



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 20, 2022
 Location: WebEx Virtual Meeting

MEETING ATTENDANCE

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| 1. | Jacqueline Bell | School District of PBC |
| 2. | Aleshia Coleman | School District of PBC |
| 3. | Samantha Corr | PBC ERM |
| 4. | Adam Davis | PBC Library |
| 5. | Bambi Fanto | Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC |
| 6. | Deputy Fresneda | PBSO |
| 7. | Saidy Garzon | Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group |
| 8. | Lesley George | PBC Housing & Economic Development |
| 9. | Violet Howard | Optimistic Journey, Inc. |
| 10. | DaVatrice Lindsey | Florida Rural Legal Services |
| 11. | Chrystal Mathews | PBC OCR |
| 12. | Joe Moser | |
| 13. | Fadi Nassar | PBC Traffic Engineering |
| 14. | Michael Owens | School District of PBC |
| 15. | Ike Powell | PBC Youth Services |
| 16. | Casey Prankun | PBC Parks & Recreation |
| 17. | Audley Reid | PBC OCR |
| 18. | Keysia Rolle | |
| 19. | Eddie Rhodes | Belle Glade Resident |
| 20. | Virginia Savietto | District 2 Commissioner's Office |
| 21. | George Schott | PBC OCR |
| 22. | Milroy Senat | Agency for Persons with Disabilities |
| 23. | Michael Sklar | PBC Housing & Economic Development |
| 24. | Anna Stewart | Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC |
| 25. | Houston Tate | PBC OCR |
| 26. | Dawn Turner | School District of PBC |
| 27. | Lauren Veit | FL Dept. of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation |
| 28. | Steve West | The IN-CROWD |
| 29. | William Wynn | PBC OCR |

MEETING MINUTES

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Houston Tate, OCR Director, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the OCR staff. George Schott, OCR Planning Tech introduced the CCRT members. Mr. Tate introduced the presenter Aleshia Coleman, McKinney-Vento Program, School District of PBC.

II. PRESENTATION

Aleshia Coleman, McKinney-Vento Program (MVP), School District of PBC started her presentation by giving a brief bio and introducing two members of her staff Jacqueline Bell and Dawn Turner.

The MVP is under the division of Department of Safe Schools, Diane Wyatt, Director. The MVP has a staff of 15. Ms. Coleman is the Program Planner with a Homeless Liaison, Academic Specialist, nine Case Managers and three Outreach & Identification Case Managers. The Outreach and Identification Case Managers identify students & families experiencing homelessness performing street outreach, disseminate outreach materials, including MVP fliers, brochures, and posters, assist families with completing the Student Housing Questionnaire, assist families with enrollment and provide a soft handoff to the assigned MVP Case Manager for follow up, collaborate with community agencies in PBC and build relationships and attend community outreach events.

The mission of the MVP is to ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as other children and youth.

Ms. Coleman discussed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which is a federal legislation that protects the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The MVP defines homeless children as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence which includes shelters and motels, on the street in cars or parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, doubled up due to economic hardship, loss of housing, or a similar reason and unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY - youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian).

The MVP requires a student-housing questionnaire, which is distributed at the beginning and in the middle of the school year. The questionnaire is also included in the student enrollment packets during the school year. The questionnaire can be completed on line as well on the MVP website [McKinney-Vento Program \(MVP\) - Homelessness - The School District of Palm Beach County \(palmbeachschools.org\)](https://www.palmbeachschools.org/mckinney-vento)

The MVP provides attendance monitoring, tutoring service, referral assistance, homeless support, school supplies, transportation, meals, school selection, enrollment assistance and post-graduation assistance.

As of September 2022 for the 2022-23 school year, 2,519 students have been identified as homeless.

There are certain barriers that homeless students may face such as meeting school enrollment requirements, they move around and change schools a lot, they're usually hungry, tired, and stressed, they don't have school supplies or a quiet place to study, they don't have access to reliable transportation and for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth there is no parent or guardian to help them.

Homeless students are more likely to be absent from school, have lower grades, have special education needs, do poorly on test, more likely to be school dropouts and lack stability and support.

Seven schools receive tier 2 and tier 3 support from two academic for the middle schools and five graduation coaches for the high schools. Conniston Middle School, Lake Worth Middle School, Forest Hill Community High School, Lake Worth Community High School, Palm Beach Lakes High School, Royal Palm Community High School and Santaluces Community High School.

A list of case managers for the schools is available on the McKinney-Vento Program Palm Beach School District website.

Questions/Comments

- George Schott, PBC OCR inquired if a student identifies as homeless is that student taken away from the family. Ms. Coleman replied that homeless students are not taken from their family.
- Lesley George, PBC HED inquired are the numbers 2, 519 families or 2,519 students. Ms. Coleman replied it is 2,519 students.
- Saidy Garzon, Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group inquired what the MVP main source of referrals is. Ms. Coleman replied that the MVP has a partnership with PBC Community Services.
- George Schott, PBC OCR inquired if the information can benefit students from CCRT areas and if OCR can assist the student. Ms. Coleman advised that she would like to meet with Mr. Tate to discuss this further. Mr. Tate advised that he will be meeting with James Green, Director, PBC Community Services on providing services to the CCRT areas and would like Ms. Coleman to be a part of the meeting.
- Violet Howard, Optimistic Journey, Inc. inquired if the MVP has a solution to prevent homeless. Ms. Coleman replied that the MVP journey is educational support. If the appropriate box is checked on the MVP application. This information is forwarded to agencies that works with the homeless.
- Eddie Rhodes, Belle Glade resident stated that individuals should reach out to their elected officials about homelessness. There is funding available to address homelessness. Ms. Coleman replied that the MVP would be adding a case manager for the Glades area.

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

III. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- Bambi Fanto, Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC
 - The free land based water safety presentations are available and can be presented anywhere in PBC.
 - The voucher program for the free swim program for children 2-12 will resume on October 1st
- Adam Davis, PBC Library
 - On September 24th at 9am there will be a ground breaking for the 18th library branch which will be located in the Canyon Shopping center, Boynton Beach Blvd and Lyons Rd
 - On September 24th at the main library from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm will be having its third, fan-based DeweyCon for lovers of all things pop culture, television, film and animation
 - Hispanic Heritage month is being celebrated from September 15th - October 15th throughout Palm Beach County
 - "Swamped in the Glades": An Everglades Watershed Adventure, Main Library | 3650 Summit Blvd, WPB, Sat, Oct 01, 2:00 pm. Ages 8-12. (90 min.) Call (561) 233-2600 to preregister.

- Fadi Nassar, PBC Traffic Engineering
 - Engineering is working with OCR on speed hump projects
 - Will be out for three weeks beginning September 22nd, contact Robert Patane in his absence
- Samantha Corr, PBC ERM
 - ERM will soon be starting their festival season for 2022
- Michael Sklar, PBC HED
 - HED have several notice of funding availability programs currently going on
 - HED has a RFP in regards to the local government area of opportunity funds match in connection with the Florida Housing Corp. 9% housing credit program for developers, non-profits, for profit developers of affordable housing.
 - [Housing & Economic Development Home \(pbcgov.org\)](http://pbcgov.org)
- Lesley George, PBC HED
 - Workforce housing twice monthly orientations are still on-going

IV. OCR UPDATES

- Houston Tate, OCR Director
 - Through the OCR NEAT program, three homes were painted and received exterior repairs in the Gramercy Park CCRT area. This was done in conjunction with the partnership between PYHO and Lowes contributing \$50,000 for the painting and home repairs. One other home in this area was painted by PYHO as well.
 - There are two very important things within a series of classes that we are offering that Steve West has worked diligently to get instructors to participate and to bring to us a university.
 - Our communities can use English as a second language and math classes.
- Audley Reid, OCR Senior Planner
 - Gave an update on the OCR newsletter and advised anyone that is looking for a grant to contact him and he will do the research.
- William Wynn, OCR Senior Planner
 - OCR will be going to the BCC on October 18th to receive approval to convert 454 streetlights to LED through FPL

V. RESIDENT QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Steve West, The IN-CROWD
 - The bilingual instructor for English is the second language for Spanish speaking people is leaving. Anybody who has a person who can devote 1 hour a week hopefully on a Wednesday morning. The IN-CROWD really need to have an instructor. The classes are great and instructors get great value out of out of participating in this. No textbooks. It is just conversational English, helping people so they can help themselves to get out of their situation of poverty.
 - Restaurant industry jobs are and will be available. The IN-CROWD is putting together a class with an incredibly excellent instructor who is teaching not only how you take an order but also how deliver the order to the kitchen and back to the table. The IN-CROWD also are going to be starting with chefs. The IN-CROWD is waiting for the kitchen to be ready, it is going to be a live class because you cannot teach chef on the, on the Internet. The IN-CROWD will also have for administrative administrators and all different positions in the food service industry.

- Violet Howard, Optimistic Journey, Inc.
 - Ms. Howard has collaborated with Access Wireless to be able to provide free phone service for 5 years for the residents in the underserved communities. The only requirement is that the residents are receiving either snap benefits, free, or reduced lunch for the kids, WIC program, Medicare and/or Medicaid. They are required to pay a \$25 dollar activation fee to T-Mobile the service provider. This fee is required for the SIM cards. The tablets that are being provided will allow access to make phone calls. The ultimate goal for the program is to be able to provide to each child in the home access to internet and phone services.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director _____