

Hillsborough County Violence Prevention Collaborative Meeting Recap
Thursday, November 7, 2013
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department

Leadership Council Members Present

Kevin Beckner, BOCC
Frank Chillura, Temple Terrace
April Griffin, School Board
Julianne Holt, Public Defender
Michael Sinacore, State Attorney's Office

Alternates Present

Michael Bridenback
Marine Marino, Public Defender
Gerald Seber, City of Temple Terrace
John Newman, City of Tampa
Cindy Stewart, School Board

Staff Present

Holly East, Commissioner's Aide
Herb Marlow, Project Facilitator
Bob Sheehan, Project Manager
Brandon Wagner
Robert Salmon

Others Present

Annie Lyles, Prevention Institute (videoconference)
Greg Horewdel, Plant City
Katelyn Leal

The meeting called to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. Chairman Beckner welcomed attendees to the fourth meeting of the Leadership Council and thanked the Sheriff's Department for hosting the meeting. Facilitator Herb Marlow gave a recap of the previous meeting and began to introduce the subcommittee chairs selected from the morning session.

Mr. Marlowe then proceeded to have each of the subcommittee chairs go over the guiding principles they had developed during the morning session, as they were written at that time, and explain what it is they meant through their remarks.

- The Public Safety/Judiciary Subcommittee suggested a holistic solution and the need to spend more time with the people involved.
- The Community-based Organizations Subcommittee focused on preventing violence, removing subjectivity, and providing more community training to increase involvement.
- The Health Care Subcommittee indicated that most of its members had a professional health background. It outlined the need to determine how to prevent violence, and an emphasis on addressing mental illness.
- The Faith Community Subcommittee proposed promoting a positive self-image in youth, as they currently feel labeled, and the importance of preparing youth for a global society.
- The Education Subcommittee emphasized looking at the data for violence in schools, seeking to know if and where there is a duplication of services, and what additional resources are needed.
- The Communications Subcommittee announced that it had met a number of times in preparation for previous Violence Prevention Collaborative meetings, and the need to send a clear message to the community about preventing violence, and the efforts of the Collaborative.
- The Data Subcommittee is dedicated to clearly defining the needs of the Collaborative, and to providing accurate and understandable data.

After Herb Marlowe wrapped up the subcommittee section, he recognized Bob Sheehan – project manager and chair of the data committee. Mr. Sheehan discussed an earlier comment about data collection resisting politics. Sheehan wanted to make sure the Collaborative did not mistake the comment as being hostile to their professions – what he meant by the comment, was that when looking, analyzing, or collecting data we should keep personal biases away and not only look at that which we want to prove. Also, the chamber needed to operationalize terms relevant to the Violence Prevention Collaborative so that the Data Committee would know what exactly was required of them; for example, what do members mean when they say violence? Do they want data on just those who were arrested, detained, and/or suspected of committing a certain crime? Mr. Sheehan then digressed to the topic of where there is missing info, most of which compose external issues hazardous to policy implementation – the pressing issues seem to be mainly external, as opposed to internal issues. Thirty-three percent of the problem is that \$47 million dollars are used for youth services, but we cannot exactly pinpoint where these dollars are coming from, which organizations, and at times, how it is being used. We need to solve these issues in order to reach a more holistic view of the problem and its solutions.

Commissioner Beckner then addressed topic three of the guiding principles: duplication of services. He claimed that the Leadership Council should take a direct role in overseeing this issue by formulating a resource document providing a holistic view – as he thought it would be possible, especially if the county tied strings around any money that would be disbursed for violence prevention.

At this point, Herb Marlowe asked the Leadership Council of any questions and final comments about what had been discussed thus far. Greg Horwedel asked if there was any way to set up a benchmark system to compare how Hillsborough looked to other communities, in regards to different standards (i.e. transportation). Mr. Sheehan with the Data Subcommittee responded that it can be done, but emphasized the need to measure differences, see the strategic plan, and what data is received. Mr. Horewdel also stressed that the Leadership Council needs to focus formulating a long-term solution to violence prevention, see what the longevity of such a policy would be. In addition, there needs to be a commitment on behalf of all agencies to that end.

Annie Lyles with the Prevention Institute spoke to the Leadership Council about the possibility of including the youth perspective and experiences with violence, and the various ways to do so, including using a questionnaire, focus groups, and/or town hall meetings at appropriate locations. Public Defender Holt said to focus on children/youth, going to schools and talking to kids about violence would be great, in particular, crossover kids. Ms. Stewart of the School Board recommended the alternative school population, and students working with dedicated counselors, including foster students in middle and high school. Mr. Bridenback suggested interviewing first-time offenders, selecting schools in select, at-risk neighborhood, and focus groups. Commissioner Beckner asked what is the end-result individuals are looking for – is there a population we need to address? He also asked if it was possible to have a focus group. Ms. Holt indicated that contact could be made with targeted populations. Based on the discussion and various suggestions, Mr. Marlowe suggested that the Data Subcommittee return in December and January with a suggested plan in consultation with the Prevention Institute to conduct a survey and focus groups.

Holly East then inquired about the Council's thoughts on moving forward with the forums. She then stated that a focus needed to be drawn to those who were indirect victims of crime, the "invisible victims", those

that view violence. Forums could be tailored to this target group and faith-based organizations could help address the issues.

Herb Marlowe then stated time was running out and asked if anyone had any final questions, and the community-based organizations would be added to the next discussion.

Venues were then addressed. Comm. Beckner said April and June were the only ones opened; thanked everyone for having hosted and those who were going to host – with a special shout-out to the School board who would be hosting the following December meeting.

On this note, the Public Defender asked what is required when hosting a meeting – after seeing the IT difficulties experienced by the staff.

Herb Marlowe responded: computer, projector, Wi-Fi if possible, and sound capabilities – but only for those sessions in which Annie would be present.

Bob Sheehan said he would get in contact with each specific body prior to holding the event, in order to assure all concerns were addressed.

Then, Herb Marlowe reviewed the preliminary agenda for the December meeting and asked for feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

