

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 1pm
Hillsborough Community College: Plant City Campus
1206 North Park Road
Plant City, Florida 33563

Leadership Council Members Present

Kevin Beckner
Michael Sinacore (via phone)
April Griffin

Facilitator/Consultant

Dr. Herb Marlowe
Annie Lyles (via phone)

Subcommittee Chairs/Co-chairs Present

Public Safety.....Daniel Jurman
Faith Based.....Robert Blount
Data.....Bob Sheehan
Community Based.....Kelley Parris
Communications.....Steve Hegarty
Faith Based.....Chakita Hargrove
Education..... Karen Buckenheimer
Data.....John Chaffin
Communications.....Anette Spina

Leadership Alternates Present

Holly East
Bill McDaniel
Michael Bridenback
Cindy Stuart
Marie Marino
Major Dugan
Asst. Chief Seeley
Mark Cox

Guests

Alternate for Dr. Collins
Glenn Brown

Collaborative Staff Present

Robert Salmon
Brandon Wagner

The Violence Prevention Collaborative Leadership Council Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Kevin Beckner at approximately 1:05pm. Chair Beckner led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, and then introduced the site host, Bill McDaniel, Plant City's Assistant City Manager, who welcomed attendees.

The minutes of the March 13, 2014, Violence Prevention Collaborative Meeting were approved with the following change recommended by Chair Beckner:

Under the *Oversight* heading, it reads "Commissioner Beckner said that oversight by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners would not make sense because the BOCC does not have countywide jurisdiction." This should be changed to read "Commissioner Beckner said that oversight by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners would not necessarily be fully representative of all jurisdictions and entities." (This change was made because, in fact, the BOCC *does* have countywide jurisdiction.)

Dr. Herb Marlowe presented an overview of the morning session, the subject of which was neighborhood deterioration. The following subcommittee representatives summarized work from the morning's session: Dan Jurman, chair of the Public Safety Subcommittee; Glenn Brown, alternate for Kelley Parris, chair of the Community Based Subcommittee; Ernest Coney, alternate for chair of Education Subcommittee; John Chaffin, co-chair of Data Subcommittee; and Chikita Hargrove, chair of Faith Subcommittee. No representative from the Health Subcommittee was present. (Please see recap of VPC Subcommittee Meeting for details.)

Bob Sheehan presented information from the Data Subcommittee. He addressed requests from the previous meeting by referring to *Data Indicators*, which was included with the agenda packet for all attendees. Mr. Sheehan explained that the "Sources/Comments" section would now serve as more of an explanation column, and that changes were highlighted.

Regarding Data Indicator 10 – Government Allocations to Non-Profits: Glenn Brown noted that the Children’s Board was missing, and that it contributed approximately \$28 million per year to non-profits. Mr. Sheehan replied that he would add that figure to the spreadsheet.

Regarding Data Indicator 14 – Percent of Families in Poverty: Bob Sheehan explained that the reason for the significant difference between *families in poverty (12.4%)* and *eligibility for free school lunch (61.32%)* was due to different thresholds for qualifying income level (explained in detail on the spreadsheet). April Griffin added that background checks regarding eligibility for the free/reduced-fee school lunch program were not strict; any family approved for reduced-fee lunches were automatically approved for free school lunch.

Annie Lyles, attending via telephone conference, added that including the school lunch data is important because it illustrates what the schools in Hillsborough County are dealing with in the school population. April Griffin responded by agreeing with Mrs. Lyles, and then adding that although the criteria for eligibility to receive free/reduced-fee lunches has remained unchanged, the number of families utilizing this service have risen sharply. Annie Lyles suggested that this information should be noted on the spreadsheet.

Regarding Data Indicators 17 & 18 – Percent of High School (17) and Middle School (18) Students Scoring Below Level III on FCAT Reading Scale: There are many issues that do not show up by merely reviewing the percentages.

Regarding Data Indicator 9 – High School Graduation Rate: April Griffin asked if the data included Certificates of Completion. Bob Sheehan replied that Jeff Eakins would have to clarify. Mrs. Griffin stated that she would follow up with Mr. Eakins on the school-obtained data.

Annie Lyles explained that the purpose of the data in general is to provide a broad-stroke understanding of the issues facing Hillsborough County, and that the data indicators developed to-date in this process were comprehensive and ample. She added that the Collaborative could focus on data for six more months, but that the data collected so far was sufficient.

Marie Marino requested that the definition of child abuse include child neglect. Mrs. Marino also noted that the data regarding domestic violence was based upon arrests, and was not a comprehensive assessment of domestic violence. Michael Sinacore, attending by telephone, clarified that the state statute covering child abuse does, in fact, cover child neglect. Bob Sheehan acknowledged that he would make the addition to the *Data Definitions* document.

Holly East asked Annie Lyles if the purpose of the data discussion was to make final recommendations for changes to the 18 data indicators and then to approve the *Data Indicators* as a final product. Mrs. Lyles responded in the affirmative. Bob Sheehan listed the changes that were requested and then asked that the Leadership Council approve it. Commissioner Beckner advised that although the *Data Indicators* would be complete, he wanted to establish a list of items for future discussion, specifically items that were not included as one of the 18 data indicators. The response to this included: 1) Median household income 2) Data regarding mental health and substance abuse 3) Home ownership 4) Number of citizens receiving public assistance

Annie Lyles addressed the data suggestions and stated that they were worth discussing in the future, as “second tier” data, but reiterated that the collected and compiled *Data Indicators* was sufficient for use in the upcoming strategic plan.

April Griffin made a motion to approve the *Data Indicators* which was seconded by Dan Jurman. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Lyles then provided an overview of the value of the maps to be presented. She said that the current value of the maps is to illustrate incidence of violent crime, child abuse, domestic violence, and poverty in order to prioritize action in specific areas, where there was the greatest need. Bob Sheehan then explained what each map covered, how to read each map’s key, and where the Data Subcommittee obtained the data for each map. He said that the first purpose of the maps is to tell a story in a strategic plan; the second purpose is to identify specific areas on which to focus violence prevention policy.

Chief Seeley asked if a population overlay could be included in the maps, to which Mr. Sheehan responded that while it was possible, it would take more time and resources and would most likely not be added prior to the strategic plan. Mike Bridenback asked about how the data ranges (represented by different colors on the maps) were differentiated. John Chaffin responded by stating the computer used a “natural break” to separate the ranges included. He also explained, in response to Chief Seeley’s question, that the maps already illustrated population as the data was based on the number of crimes per number of people.

Steve Hegarty presented the initial draft of the communications plan. Annie Lyles commented on next steps for communicating violence-prevention policy, including providing context for the message. She indicated that she would send some follow-up information to the Communications Subcommittee. Dan Jurman and April Griffin commented on the graphic, Mr. Jurman preferring less “blocks” while Mrs. Griffin preferred more.

Mr. Hegarty read two versions of the “elevator speech” drafts. Kelley Parris asked that “community leaders” be changed to “community members,” in order to be more inclusive of the entire community. Robert Blount said that the term “public health” might sound too medical for a wide audience, to which Mr. Hegarty responded that unfamiliar terms, such as “public health,” could stimulate questions and conversation.

Commissioner Beckner asked Steve Hegarty if the Communications Subcommittee had an idea of what the final communications plan would look like by June, when the strategic plan was due. Mr. Beckner asked Mr. Hegarty to provide a status update over the next month for planning purposes.

Bob Sheehan identified an error on *Data Indicators* (brought to his attention by Cindy Stuart), stating that two headings were transposed and that he would make the correction. Cindy Stuart made a motion to change the headings on *High School & Middle School Assessment Scores*, which was seconded by April Griffin. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Beckner thanked the Data Subcommittee for their hard work.

Annie Lyles facilitated a discussion of Prevention Institute’s revision of the *Implementation* document. Mr. Beckner stated his desire that the Steering Committee, in its current format, would remain in place as an oversight entity for the Collaborative (at least for a limited time during the implementation period).

Holly East provided context for how the *Implementation* document was developed, indicating that none of the organizations nominated themselves, that the list was meant to cover all potential options for the future home of the Collaborative.

Regarding the *Location* column, Mrs. Lyles addressed her reason for not supporting the issuance of an RFQ (request for quote) at this time in the process, stating that although qualified entities might participate, the Collaborative’s future should continue with an entity that is already vested, that understands the goal of violence-prevention policy, and that ensures continuity.

Commissioner Beckner asked Annie Lyles if the use of an internal RFQ would serve the purpose of establishing next steps for the Collaborative, relating to structure and funding. He noted that organizations cannot commit to a project without knowing what they are committing to specifically. Mrs. Lyles said that the necessary questions could be answered without an RFQ, and that she would continue to provide the requested guidance.

Cindy Stuart asked Annie Lyles if hiring an executive director would provide the needed support and guidance for the Collaborative, instead of assigning more work to members of the Leadership Council. Mrs. Stuart suggested issuing an RFQ for an executive director. Mrs. Lyles said that most communities with similar projects follow this path, ultimately identifying someone who will shepherd the project in the right direction.

Kelley Parris commented that members of the Collaborative must commit for the long-term, in order to address the project’s sustainability. Bob Sheehan indicated that an independent location should be included on the list of potential homes for the Collaborative, and that the way ordinances and interlocal agreements are administered could work for the Collaborative. A structure could be established and then the components filled in. April Griffin added that selecting an executive director would serve a significant purpose for guiding the Collaborative beyond the strategic plan.

Dan Jurman identified a program at the UACDC, the Partners Coalition, which was initially unfunded, but that has recently developed funding. He suggested that giving power to an executive director too soon could lead to a loss of focus for the Collaborative. Kelley Parris noted that any funding identified should be for at least three years.

Mike Bridenback provided an update on the youth survey administered by the Administrative Office of the Court, stating they had begun administering the surveys the previous week and that in the first three days their office had received 12 completed surveys. His goal was 100 completed surveys. Marie Mario provided an update on the youth survey as administered by the Public Defender's Office, indicating that they had received 60 completed surveys, and would continue to seek their goal of 500. Cindy Stuart addressed the School Board's survey administration, noting that the surveys were to be completed and returned by April 23rd.

Annie Lyles described the focus of the May meeting and provided a brief overview.

Bob Sheehan made a motion to adopt the *Data Definitions* (with the recommended change to the definition of child abuse), which was seconded by Mike Bridenback. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45pm.