

Safe & Sound Hillsborough Collaborative
Thursday, June 18, 2015
County Center, 24th Floor

Leadership Council Members Present

Kevin Beckner, Chair, BOCC
Julianne Holt, Vice Chair, Public Defender
Holly East, BOCC
Martha Coulter, Ph.D., USF Harrell Center
Cindy Stuart, Hillsborough County School Board
Chief Kenneth Albano, City of Temple Terrace
Maj. Keith O'Connor, TPD
Col. Donna Luszczynski, HCSO
Michael Bridenback, Court Administrator
Kelley Parris, The Children's Board
Walter Niles, Florida Dept. of Health
Jaime Robe, Planning Commission
Mark Cox, State Attorney's Office
Robert Blount, Chair, Abe Brown Ministries
Marc Hutek, Hillsborough County Schools
Steve Hegarty, Chair, Hillsborough County Schools
Sunny Hall, Crisis Center
Tonia Williams, The Children's Board
Angie Smith, Court Administrator's Office
Marie Marino, Public Defender's Office
John Chaffin, HCSO

Others Present

Chloe Coney, Congresswoman Castor's Office
Michael Seely, Congresswoman Castor's Office
Kathleen Heide, Ph.D., USF Criminology
Abraham Salines, USF Criminology
Allison Marron, Florida Dept. of Health
Vanessa Tate, USF College of Public Health
Ruina He, USF Harrell Center
Freddy Barton, CDC of Tampa
Lafe Thomas, CDC of Tampa
Glenn Brown, The Children's Board
Alayne Unterberger, FICS
Carla Lewis, City of Tampa
Miray Holmes, City of Tampa
Ruben Delgaon, TPD
Kim Williams, Frameworks of Tampa Bay
Leerone Benjamin, Paxen Learning Corp.

Staff Present

Scott Stromer, Procurement Services
John Hollingshead, Procurement Services
Christopher Kersey, Procurement Services
Brandon Wagner, Intergovernmental Relations
Orlando Perez, County Attorney's Office
Lynne Tierney, Division of Children's Services
Lori Hudson, Communications
Michael Lobue, HTV Tech Support

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. Commissioner Beckner led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Beckner asked the group to go around the table and introduce themselves. Introductions were completed and Commissioner Beckner moved forward to the first item of business.

Safe & Sound Hillsborough Leadership Council received copies of the minutes from the May 14th, 2015 meeting via email to allow the opportunity for review prior to this meeting. Ms. Holt made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Stuart. The minutes were approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Business Outreach Committee:

Co-chair Marie Marino informed the Council that the first meeting of the committee was convened and Annie Lyles of the Prevention Institute was able to attend via telephone. Ms. Lyles had compiled the information from May 14th workshop and provided good feedback to the group. The plan is for the group to provide Ms. Lyles the product, and she will develop the pitch.

The group is focused on education, which is a big part of the prevention effort. Ms. Griffin previously informed the committee that the School Board currently has an outreach model in place, including a workforce outreach person on staff that is actually reaching out to business to assess the needs in the community in order to cultivate school programs that would meet those business needs. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for July 8th, 2015.

Commission Beckner asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none, and the Chair moved to the next item of old business.

Justice to Health Information Exchange Committee:

Mr. Bridenback outlined the goal of the *Justice to Health Information Exchange Committee*, to coordinate efforts to maximize our impact by coordinating data systems that enable effective tracking and sharing information on risk and resilience factors associated with preventing violence which will inform policy and enable sound decision making across agencies.

Mr. Bridenback recalled for group that the Collaborative had tasked him with attempting to integrate a variety of separate databases and to bridge the gap in terms of barriers to access to data for first responders in the community. Such a system would enable effective tracking and data sharing among a variety of first responders including law enforcement, emergency rooms, courts, schools, treatment centers, etc. This will enable each provider to make fully informed initial decisions about what to do concerning a particular person, as they will have the best information available prior to taking action.

The benefits to the justice system include clearing up situations of unknown circumstances, providing continuity of care for persons in custody, demonstrating eligibility for diversion programs and promoting compliance through increased awareness of court conditions and court dates.

The benefits to the health system include clearing up situations of unknown circumstances, decision making on program eligibility, public health surveillance, determining the whereabouts of patients and facilitating continuity of care.

Mr. Bridenback reviewed the Action Steps contained within the Action Plan, which consist of calling together four separate Round Tables. The *Boots on the Ground Round Table* met on April 24th, with Dr. John Petrila of the USF College of Public Health moderating the discussion. One expected outcome from this group is to identify existing information sharing, including types of data, points of exchange and how to exchange. This Round Table is also working to identify barriers to the information sharing and to identify strategies that will address these barriers. Partners include the USF College of Public Health, the County's Criminal Justice Liaison, Public Defender's office, State Attorney's office, Department of Corrections, Department of Children

and Families, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Eckerd, DACCO, Gracepoint, Northside, ACTS, the judiciary and Tampa General Hospital.

The next Action Step is to convene a *Technology Round Table* with an expected outcome of preparing a survey to assess existing user levels of the Judicial Inquiry System (JJIS), identifying data elements stored and identifying other organizational data systems. This Round Table will identify data needed from other organizations, work to develop Interagency Agreements outlining levels of access and determine some type of mechanism to pull the data together. Mr. Bridenback suggested that using the JJIS may be the model and the way forward for the information sharing system, since it currently shares criminal justice data with judges, attorneys, etc. JJIS information sources include jail booking data, information from a multitude of jurisdictions around the state, the Clerk's comprehensive case information system, the D.A.V.I.D. system (Division of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles database), the Department of Juvenile Justice database, the Department of Corrections database, the FCIC hot files for outstanding warrants, the FCIC rap sheets and disposition data, and the NCIC database. The group believes we can merge public health, educational and local community-based data with the criminal justice related data. The *Technology Round Table* will also partner with the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) subcommittee to explore including data from the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Sequential Intercept Mapping project. The Chair of this Round Table has not been determined, but the workgroup will include Ms. Smith and Ms. Chris Blakeslee, Court Administrator Technology Officer, along with members from Eckerd, TGH and Dr. Petrilas as partners.

A parallel Action Step is to convene a *Privacy Round Table* to review barriers to information sharing that will be identified by the Boots on the Ground Round Table. The Privacy Round Table will also identify strategies to address barriers and identify issues that require legislative changes. The timeframe for both the *Privacy Round Table* and the *Technology Round Table* is also from July 2015 through December 2015.

A *Legislative Round Table* will be convened to review suggestions from the Privacy Round Table, which is going to identify possible legislative implications of this effort, with an estimated time frame of September 2015 through March 2016. Mr. Bridenback made clear this group will not wait until the end of the timeframe to bring issues before the Leadership Council for approval, but will bring forth any issues for Legislative Action as they become apparent.

The Round Tables will make progress reports and identify any potential action items to the Leadership Council and the Committee will also seek funding for initiatives to support infrastructure and communication during the time period of January 2016 through June, 2016. Mr. Bridenback is hopeful that next year we will have a way forward to make this happen. The meeting in April was extremely vibrant and all at the table were focused on solution. He sees we can have some real outcomes of our instrumental as part of the overall Strategic Plan.

Mr. Bridenback asked for any questions or comments. Mr. Barton commented that we do have a grant writing committee as part of the Safe & Sound, and as *Justice to Health Information Exchange Committee* comes up with suggestions and ideas he will be happy to work with the committee and provide any information they need. Commissioner Beckner asked about Mr. Bridenback's upcoming retirement and if his replacement, Ms. Justice has been briefed on the committee efforts and would she assume his role. Mr. Bridenback confirmed Ms. Justice has been briefed and is interested in learning about it and being part of Safe & Sound Hillsborough. However, during the transition, Ms. Smith will take on the lead role as coordinator of the subcommittees.

Other contributing staff members will include Ms. Marty Merrell, Director of Court Programs, who participated in the initial workgroups that prepared the Strategic Plan. Mr. Bridenback also emphasized the advantage of including the Court Administrator Technology Officer, Ms. Blakeslee, who was the primary designer of the justice inquiry system. She will take on the lead role with the technology group. That combination, with the commitment of Dr. Petril, will leave the committee in good hands. He also informed the group that this effort is one he feels very strongly about and is of personal interest to him, and he would like to continue to play a role in some capacity, even in his retirement.

Commissioner Beckner asked what the coordination with the PSCC may look like. Mr. Bridenback responded that at the last meeting of the PSCC, he made a presentation of the JJIS and how it relates to the Safe & Sound Hillsborough initiative. He envisions a continued information exchange and added that when there are policy issues that need to be addressed, the PSCC may be able to help achieve positive results. Also, the *Justice to Health Information Exchange Committee* will continue to utilize their expertise by working with the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Sequential Intercept Mapping project committee members.

Commissioner Beckner asked about the interconnectedness of those currently using JJIS. Mr. Bridenback confirmed that the judicial and law enforcement agencies are interconnected through the JJIS. Ms. Smith clarified that treatment providers may also have access to some of the data in the JJIS through their relationships with DCF or through offenders being court ordered into treatment. Mr. Bridenback added there will be some barriers for non-justice related personnel to access the data base because the FDLE and FBI have some very strict rules governing their data, but a great deal of that information should be extended to other entities or agencies beyond the justice system.

Mr. Bridenback moved approval of the Action Plan, seconded by Ms. Holt.

Ms. East asked Dr. Coulter and Mr. Barton to weigh in on the Action Plan with regard to the timelines. Mr. Barton agreed to get with the *Justice to Health Information Exchange Committee* to review their Action Steps, timeframes and discuss possible outcomes for Year 2. Dr. Coulter deferred discussion until her presentation of the Safe & Sound Evaluation Plan and discussion of data transmission issues and communication gap issues that need resolved.

Commissioner Beckner asked if there were any further comments or questions about the *Justice to Health Information Exchange Committee* Action Plan. There were none, and the motion passed unanimously.

Youth Outreach Survey:

Dr. Coulter gave a brief introduction into the research background of the youth survey. Hillsborough County's youth population is about one quarter of our large and diverse overall population, which makes it critical to focus on this area. And, while Hillsborough County has seen a decrease in crime, crime is still a problem. The approach of addressing violence as a public health problem is a unique perspective and focusing on prevention instead of reaction is key to reduce the problems before they occur.

Of note, and very relevant to the effort, is the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, which makes clear the relationship of health risk behavior and disease in adulthood to the breadth of exposure to emotional, physical, sexual abuse and household dysfunction during childhood.

Data committee gathered data on 19 indicators many of which were the same indicators identified in the ACE studies, such as child abuse, domestic violence, and others. The purpose of the survey was to identify the youth reported risk and protective factors that mediate violence as well as to gauge youth perceptions on community factors. The questions asked on the survey were pulled from Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center's Boston Data Project, the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the California Healthy Kids Survey.

The questions focused on the following nine domains:

1. Data source – student's school type
2. Demographics
3. Presence of parents, adults, or teachers
4. Sense of belonging and social cohesion
5. Neighbor involvement
6. Neighborhood problems
7. Perceived safety
8. Substance abuse
9. Physical location

Because the analysis needed one item to relate the other items to, and because we were looking at violence prevention, perceived safety was selected as the outcome variable to look at in relationship to the other variables. Respondents were Hillsborough County Public High Schools, Hillsborough County Adult Education Program, Court Administrator Civil Citation/Diversion and Public Defender/Court Involved Detention programs. Unfortunately most respondents did not include their zip codes, and other responses varied as well. Dr. Coulter reviewed the results of the data analysis, as follows:

Phase I – simple descriptive information

This data was reported at the Safe & Sound press conference and includes 6 categories: presence of a caring adult, neighborhood connectedness, involvement of neighbors, neighborhood problems, neighborhood safety and high-risk behavior.

Presence of a Caring Adult: The majority of youth reported a strong adult presence in their lives.

82% had an adult they could talk to

85% had an adult that expects them to follow the rules

95% have an adult that is interested in their school work

87% have an adult they can talk to about their problems

However, only 52% reported having an adult in the neighborhood that children can look up to.

Neighborhood Connectedness: A notable portion reported low-levels of connectedness.

37% said that in the neighborhood parents do not know one another

46% said neighbors do not come together to solve community problems

32% said neighbors are unwilling to help each other

31% said neighbors do not get along well
25% said neighbors cannot be trusted

Involvement of Neighbors: Like social connectedness, there was a significant proportion of youth reporting low involvement among neighbors.

34% said it was unlikely that neighbors would intervene if witnessed a child spray-painting or skipping school
Only 40% said it was likely that neighbors would report abuse or neglect

Neighborhood Problems: Youth reported concern about neighborhood problems.

65% said that drinking in public was a problem

30% said that their neighborhood had problems including littering, graffiti, people using and selling drugs, families having money troubles, and people hanging around and causing trouble

Just over 25% reported that gunshots and shootings were either a small or a large problem

Neighborhood Safety: Youth reported mixed perceptions of neighborhood safety.

75% felt safe in the school building or at home

However outside of school or home, safety was a concern.

75% missed schools because they felt unsafe going to or from school

45% were uncomfortable walking outside during the day

63% believe they would go out more if their neighborhood was safer

High Risk Behavior:

100% of those that answered the question, reported drinking alcohol at least once

53% reported drinking alcohol for at least 40 days or more in their lifetime

100% of those that answered the question, reported using marijuana at least once

75% reported using marijuana more than 40 days in their lifetime

Phase II – Looked at the associations between perceived safety and the following variables: social cohesion, neighborhood involvement, neighborhood conditions, transportation and alcohol and marijuana use.

Social Cohesion: For youth, the level of reported social cohesion was correlated to perceived safety. Those that reported high social cohesion were 3 times more likely to report feeling safe.

Neighborhood Involvement: For youth, the level of reported social cohesion was correlated to perceived safety. Those that reported high social cohesion were 3 times more likely to report feeling safe.

Neighborhood Conditions: Participants that reported little or no presence of poor neighborhood conditions were 3 times more likely to feel safe than those with many problems. Additionally, youth that reported some presence of poor neighborhood conditions were 2 times more likely to feel safe than those with many problems.

Transportation: Youth's mode of transportation to and from school was associated with perceived safety. Walkers were 3 times less likely to feel safe than those that commuted by car and busses were also less likely to feel safe than those that used cars.

Alcohol and Marijuana Use: No statistically significant association with perceived safety. Cannot attribute safety to level of alcohol and marijuana use, however, there was an unexpected trend, youth involved in high risk behaviors reported feeling safer in larger numbers than those that did not engage in such behaviors.

High risk neighborhoods, with low levels of social cohesion and high levels of neighborhood problems and children were more likely to have truancy issues at school and were more likely to skip school without permission and skip school because they feel unsafe.

Protective factors are conditions, attributes, or coping skills that assist in moderating the effects of negative outcomes. When present they enhance positive perceptions and outcomes of youth exposed to or at risk. We looked at this effect by assessing the effect of having a strong social cohesion in the neighborhood despite having bad neighborhood conditions.

Among youth who reported bad neighborhood conditions, high social cohesion made youth feels 8 times safer, high neighbor involvement made youth feel 6 times safer and if they reported bad neighborhood conditions and used prescription drugs illegally but had high social cohesion, they were much more likely to feel safe in the neighborhood.

In conclusion, based on results from the Outreach Survey, perceived safety is a mechanism of youths' protective and risk factors; students that reported a high presence of protective factors and low presence of risk factors, also reported higher levels of perceived safety. Therefore, reducing risk factors while expanding protective factors is a crucial step in achieving safer Hillsborough County neighborhoods.

Recommendations include: reduce risk factors, expand protective factors, and implement interventions that support Youth Outreach Survey findings with attention to expanding social cohesion and connectedness, engaging parents, students and community members and improve deteriorating conditions of neighborhoods.

Dr. Coulter found that the Survey indicates that the Strategic Plan is right on target as are the data points identified by the data committee, based on ACE studies.

Mr. Hegarty asked about getting cleaner data. Dr. Colter has worked with Ms. Stuart to get cleaner data this year, specifically data on zip codes. Ms. Stuart also explained that she has been working with Patty Simmons in the School Board Data Division about getting a better cross section of students and ensure that we get the crucial geographical data. Mr. Hegarty asked about some overlay with the SKIP survey from the schools. Ms. Stuart added that some Project Prevent Grant surveys have been completed and are being analyzed over the summer and are from specific schools in the community hot spots. Data from the Project Prevent Grant surveys will be provided to Dr. Coulter.

Mr. Barton asked if surveys will be collected from other community organizations that provide youth programming. Dr. Coulter added she did not administer the surveys, only analyzed that data. There has been discussion of continuing to survey the same schools or move it into other neighborhoods, but that would prevent a comparison baseline.

Mr. Barton will consider collecting additional survey data through other channels. Dr. Coulter would be interested to see responses from younger children.

Ms. Hall commended the work on the surveys and the data. She found the drug and alcohol responses especially concerning and asked about the construction of the question. Was there a choice for *I Have Never Had a Drink*? Ms. East responded there were N/A boxes to check for never having smoked or drank. She asked about the responses to gunshots and shootings question, and wondered if that topic could be expanded. Perhaps ask if other kids or friends in the neighborhood carry guns. Dr. Coulter cited some other surveys on gun issues.

Ms. Unterberger asked if the data was analyzed by gender. Data collected at the Florida Institute for Community Studies demonstrates that often males felt more vulnerable than females. That finding correlates with joining of gangs as a form of protection and not a choice for delinquency. Dr. Coulter did not break out gender specific results but added that could be looked at in the future.

Mr. Benjamin asked about the youth's feelings towards Law Enforcement. He would be interested to see if the impact of law enforcement presence on youth perception of safety. Dr. Coulter agreed that might be something to look at in the future.

Dr. Coulter added that if anyone had additional input into the surveys, please let her know, as it is possible to include additional questions and still collect four years of data on the topic.

Mr. Niles asked if there was a way to guarantee zip code collection this year. Mr. Robe suggested a grid or place to write in the neighborhood name. He was concerned that some students wouldn't know their zip code or what N/A means. Ms. Stuart added the surveys would be structured differently and School Board staff will take another look at the instructions given to teachers and administrators.

Mr. Barton added that he would be interested to see if there is a correlation between low reporting of gang activity and lack of zip codes on the forms.

Commissioner Beckner expressed concern that the lack of the zip codes data may produce a faulty baseline. Dr. Coulter responded that the results fall in line with what the literature says. She is more concerned that the sample is a problem as children in a Sociology class may over represent college bound students. She agreed supplemental collection would be useful. Mr. Niles advocated using community based organizations for further data collections. Mr. Brown suggested an accompanying explanation for each year's data collection including a standard of deviation that could be narrowed down over time. Mr. Hutek suggested exploring an online survey which would prevent respondents from continuing until zip code information was collected.

Commissioner Beckner thanked the members for their suggestions and moved forward with the final item of Old Business, the Safe & Sound Evaluation Proposal.

Dr. Coulter recalled for the group that USF Harrell Center for the Study of Family Violence was asked to put together an evaluation plan for the Safe & Sound Hillsborough effort. She has begun the plan but now requires further discussion.

Dr. Coulter began the presentation with an introduction to the effort and recalled Safe & Sound strategic goals of

- Support the health and wellbeing of all families;
- Cultivate a strong, connected community;
- Improve conditions in neighborhoods most impacted by violence; and

- Coordinate efforts to maximize input; and now the addition of a fifth action plan,
- An integrated justice to health Information exchange capability.

Each one of the committees were supported by the creation of a special data committee chaired by Mr. Robe, charged with proving data support and assistance for the issues that the Collaborative would like to focus on. Dr. Coulter recapped the efforts of the first four committees, as follows:

Support Health and Well-being of Families: The Committee selected the Strategy of Successful Reentry, with a committee identified objective of identifying the top five non-governmental employers and host focus groups to discuss the incentives and barriers to hiring individuals who have been incarcerated. The Chair is Robert Blount.

Action steps to achieve this strategy include: Brainstorm employers, contact employers, coordinate date and site to convene focus group, develop format to facilitate focus group and send invitations to respective employers.

Cultivate a Strong Connected Community: The committee selected the Strategies of Quality Education and School Climate and Social Connections in Neighborhoods, with a committee identified objective of progressing the quality of education and school environment and increasing social cohesion in neighborhoods. The Chair and Vice-Chair are Kelley Parris and Jamie Robe.

Action steps to achieve this strategy include: Conduct town hall meetings to gather input on “risk factors for children” and possible solutions, implement after school programs, trauma informed care training provided to law enforcement and conduct a youth summit to gather youth input violence prevention.

Improve Conditions in Neighborhoods Most Impacted by Violence: The committee selected the Strategy of Trauma Informed Approach with a committee identified objective to develop countywide trauma informed systems of care. The Chair and Vice-Chair are Sunny Hall and Walter Niles.

Action Steps to achieve this strategy include: Creating a trauma informed care survey (TIC) to capture relevant data that assesses the organizations’ exposure to and implementation of a TIC service delivery system and to implement training and outreach initiatives to key stakeholders as identified by the leadership council.

Coordinate Efforts to Maximize Impact: The committee selected the Strategy of coordinating a multi-sector initiative with a committee identified objective of creating a comprehensive guide map of programs and services related to violence prevention and distribute to Safe and Sound Collaborative and partners for effective coordination of planned initiatives By June 2015. The Chair and Vice-Chair are Sarah Combs and Marc Hutek.

Action steps to achieve this strategy include: presenting at January 2015 Leadership Council meeting and request that members brainstorm main players in violence prevention in Hillsborough County, obtain violence prevention resource list developed by initial taskforce subcommittees, strategic plan subcommittees brainstorm list of violence prevention-related programs, services, and key players, engage organizations and big players, combine all list/maps and create comprehensive guide map of programs and services, distribute draft guide map via email to Leadership Council for review, create finalized guide map and distribute the guide map to Safe & Sound members and partners.

After the review, Dr. Coulter noted she has developed some questions relevant to the evaluation process and has forwarded them to the committee chairs. She will need clarification that action steps are correct and a timeline for each of the action steps. Finalized Action Plans, including dates, will be required by the end of June.

She will also need to know how information is collected at each stage of the action steps, copies of any survey instruments utilized and to know how the data would be transmitted to her. She cited the lack of a built in system for transmitting information from the committees to the evaluators or to the Data Committee. Mr. Barton stated that would be part of the CDC's job as the acting Safe & Sound Coordinator. Currently, all the committees are finalizing their Action Plans and Mr. Barton promised to streamline the process.

Dr. Coulter moved to the next issue, short-term vs. long-term outcomes. As the committees begin identifying both short term and long term outcomes that will be addressed, it is critical that the evaluators and the data committee knows about those measureable outcomes as soon as possible. That way the data committee can begin identifying baseline data or recommending that these data are just not available.

Mr. Robe asked about the magnitude effect. If a certain action step is only helping in one area of the city or county or a particular neighborhood, the population sample will be too small to impact one of the 19 indicators even though it may be doing great thing in the focus area. Dr. Coulter suggested some of the short term objectives can be specific to the area or neighborhood the project is directed at, but that will have to be taken into consideration for the long term outcomes. In some of the other programs around the country, even though the program focused on one area, they have seen crime reduction across the board; a synergist effect. Mr. Barton expressed concern about adding steps and how that would affect the evaluation at the end. Dr. Coulter will meet with Mr. Barton and Mr. Robe to work out some of these issues.

Commissioner Becker asked which groups needed to provide her additional information. She responded that she is expecting additional information from Ms. Hall and the *Improve Conditions in Neighborhoods Most Impacted by Violence Committee* and she has already received confirmation from Ms. Combs and the *Coordinate Efforts to Maximize Impact Committee*. Commissioner Beckner asked any committee chairs in attendance to please meet with Dr. Coulter after the meeting to let her know when she can expect the additional information.

Mr. Blount spoke to his concern that when the Collaborative began work on the Action Plans, there was no *Business Outreach Committee*. Now that there is a committee with that sole focus, he wondered if they should take over the Action Plan that the *Support Health and Well-being of Families Committee* has been working on to avoid a duplication of effort. That would leave the *Support Health and Well-being of Families Committee* open to identify another priority within the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Coulter has considered that and had some discussion about committees focused on similar areas. Mr. Barton added that the final outcome of the committee is the decision to create the *Business Outreach Committee*.

Dr. Coulter also informed the group that she will be on sabbatical this fall and will be returning in January. Dr. Abraham Salinas will be covering for her. Dr. Salinas is a M.D., Ph.D., and has experience guiding community programs. Dr. Kay Perrine will also be involved to some extent, and Dr. Coulter will be available via Skype.

Ms. East explained to the group that it is her understanding that the Year 1 endpoint for evaluation purposes would be in March or April of 2016, the one year anniversary of the approval of the Action Plans by the Council. Dr. Coulter confirmed the Scope of Work for the evaluation plan would be brought to the Leadership Council at the August 25th Safe & Sound Hillsborough meeting, with Dr. Salinas in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Wagner spoke to the first order of new business, the Interlocal Agreement with the Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, Inc. (CDC of Tampa). Mr. Wagner distributed copies of the draft contract between Hillsborough County, Safe & Sound Hillsborough and the CDC of Tampa. He summarized that Commissioners approved the contract for one year, in the amount of \$233,558 which will provide funding for staff, benefits and administrative fees. The County Procurement Department was most helpful in drawing up the document and Mr. Wagner thanked them for their assistance and expertise. Mr. Wagner clarified that any infrastructure spending would be brought before the Leadership Council for discussion and approval.

The CDC of Tampa serves as the cost center for the effort, prompting Ms. Stuart to inquire if the Leadership Council would review the budget of the CDC of Tampa. Commissioner Beckner confirmed and explained that, as the administrating agent, Mr. Barton will be presenting the baseline budget provided to him and make recommendations to the Leadership Council regarding expending the Infrastructure portion of the budget. The Leadership Council will have to approve the use of funds, and Mr. Wagner will sign off any approved expenditure to Procurement Services. Ms. Smith asked about renewal options. Mr. Wagner responded it is a one year contract with two one year renewal options, and at that point we would execute a new contract.

Ms. Parris asked if the CDC of Tampa was comfortable with the deliverables and terms of the contract. Mr. Barton confirmed that that the CDC is comfortable, and the final contract will point to the RFQ as well as the scope of work that Ms. East will be presenting today.

Ms. Parris made a motion to approve the agreement. Mr. Niles seconded the motion.

Mr. Wagner added that the contract was intentionally written very broadly because the Council is the entity that governs how the effort will work. It was not the County's intention to tell us how to do the evaluation or any other piece of the contract. There were no further questions or comments and the motion was called to a vote and approved unanimously.

The Council moved to the next item on the Agenda, discussion of the contract deliverables. The preliminary Evaluation Proposal was distributed to members prior to the meeting via email to allow the opportunity for review. Hillsborough County's Procurement Department, County Attorney's Office and Intergovernmental Affairs Department worked together to craft a document that would allow the Safe & Sound Leadership Council to maintain control with the County paying the expenses.

Ms. East emphasized that all of the deliverables outlined in the Proposal came directly from the Hiring Committee minutes, from the position description for the Safe & Sound Coordinator or was drawn from the Scope of Work contained within the RFQ. She asked members to make note of two areas of the document referring to the Safe & Sound Coordinator position. The first states that the Coordinator be brought to the

Leadership Council for approval before hire and the other is that the Coordinator must meet the minimum qualifications outlined in the Position Description.

Ms. East asked that the Council members consider any other deliverables that may need to be added to the list. Mr. Barton added that he and Ms. East will be working together to assign dates of completion for each of the deliverables. For the meeting hiatus in July, the Council will need to determine the method of approval of the deliverables so that the CDC of Tampa can get paid.

Ms. Hall asked about allowing CDC of Tampa the latitude to make the decisions on hiring. Ms. East referred to the Scope of Work defined in the RFQ by the Hiring Committee, stating the Coordinator must be brought to the Leadership Council for approval. Ms. Stuart, a member of the Hiring Committee, recalled that the Hiring Committee added that particular requirement when the Committee was doing the hiring of the Coordinator and wanted the approval of the Council. Now that the Council has hired an agency, she would like to revisit that point. Ms. Stuart made a motion to carry out the contract deliverables listed and to allow the CDC of Tampa to hire the Coordinator and report back to the Leadership Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Parris. Commissioner Becker asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none and the Council approved the motion unanimously.

Mr. Niles inquired about the CDC's reporting. Ms. East responded that Mr. Barton will be a member of the Leadership Council and will be reporting to the Council at each month's meeting. Mr. Barton added that the is required to implement budget and fiscal accounting of revenues and expenditures on a monthly and year to date basis and has been working with Contracts and the Budget Office.

Mr. Wagner informed the group that his office has sent out invoices to the partner agencies last month, and thanked those that had already sent in their payment.

Commissioner Beckner moved to the next item on the Agenda, a Transition Update from Mr. Barton.

Mr. Barton touched on some initial sessions of brain dumping with Ms. East, who has provided a wealth of information. Mr. Barton received printed and digital copies of the Strategic Plan, a breakdown of the committees, and the initial Action Plans created by those committees. He worked with Contracts and Procurement Department staff to get the agreement in place and the CDC has created an initial operational budget which he will forward to the Council for review. The Safe & Sound Coordinator position will be posted soon, and in the interim, Mr. Barton will be fulfilling that role. He will develop the other position descriptions and submit them to the Leadership Council, and the former Hiring Committee, which he would like to rename the Advisory Committee.

The CDC is considering using the \$233,558 to look at a using a cost sharing model and see if it is possible to add another outreach manager. The Children's Board is offering office space and Mr. Barton is looking for cubicles. Estimated date of locating to the Children's Board is 7/31/15. It has not yet been worked out if designated Safe & Sound staff would utilize the CDC of Tampa's file server or perhaps Hillsborough County's server.

Mr. Barton has already reached out to the committee chairs for status of the Action Plans and has meetings planned with the Data Committee and the Communications Committee. Mr. Barton also participated in the

Gun Violence Think Tank, which could also help feed the Grant Writing Committee funding opportunities. He is reaching out to Cleveland's gun violence initiative in order to review their groups' best practice model. Mr. Barton has also met with the Neighborhood Relations staff of both the City and the County to find ways to connect with residents and communities.

Next steps will be to finalize the contract deliverables and timelines, look at Action Plan updates, individual meetings with the members of the Leadership Council, coordinate meeting schedules, and activate the Grant Writing Committee. Mr. Barton would like to create another committee to plan a Year 2 Violence Prevention Conference and a Youth Advisory Committee to bring some youth to the table to give buy in to the effort. That may require revising some meeting times.

Future items include determining the mechanism to operationalize private investment funds or grant funds for the effort, Year 2 kickoff events, possibly including a press conference led by youth in the community.

Another issue, is to petition to draw down staff salary for the work currently being done while waiting to interview and select the Safe & Sound Coordinator. Ms. Holt would like to discuss that further, but would like the County Attorney to be present.

Commissioner Beckner addressed the technology issue and stated the importance of all correspondence and email to be branded Safe & Sound Hillsborough so there is no confusion about who is implementing the effort.

Commissioner Beckner then welcomed Judge Stoddard to discuss gun violence in our community. Judge Stoddard emphasized that Tampa and Hillsborough County cares deeply about youth, and juvenile dependency and delinquency is one of the most emotional areas that the Courts deal with. He opened his presentation by recalling for the group the shocking tragedy of recent youth shootings, foreshadowed over the past 18 months by a rapid but steady growth in the number of juvenile cases involving firearms. This is particularly troubling to the juvenile justice community as it runs counter to an overall decrease in juvenile crime for the past ten years.

Judge Stoddard provided some comparative statistics compiled by the State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. In calendar year 2013, 282 juvenile cases involved guns, which would include all charges from misdemeanor possession all the way up to armed homicide. In calendar year 2014, there were 453 juvenile cases involving guns. However, from January 1, 2015 through June 15, 2015, juvenile cases involving guns has jumped to 282, exactly as many as we have in the entire year of 2013. This statistic is made even more shocking by the fact that overall total amount of juvenile cases has been dropping from 6,298 in 2013, to 5,830 in 2014 and the trend continues with January 1, 2015 through June 15, 2015 with 2,759 cases.

The Juvenile Justice Board is working with its stakeholders to address this issue. He reviewed the current method of operating the juvenile justice system, applying evidence based practices to rehabilitate youth when possible, punish them when necessary, but above all to preserve public safety.

The best response to this threat to public safety is first to study it as thoroughly as possible at every level and to explore every possibility of remediation. We can begin by forming a multidisciplinary group, engaging the academic community to assist in gathering and analyzing data and exploring programs that have been successfully implemented in other communities. Judge Stoddard introduced Dr. Heide of USF Criminology

Department who is the national expert on child homicides. She has been analyzing data collected at the Juvenile Assessment Center for over 20 years. Dr. Heide also works with Dr. Richard Dembo who is well known nationally as a researcher in the field of juvenile justice.

This particular problem of youth violence, gun violence, and gang violence is fairly new to us, but it is not new to places like Chicago, Baltimore, Cleveland and Los Angeles. These are areas of the country that have been dealing with this type of violent juvenile crime for years, and they reacted by going to the academic community and doing some studies and trying different programs.

Judge Stoddard highly recommended the Collaborative read an article entitled "Policing, Guns and Youth Violence" by Dr. Jeffrey Fagan of a professor of law and public health at Columbia University. It is interesting reading about many strategies we can try, efforts that have been successful in other communities. Those types of programs include stricter enforcement, gun buy backs, gun bounties, education programs (including social media), Project Safe Neighborhoods (a federally funded initiative to reduce gun violence in urban areas) and working with the Prevention Institute to obtain assistance and/or grants from state and federal agencies such as OJJDP or DOJ. We must also initiate public and private conversations and outreach with youth and the communities involved. Judge Stoddard informed the group they would be surprised what kids will sit down and talk about once they feel comfortable. Kids want to talk about this sort of thing, and if our efforts are going to succeed, engaging them is mandatory.

Judge Stoddard invited all members to attend the next Gun Violence Think Tank on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the 6th Floor Judicial Conference Room at the Edgecomb Courthouse.

Commissioner Beckner asked Dr. Heide if there was any theory as to why this surge in gun violence is happening now. Dr. Heide responded that historically, there was a dramatic increase in juvenile homicide in the 80's all over the country. That rate has been decreasing and is much lower now than it was 40 years ago. Dr. Heide cited a confluence of factors to account for the recent spike in homicides and increase of kids carrying weapons. Those include cultural issues such as media influence (social media, video games, music videos) as well as a significant shift in children's perception of safety in their communities.

Looking at the research literature we now know, through evidence based research, how critical it is to target youth and get them on board as we work toward greater neighborhood safety. The important thing is we know enough now that we can intervene. We are working together and have identified goals and Dr. Heide suggested this is the perfect time to fold in the gun issue. She would like to see a few measures added to the Youth Survey such as "Do you carry a gun?" "Do you know someone who carries a gun" "Do you carry a gun to look cool?" "Do you carry a gun because you are afraid?"

Project Safe Neighborhood in Chicago had several dimensions and the one with the best result were forums done with probationers and parolees. Having ex-offenders meet monthly and talk to State Attorney and Law Enforcement representatives yielded a more positive impression of the law enforcement community. Additionally the ex-offenders met with social services and networking providers. This type of forum was shown to be effective at three years and at ten years.

Commissioner Beckner concluded that what we are seeing with the gun issue and spike in homicides is the result of risk factors that have been building up in parts of our community for some time.

Ms. East asked if the relationship between the Safe & Sound Hillsborough and the Juvenile Justice Board should be formalized to include representative of the Juvenile Justice Board as part of the Leadership Council.

Commissioner Beckner will address the issue at the next Juvenile Justice Board meeting.

Commissioner Beckner thanked Dr. Heide for her insight and restated that there is no one person or entity that has the all of the answers. He emphasized the importance of the collaborative effort to solve the issue.

Mr. Hegarty addressed the final issue on the agenda, an update of the Communication Committee. Mr. Hegarty recalled for the group that it has been about one year since the press conference to debut the Safe & Sound Hillsborough Collaborative and he would like to discuss timing and content of a follow up press conference. The next meeting of the collaborative is on August 25th, and would he would like to schedule some press conference for August. He and Mr. Barton have talked briefly and discussed having some mini press conferences to update the community on our progress and hopefully have the Safe & Sound Coordinator in place to present some of our successes to the community.

Much of what we have done has been incremental and off the radar, but we may wish to emphasize addressing the issue of youth and guns. It would be compelling, make for a good press conference and get good coverage. Mr. Robe asked if the press conference could do something to get the word out about the Youth Survey.

Commissioner Beckner clarified that he envisions the press conference emphasizing the Collaborative's partnership with the CDC of Tampa and what we are doing to implement the Action Plans.

There is no July meeting, and the group agreed to hold the press conference in September. Mr. Hegarty and the Communications Committee will prepare a plan that will highlight the Safe & Sound Hillsborough Collaborative's successes and present the plan to the Leadership Council at the August 25th meeting.

Ms. Lewis informed the group that Mayor Buckhorn is going to be holding a Gun Buy Back sponsored by TPD and HCSO on June 27th at River Tower Park, 401 East Bird St. from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Chief Albano commented that he appreciates the Council's multidimensional approach to violence prevention, using the collective wisdom and outreach to bring change. Reaching out to youth is important, but he urged the members not to forget about the parents and other adults in need of violence prevention services. If we cannot engage those parents along with the youth, no long lasting change will occur. If the parents are involved, they will bring the youth. Ms. East concurred and recalled that when the Collaborative began the workshops with the Prevention Institute, the group made a conscious decision not to limit the focus to youth, mentally ill or substance abuse. It has always been the goal to have an inclusive Countywide community violence prevention effort.

Commissioner Beckner added that a lot of what impacts our youth relates back to what is going on in their homes and it is vital to engage the guardians or parents of these youth in order to stabilize their environments.

Ms. Coney informed the group the Congresswoman Castor is aware of the Safe & Sound Hillsborough effort, and now has a grant coordinator on staff who has been director to look at federal funding sources for the Safe & Sound Hillsborough initiative.

Commissioner Beckner thanked Ms. Coney and asked if there were any further questions or comments. There were none and the Commissioner wished the group a safe and sound summer. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

There is no financial impact to Hillsborough County BOCC as a result of this meeting.

The next scheduled meeting of the Safe & Sound Leadership Council will be:

Tuesday, August 25th, 2015
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
26th Floor Conference Rooms A & B