

Violence Prevention Collaborative
Monday, August 25, 2014
County Center, 24th Floor Conference Room

Leadership Council Members Present

Kevin Beckner, Chair, BOCC
Gerald Seeber, City of Temple Terrace
Bill McDaniel, City of Plant City
Deputy Chief Brian Dugan, City of Tampa
Michael Bridenback, Court Administrator
Col. Donna Luszcynski, HCSO
Julianne Holt, Public Defender
Michael Sinacore, State Attorney's Office
Kelley Parris, Chair, Community-Based Orgs.
Steve Hegarty, Chair, Communications Comm.
Dr. Martha Coulter, Co-Chair, Education Comm.
Chakita Hargroves, Chair, Faith-Based Committee
Karen Pesce, RN, Co-Chair Education Comm.
Dan Jurman, Chair, Public Safety/Judiciary
Robert Blount, Vice Chair, Faith-Based Committee
Walter Niles, Chair, Health Committee

Alternates Present

Holly East, Commissioner's Aide
Kenneth Albano, Temple Terrace PD
Cindy Stuart, HC School Board

Others Present

Chloe Coney, Congresswoman Castor's Office
Dr. Samuel Wright, Sr., Community at Large
Tonia Williams, Children's Board

Staff Present

Tom Fesler, Business & Support Services
Orlando Perez, County Attorney's Office
Lynne Tierney, Division of Children's Services

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

The Violence Prevention Collaborative (VPC) received copies of the minutes from the July 24, 2014 meeting via email to allow the opportunity for review prior to this meeting. Ms. Holt made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Col. Luszcynski. The minutes were unanimously approved with one correction, the spelling of Ms. Stuart's name.

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE:

Commissioner Beckner lauded the Communications Subcommittee for an outstanding job with the morning 10:00 a.m. Press Conference. Mr. Steve Hegarty, Chair of the Communications Subcommittee, thanked the Commissioner and informed the group of Commissioner Beckner's contributions: he wrote a prominent opinion article published on Sunday (July 23rd, 2014) in the Tampa Tribune which generated some early buzz about the Violence Prevention Collaborative; he was interviewed this morning at 7:30 on Fox 13, then called a Radio 970 from the TV station for another interview. The 10:00 a.m. press conference included representatives from the St. Petersburg Times, the Tampa Tribune, independent columnists, News Channel 8, Fox 13, the Osprey Observer, and Creative Loafing magazine. The press packets were well received and there are a number of related items on social media as well. Mr. Hegarty concluded that we did a lot of things right

and captured a lot of media interest, but we can do a better job of reaching out to media that targets minority audiences.

Ms. East added that when they were leaving to Fox 13 studio the station staff offered their help in the future. Mr. Hegarty agreed that the roll out of the Strategic Plan was successful and all the signs are positive; we have the attention of the community. Commissioner Beckner concurred and added that now the real work begins, to execute the plan and transform the ideas into action.

The group received hard copies of the 36-page Strategic Plan. Commissioner Becker informed the group that the Safe & Sound Hillsborough Strategic Plan can also be found on the Hillsborough County website, at: <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/12859>

NEW BUSINESS:

The group moved to the next item on the Agenda, approving the VPC's 5-year pilot budget.

Ms. Holt noted yellow highlights in the budget. Commissioner Beckner explained those were two items with some service issues currently undetermined, office equipment and website hosting/maintenance. Ms. Holt noticed an error with the Outreach Manager's salary increments and it was corrected during the meeting.

Tom Fesler, Director of Hillsborough County Business & Support Services, addressed the group regarding the proposed budget. He explained that the line items for Staff were envisioned as contracted positions with inflationary increases of 4% per year. Initially, the County will set up separate cost centers within the County's financial system, which will track both the revenues coming in to support the budget and expenditures required. Mr. Fesler clarified that the staff positions would not include benefits.

There were no more questions on the budget and Ms. Holt moved for approval of the budget, seconded by Mr. Bridenback. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Beckner added that the group has 100% participation of the partners, subject to the Board of County Commissioner's approval on September 4th. The discussion is 10:15 a.m. time certain the Commissioner would like to see the members in attendance, if possible. Copies of the actual plan will be available to the public at that time.

Commissioner Beckner then moved to the next item of New Business, implementation of the 100 Day Plan. Top priority is to get a director in place, and to do so will require a committee to help develop the timeline for the process, the deliverables for which the director will be responsible, the job posting, the start date, etc. Commissioner Beckner asked who would be interested in serving on the Hiring Committee. Volunteers included Ms. Kelley Parris, Mr. Dan Jurman, Mr. Walter Niles and Ms. Cindy Stuart. Ms. East offered to be an *ad hoc* member of the Hiring Committee, to provide background information that she may have in her possession as a result of conversations with other Violence Prevention programs in the country. The group agreed to meet and bring reports back to the full Collaborative as part of the regular Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

The first item of Old Business on the Agenda is setting up a Cost Center in the County's financial system. At the last meeting, the group reached consensus to consider non-profit organizations that might be interested in managing the staff contracts and serving as fiscal agent under certain conditions to be defined in an Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Becker worked with Mr. Fesler and Ms. Kelley Parris of the Children's Board to glean information about the development of an RFQ and asked Ms. Parris to update the group. Ms. Parris clarified that the RFQ document provided in the agenda backup is basically a template and that she and her staff analyzed all of the documents generated by the Collaborative, including past directives, minutes and, of course, the Strategic Plan. Staff came up with recommendations regarding issues that need to be resolved prior to issuing an RFQ: clear deliverables, formalize a reporting structure, identify feedback loops, structure processes, qualifications for applicants and reimbursements for any host agency. Also key is to hire the coordinator to move forward with a timeline. The initial draft timeline reflects the development of an RFQ in February 2015, with proposals due in June, and a goal date to transition to the selected nonprofit in October 2015. Mr. Fesler added that was a very good summary and stressed the importance of the detailed scope of services that includes associated outcomes.

Commissioner Beckner suggested moving forward with the County serving as the cost center and temporarily housing the program at the Children's Board while the work of developing the RFQ is underway. Ms. East added that implementing the tasks of the First 100 Days is necessary to complete the RFQ. Ms. Parris emphasized the importance of the Hiring Committee developing a process to get the project's director/coordinator in place.

Ms. Holt made a motion to defer the RFQ and permit Hillsborough County to act as the cost center for the project and to permit the Collaborative be housed at the Children's Board. She expressed her thanks to Ms. Parris. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sinacore. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beckner then led the group to review the 100 Days Plan and setting in motion filling the staff positions. He asked if the group had any questions or comments regarding the plan. Ms. Holt asked the Commissioner if he would like any assistance in drafting the job descriptions or will that be done by the Hiring Committee. He replied that Ms. East has researched other job descriptions for similar positions and she will forward the information to the group for review. He cautioned that the Hiring Committee will be operating in the Sunshine, meaning the committee meetings will need to be publicly noticed. He inquired if anyone was interested in chairing the committee. Ms. Parris agreed to serve as Chair.

Commissioner Beckner asked if there were any other questions or comments. Ms. Holt responded with her appreciation for Mr. Hegarty and the work of the Communications Committee and was impressed with the roll out of the program. She commented that having the Strategic Plan be so clearly data driven speaks well of the clear vision that the VPC has of our community and its commitment to this effort. She also thanked Dr. Coulter for highlighting the challenges that we have as it relates to our children in school and the view that most kids have of our schools as not only an educational opportunity, but as a safe haven with adult support. Ms. Holt and those who work in the court system are concerned about our youth and the extent of their involvement in violence at ever younger ages. Ms. Holt stated she is proud to live here and glad to see all of the community partners at the table to work together on this collaborative. She also commended Ms. East for her tireless efforts and tremendous amount of work on behalf of the group.

Ms. East informed the group that she has contacted the GIS department for overlaying the heat maps contained in the strategic plan to highlight the neighborhoods and zip codes at greatest risk for violence. These maps provide an overview of the areas that may require additional resources, and will assist the VPC in prioritizing targets.

Ms. Stuart stated that the school system is ready to move ahead, and seeks direction from the VPC. Commissioner Beckner confirmed that future discussions will include what it means to have a data based perspective to prevent violence, how that structure will look and how the public health plan will be implemented.

Ms. Parris shared her experience in engaging affected communities. On Saturday, The Children's Board sponsored an Empowerment of Women seminar. The Children's Board partnered with the matriarchs of Sulphur Springs and developed a survey addressing the top four community issues, one of which was violence. The event kicked off with an inspiring video featuring Ms. Chloe Coney and Ms. Evangeline Best speaking about the history of Sulphur Springs and what it took to organize the community to come together and address the violence in the area. <http://youtu.be/fiQTWh7oiVE>

At the conclusion of the video, the group applauded Ms. Coney, who was present. Ms. Parris added that the video effectively sends the message that lasting change comes from involving the people living in the community. Commissioner Becker added that if anyone can facilitate change, it is Ms. Coney, and echoed Ms. Coney's beliefs that to foster great change we must involve the community. He referred to the five-year pilot project and reminded members that it will take a substantial amount of work from every person at the table to successfully implement the plan.

Ms. Pesce emphasized Ms. Coney's belief that we must not approach a community with the attitude that we intend to 'save the day.' When agencies initially had the grant funding to provide services in Sulphur Springs, the residents did not attend or participate. It took substantial effort and sincere listening to hear what the community wanted and believed were solutions it could own and embrace. The community must know that these are their programs.

Ms. Coney concurred that it was not easy to get that participation and issued a challenge to the Collaborative to go to the people, learn from the people, love the people. Start with what they know and build on what they have, so that when the task is done, the people say we have done it ourselves.

Ms. Coney thanked the group and stated that our community is ripe for change. Commissioner Beckner responded that this Collaborative is not a top down approach; it is a bottom to the top approach. It is essential to put the plan together as a community, but even more essential to the implementation of the plan. He sees the VPC as having created the soil and the foundation, and now it must go into the community to plant the seeds to harvest the fruits of a more peaceful community.

Dr. Samuel Wright introduced himself to the group and asked the Commissioner if the committee would continue after the staff is selected. Commissioner Beckner confirmed that the VPC would continue to be the governing body of the effort to oversee the work and hold the director accountable.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Beckner thanked all of the committee members for their hard work and contributions.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Violence Prevention Collaborative will be:

Monday, September 22, 2014
24th Floor Conference Room
1:00 p.m.