

Hillsborough County Violence Prevention Collaborative
Tuesday, October 8, 2013
Temple Terrace Omar K. Lightfoot Center

Leadership Council Members Present

Kevin Beckner, BOCC
Bob Buckhorn, Tampa
Frank Chillura, Temple Terrace
April Griffin, School Board
Bill McDaniel, Plant City
Michael Sinacore, State Attorney's Office

Alternates Present

Michael Bridenback
Marine Marino, Public Defender
Rob Bullara, HCSO
Cindy Stuart, School Board
Jerry Seeber, Temple Terrace

Staff Present

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

Others Present

Rita Brizendine, City of Temple Terrace
Annie Lyles, Prevention Institute (videoconference)

Meeting called to order at approximately 1:05 p.m. Commissioner Beckner led Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed attendees to the third meeting of the Leadership Council and thanked Temple Terrace staff members, Rita Brizendine, James Chambers, and Bob Keel, for their assistance in coordinating today's meeting. Commissioner Beckner introduced Mayor Chillura who gave opening remarks. Facilitator Herb Marlowe gave a recap of the previous meeting.

Mr. Marlowe enquired as to trends violence of what concerns the Committee. Ms. Griffin stated that bullying that happens at the malls and neighborhood communities is brought into our schools also the economic downturn has created a lot of homelessness and poverty has become a big issue. There is a large increase in free and reduced lunch program being used. Mr. Bridenback no actual data but we have some high profile cases, the whole juvenile system is where these violence related actions show themselves. The violence is a symptom of the basic issues of what we see in the community. We haven't seen a downturn in youth coming into the court system there is a continuation of conflict that results in violence. Other areas that impacts is the continued substance abuse issues and how that funnels into violence, people are influenced by stuff like alcohol and other substances.

Ms. Marino said the criminal justice system is used to dealing with the homeless society and the mental health issues are so huge. It's a lack of ability to provide them the treatment and resources to be stable in the community.

Mayor Buckhorn stated that violence shows up in violence in the inner City. Often this violence is triggered by neighborhood disputes and travels from neighborhood to neighborhood. It's an epidemic in urban America. It is a significant problem for the City of Tampa and the innocent victims involved. There is a small percentage of young people who make up the majority of the violence.

Mr. Bullara, who commands child protection, sees domestic violence, drug abuse and mental illness where the state is cutting funding. The majority of these people end up in jail because of the limited funding for mental illness facilities.

Mayor Chillura agreed with Mayor Buckhorn. This is an epidemic and each generation gets worse. The signs are out there and the kids are adapting to it and the children listen more to their peers than parents. Mayor Chillura feels we've isolated what's happening so now we have to figure out what to do.

Mr. McDaniel – we are concentrating on youth. Another trend we are seeing more of is a lot of the kids are beating on their parents or their siblings and the youth seem to believe violence is an answer or the only answer.

Commissioner Beckner stated that children are witnessing the violence within their home and learning and seeing violence as a conflict resolution. Most video games are focused on violence and children can't disseminate what is real and what is in the movies. Those things have an impact on the upbringing of today's children. That's why we see an increase in violence.

Mr. Seeber stated that violence is a learned behavior. To focus only on youth is a good start but adults are the base of it, it's what's been taught and to overcome that you have to educate them in their youth.

Commissioner Beckner suggested video games are one place to fix. Wherever you go it seems violence is prevalent and violence is a learned behavior.

Mr. Marlow asked what other difficult topics there were and several were mentioned such as drug abuse and mental illness. Mr. Marlow continued mentioning the strategy of other performance matrix. What future do you want to see here? What policies need to be changed.

Mr. Seeber said that one thing the group talked about was to make sure work is data driven. What is proven to work and not just talk about that has worked.

Ms. Stuart mentioned that once you get past that symposium the group needs to come back with short term and long term goals.

Mr. Marlow said to take these 6 summits and prepare a strategic draft and the group would have to work through that. Including long term and short term goals.

Mr. Marlow continued that the first summit should be mental health and the following was a list of some who should be invited: Grace Point, Northside, Hospitals – Baycare, St Joseph's, Family Therapy Associations, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Phoenix House, Crossroads, Veterans groups and academic institutes.

Ms. Griffin suggested hearing from the people who have benefited from these programs. Mr. Marlow said the list will be gone through and a meeting will be organized. Other summits that will be organized include employment, Coordination, Policies, Community design and Family and child.

Commissioner Beckner asked if there was other issues new business and reminded the group that the next meeting will be November 7 at the Faulkenburg office. As usual the sub committees will meet at 10 a.m. and the rest will meet at 1 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.