore | PBC OCR |
| 15. Michael Owens | PBC School District |
| 16. Rev. Wayne Padgett | Crossroads Baptist Church Pastor |
| 17. Casey Prankun | PBC Parks & Recreation |
| 18. Robin Rance-Hoffman | PBC Commissioner Burdick's Office |
| 19. Audley Reid | PBC OCR |
| 20. Deputy Pierre Rouzeau | PBSO |
| 21. Houston Tate | PBC OCR Director |
| 22. Thomas Totz | Plantation Resident |
| 23. Ken Wilson | FL. Dept. of Health |
| 24. William Wynn | PBC OCR |
| 25. Lisa Wilson | PBC Commissioner McKinlay's Office |

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions:

Comments: Mr. Tate called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He greeted everyone and asked all of the attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Department Updates:

Mr. Tate welcomed the attendees and asked for the departmental updates:

- Mrs. Casey Pranckun, Parks & Recreation representative, stated that Parks & Recreation dept. has been working with OCR on some CDBG funding for playground surfacing for Haverhill Park. Some recent improvements at the park included: heart trail, playground equipment, pavement work, & playground surfacing to accompany the new playground equipment. Mr. Tate thanked Ms. Pranckun for being so responsive and getting things accomplished.

3. Presentation:

Mr. Tate introduced Mr. Patrick McNamara, President & CEO of Community Partners Group (CP). He read a portion of Mr. McNamara's biography from the publication flier distributed by OCR noticing the meeting. A copy of the flier with Mr. McNamara's bio is attached for your convenience. Mr. Tate expressed his sincere appreciation for the partnership and cooperation that OCR has received from Mr. McNamara. OCR has provided and received great support from Mr. McNamara and the organization that he serves for a number of years. Training has been received and provided to and by both organizations over the past years. It has been a great partnership. Below is a brief outline of the material and information that Mr. McNamara covered during his presentation:

He started by discussing "**The Odds**" & trying to change the odds. He quoted an author shown below:

"Imagine if Scientists discovered a toxic substance that increased the risks of cancer, diabetes and heart, lung, and liver disease for millions of people. Something that also increased one's risk for smoking, drug abuse, suicide, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence and depression – and simultaneously reduced the chances of succeeding in school, performing well on a job and maintaining stable relationships? It would be comparable to hazards like lead paint, tobacco smoke and mercury. We would do everything in our power to contain it and keep it far away from children right? Well, there is such a thing, but it's not a substance. It's been called toxic stress."
David Bornstein, Protecting Children From Toxic Stress, October 30, 2013 New York Times

The quote from Mr. Borestein's work led to Mr. McNamara's discussion about "Adverse Childhood Experiences" (ACEs). They cluster in low income communities; however they are not exclusive to low income communities. Over 70% of all communities have experienced an ACE at one time or another. A large part of Community Partner's goal and objective is to help bring awareness to communities of these issues and some of the science and issues that has come out about ACEs. He asked the audience how many of us have heard of ACEs. There were very few hands raised out of the 25 attendees at the meeting. He wants to make all of us aware of ACEs and the fact that we can do something about it.

There was a very expensive longitudinal study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control & Kaiser Permanente (Large insurance company out west) almost 20 years ago and replicated many times over the past years. ACEs is a relatively simple concept that falls into three main areas:

1. Abuse
2. Neglect &
3. Household Dysfunction

Mr. McNamara mentioned the "Dose response effect". If you've ever experienced physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect, you would count that as one for each type of instance; on a scale of one to ten. If you or your parents have experienced divorce, or either parent has experienced the criminal justice system, substance abuse issues, physical or mental health issue; anyone of these things count as one on a scale of zero to ten. There is a direct correlation between the higher number of ACEs and your health outcome. Persons with four ACEs or more are statistically more likely to suffer things like: heart disease, to have a much lower life span by as much as 30 years, to become future smokers, picking up tobacco other addictive related habits and behaviors, be involved in the criminal justice system; the list goes on and on. The study and list has been replicated and confirmed over and over again.

Mr. McNamara is a licensed Clinical Social Worker and has worked in this field for a number of years. He has done social work all of his adult life. The field has intuitively known these correlations, but now the data is in place to confirm the earlier unsubstantiated beliefs. Has everything to do with ACEs and the preponderance of ACEs. Most of the communities and ACEs problems are found in the communities that we are trying to revitalize.

Community Partners' Mission is "We partner with communities to change the odds for our children and families facing social, emotional, & financial adversity".

A gentleman by the name of Johnathan Rose, brilliant developer from New York, gave a lecture at Harvard University, last year. Some of his comments to people steeped in housing policy was as follows:

- He said housing is a necessary ground of a stable base from which well-being grows, but housing alone is insufficient to transform the lives of families of living with toxic stress, insecurity, high levels of neighborhood disorder and low levels of collective efficacy.

Improving the lives and healthy environments that our children are raised in will improve our communities.

Mr. McNamara expressed his appreciation of the opportunity to partner with the Office of Community Revitalization and the work that we have been able to do together. There is no accident that we work together. Focus was originally on the bricks and mortar of the community, but we have evolved into supporting many other aspects of the community. We focus on housing and financial empowerment services. We also focus on Community services and child and family and mental health services. A small and large pamphlet was distributed. The smaller pamphlet called "Committed to Changing the Odds. The three keys to a self-sustaining home are (we focus and concentrate on these three):

1. Socially & emotionally strong children
2. Engaged & empowered parents
3. Long-term financial stability

More self-sustaining homes mean more self-sustaining neighborhoods, which then means more promising opportunities for all of our children.

All of Community Partners' efforts and goals center around the above three items. CP has several partners:

One of the main or key partners is Children's Services Council (CSC) – primary supporter of Bridges (unique neighborhood centers). Bridges are placed in communities where there is a clear correlation of risk & poverty. The main thrust is focused on parenting & early childhood development. Much of the work is based on the trust of the community and looking and/or leaning on the residents for the answers. They have the answers for their communities. The solutions can only be arrived at through our partnership with the residents who ultimately come up with the answers to the problems in their communities. There is an approach called “touch point approach”. It honors the fact or approach that that child's parent knows the child better than anyone else. It helps the parent identify some of those touch points in their child's development. They can help accentuate the positive in those touch points. The people who attend or use the Bridges centers are not clients of the centers; they are members of the centers. It is a true partnership. We are not going in with answers. We are working with people to bring out and pull down the strengths that they already have.

Mr. McNamara discussed the partnership with OCR in the San Castle Community Center project and how that project has been a great partnership for CP & OCR. The grand opening is scheduled for November 7, 2015. Looking to building upon the assets of the neighborhood.

Mr. Tate commented about the ribbon cutting that he attended at Bridges of Belle Glade and how families talked about how the center saved their life and their children(s) lives. He gave kudos to Lake Worth West and thanked Mr. McNamara for the Neighborhood Works scholarship provided to him & Mrs. Mathews to go to Washington D.C. for their conference. The work being done by Community Partners has been tremendous throughout our communities.

Q&A – Some of the questions from the audience are shown below:

- Can you tell us more about the number of Bridges sites, the details of the work and services provided, and where they are located? There are 10 Bridges sites located across Palm Beach County. CP runs six (6) of them and the Children's Home Society (CHC) operates the other four (4). Bridges serves five (5) core functions: 1) Navigation, 2) Positive Parenting Coach (Triple P), 3) Healthy Beginnings Program (CSC) (Prenatal Care), 4) Outreach (Partner with all Childcare centers) (wait list is over 7,000), & 5) Family & Financial Literacy. He keeps hearing the African proverb: **“Whatever you do for me without me, you do to me”**.
- Does Community Partners assist with helping residents acquire home ownership? Yes, a great deal has been done to assist with foreclosures. Back in 2008, Community Partners began to assist with helping people keep their homes and have become experts in the foreclosure area. CP is still very active in assisting people become home owners.
- Does CP still assist with locating financing for residents to buy homes? Yes. Neighborworks America is a partner that assists with this area and we partner with some banks to provide support for residents to buy homes; however, there are limited funds available to match residents' dollars towards the purchase of a home. CP is working with the County on the Community Land Trust to try and ensure affordable housing and rentals are available in Palm Beach County. Just completed a partnership with a developer on a project in Evernia Place (corner of Evernia & Sapodilla). This is an 85 unit affordable apartment complex for senior citizens; 62 and over. CP is still involved in supporting asset building. CP helped 172 families, since 2007 with the purchase of homes. CP hasn't had one default! They also provide supportive housing for folks with disabilities.
- Do you provide home buyer training? Yes. CP provides homebuyer education & counseling.
- Who is the contact person for assistance with purchasing a home? Jessica Parrish is the V.P. of Housing.
- Iberia Bank is one of our partners and the only one that is offering down payment assistance to

prospective home buyers. It's not a whole lot, but it's something to assist the residents.

- Prosperity Centers assist with financial counseling and preparation to purchase a home. CP is moving towards nestling the Prosperity Centers within the Bridges locations.
- Does CP partner or work with or within any of the schools to provide assistance or support? Recently, Mr. McNamara met with Dr. Avossa to discuss continuing to work with PBC School District. CP provided mental health counseling in four schools that were lagging behind in graduation rates. Forest High School is one of those schools. Kids that have gotten mixed up into the Child welfare or juvenile justice system or at risk of dropping out of school.
- Do you offer the parents any support or assistance that may be having trouble with their kids or with assisting their kids in getting through school? Yes, CP offers the triple P program geared towards assisting the parents. CP offers workshops and provides individual assistance to parents.
- Is there a Bridges south of Boynton Beach? No. There is and has been some talk about opening a Bridges in Delray Beach.
- Mr. Tate reminded everyone to be sure to state their names for the recording. This will assist us in identifying who is asking the question(s) or speaking.
- Deputy Pierre Rouzeau commented on the work that PBSO has done with the Bridges group and he complimented Mr. McNamara and Jaime Lee-Brown on the work that they are doing in the communities. Mr. McNamara thanked Deputy Rouzeau for his kind words and thanked PBSO for their partnership, support, and community policing that is being done to improve the various communities throughout Palm Beach County. Mr. Tate commented about Mr. Pierre's support and speaking at one of our REAP meetings. He requested Deputy Pierre's assistance with getting the word out to the Haitian community about the grand opening on Nov. 7th and getting their support with our work in the San Castle community.
- What are some of the challenges that you see on the horizon for CP and in our communities? Identifying, mobilizing, and accessing the communities' human capital. "Child development is community development".
- Odds:
 1. Almost half of all of our children (42%) are being raised below the poverty line.
 2. Almost half (46%) of kids in our high risk low income areas are not kindergarten ready.
 3. Over half (52%) of Florida households are liquid asset poor (i.e, has less than 3 months of savings to fall back on in case of loss of job, health problem, etc..).
 4. Your zip code is much more indicative of your health outcome than your genetic code.
 5. Over half (57%) of children with mental health problems come from families living at or below the poverty line.
 6. Without intervention, 60% of our children are more likely to remain in crisis who are deficient in education, income, housing, nutrition, & good neighborhoods. The focal point is providing any sort of healing damage, toxic stress. Arming and building on the strengths and other factors already located in the community. When we focus on these areas, the parents turn the neighborhoods around on behalf of the children. He also commented about how

blessed we are in Palm Beach County with the blessings we do have in the County. The partners in Palm Beach County have made the work in Palm Beach County much easier.

OCR Staff Reports:

Mrs. Mathews announced the upcoming REAP workshop and asked everyone to be sure to take one of the fliers prepared and located on the table at the door. Mr. Tate & Ms. Ruth Moguillansky thanked Ms. Mathews for the wonderful job that she is doing with REAP. She invited everyone to take a flier and get prepared for the training and grant opportunities available through the REAP program.

It was also announced that Cabana Colony will be having their Fall Festival on Oct. 24, 2015. This event is being organized out of the Abundant Community Initiative (ACI) and planning efforts to bring neighbors together and work towards a more connected community.

There was also a reminder provided to everyone about our next CCRT meeting. President Ava Parker (PBSC) has invited the CCRT to PBSC for our next meeting. She will be our guest speaker and we want to encourage everyone to join us on PBSC main campus for this meeting. Bring friends and anyone that is interested in listening to the new campus President. Mr. Tate emphasized that we are not changing our focus; we're simply changing the location for this meetings. He also encouraged everyone to think about who we think should be invited to participate in the discussion with the President. He also encouraged everyone to take a look at our future speakers and let us know who you think we should be inviting to these meetings to join our discussions.

Mr. Wynn reported on his three upcoming street lighting agenda items: 1) Homes of Lantana, 2) Watergate Estates, & 3) Watergate Estates. Two are maintenance extension projects and one is an entire installation and maintenance project. Ms. Ruth and Mr. Tate thanked Mr. William Wynn for his hard work on the projects that he has been working on. A lot of time & effort has gone into getting these projects to this point. Mr. Tate gave more kudos to Mr. Wynn and explained a little about the projects and how the residents were pleased with Mr. Wynn's efforts.

4. Participant Updates/Comments

Mr. Tate recognized everyone and thanked them for coming out to the meeting. He mentioned that Capt. Linskoog will be replaced on the CCRT by Capt. Michael Kirshner. He instructed Mr. Moore to get the newcomers to the team a name card. He thanked the Glades folks for joining the CCRT today and the other partners that helped to make things happen in the Glades (ex. Back-to-School bash).

He recognized Mrs. Lisa Wilson, from Commissioner McKinlay's office, and thanked her for joining the CCRT meeting. He repeated the announcement for the grand opening of the San Castle Community Center and announced the Palm Beach County 4th Annual Crab Cook-Off event sponsored by CP on Nov. 7, 2015 at Lake Pavillion, downtown West Palm Beach. 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Important Dates:

August 1st - Nov. 10 – MBK’s Official Recruitment Period

Oct. 17 - Countywide Fire Rescue Day 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Oct 17 - “The Perfect Outlet” Teen Awareness Fair – 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Oct 19 - Urban League Youth Empowerment Luncheon – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Oct 24 - Cabana Colony’s Fall Festival – 11 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Oct. 24 - Patch Reach Health Fair – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Nov. 7 - San Castle Community Center’s Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

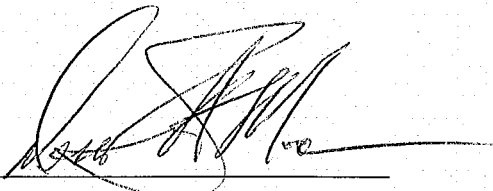
5. Adjournment

Comments:

Mr. Tate thanked everyone for coming out to the meetings again and asked everyone to give Mr. McNamara another hand for his presentation.

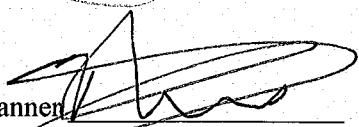
The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting will be held on November 10, 2015, on Palm Beach State College’s main campus. Information will be sent out to everyone about the location of the meeting.

Prepared By: Derrek Moore, Sr. Planner



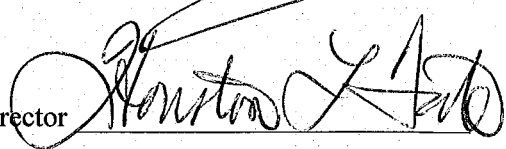
10/26/15
Date

Reviewed By: Ruth Moguillansky, Principal Planner



10/27/2015
Date

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director



10/26/15
Date