

Hillsborough County Violence Prevention Collaborative
Thursday, September 12, 2013
Tampa Convention Center, Rooms 15-16

Leadership Council Members Present

Kevin Beckner, BOCC
Bob Buckhorn, City of Tampa
April Griffin, School Board
Frank Chillura, Temple Terrace
Michael Sinacore, State Attorney's Office
Julianne Holt, Public Defender
Donna Luszczynski, HCSO

Public Safety/Judiciary Committee Nominees

Judge Lisa Campbell, Chief Judge
Chief Steven Singletary, Plant City
Marvin Knight, City of Tampa
Ret. Capt. Tracy Mishler, Temple Terrace
Capt. Scott Wellinger, HCSO
Daniel Jurman, Hillsborough County
Joan Boles, Public Defender
David Friedberg, School Board
Douglas Covington, State Attorney
Patricia Waterman, Court Administrator

Health Care Committee Nominees

Judge Jack Espinosa, Chief Judge
Karen Kerr, Plant City of Tampa
Dr. Jason Wilson, City of Tampa
DeeWynn Cox, Temple Terrace
Dr. Nicole Shiber, Public Defender
Maria Russ, School Board
Lorie Cura, State Attorney
Joan Montagno, Court Administrator

Community Based Orgs Committee Nominees

Carolyn Collins, City of Tampa
Ronald Govin, Temple Terrace
Constance Rose, Hillsborough County
David Braughton, Public Defender
Michael Brown, School Board
Margaret Laing, State Attorney
Andrea Layne Bridenback, Court Administrator

Data Collection Committee Nominees

Jeffrey Eakins, School Board
Dep. Chief Seeley, Temple Terrace
John Chaffin, HCSO
Candace Perez, HCSO Extra
Nichole Hanscom, Public Defender
Michael Bidenback, Court System
Mark Hudson, Plant City

Alternates Present

Michael Bridenback, Court Administrator
Jane Castor, City of Tampa
Cindy Stuart, School Board
Bill McDaniel

Staff Present

Holly East, Commissioner's Legislative Aide
Herb Marlowe, Project Facilitator
Bob Sheehan, Project Manager
Robert Salmon, Special Projects Coordinator
Brandon Wagner, Legislative Affairs Officer
Mike Merrill, County Administrator

Faith Community Committee Nominees

Antonio Hawkins, City of Tampa
Pastor Ted Fielland, Temple Terrace
Major Curtis Flowers, HCSO
Chakita Hargrove, Hillsborough County
Robert Blount, Public Defender's Office
Maxine Woodside, School Board
Rita Peters, State Attorney's Office
Tonya Salahu-din Muhammad, Court Administrator
Djamila Abdel-Jaleen, Extra

Education Committee Nominees

Dean Christopher Pietruszkiewicz, Chief Judge
Dr. Coulter, City of Tampa
Carol Dell, Temple Terrace
Sgt. Laura Regan, HCSO
Charles Rodriguez, Hillsborough County
Dr. Kathleen Heide, Public Defender
Charles Mendez, School Board
Ron Gale, State Attorney
Yvette Boatwright, Court Administrator

Communications Committee Nominees

Steve Hegerty, School District
Mark Cox, State Attorney
Nichole Hanscom, Public Defender
Jeff Stidham, Court System

Others Present

Annie Lyles, Prevention Institute
Benita Tsao, Prevention Institute

Invited Guests Present

Simon Gaugush for Lee Bentley III, US Attorney
Nanci Newton for Judy Genshaft, USF
Karen Pesce, More Health Inc.
Larry Schonfeld PhD, FMHI
Dr. Douglas Holt, Department of Health
Cassandra Thomas, Boys and Girls Club
Jennifer Hayes, Boys and Girls Club
DeAnna Irizarry, Boys and Girls Club
Kelley Parris, Childrens Board

Lance Lansrud, Community Tampa Bay
Jane Murphy, Healthy Start Coalition
Frank Strom, Veterans Affairs
Mindy Murphy, Spring
Alternate for Maria Montenegro, LULAC FI Council
Rhonda Abbott, United Way
Jack Ross, Tampa Jewish Federation
Mike Merrill, Hillsborough County
Maria Marino, Guest of Public Defender

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM. Holly East, Legislative Aide to Commissioner Kevin Beckner, stated that Commissioner Beckner had developed this initiative in response to the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary. She then welcomed participants to the opening workshop session for committee nominees. She stated that her role would be to provide an introduction to the structure of the Hillsborough County Violence Prevention Collaborative and how it works. She displayed and reviewed an organizational chart for the Collaborative. She stated that there had been two organizational meetings of the Leadership Council to date, and that at the last one, in August, there had been much discussion about bringing more people and organizations to the table in connection with the various subcommittees. She stated that there would be a number of invited guests at the afternoon session at 1:00 PM this date, whom the Council had invited in hopes that some of them would express an interest in serving on one of the five appointed subcommittees. She stated that the Leadership Council would be meeting from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on the same day each month, with the subcommittees meeting in the morning from 10:00AM to 12:00 PM. She explained the role of the subcommittees would be to consider not only the rates of violence in their community, but also such things as poverty, unemployment, education, mental health and substance abuse, and family structures, all of which span the broad continuum of issues, policies and systems at the core of all forms of violence. She stated the subcommittees would also consider community strengths or resilience factors that prevent violence. The subcommittees would then be asked to make recommendations to the Leadership Council based on their analysis of data and their knowledge of interventions that are known to prevent violence. These recommendations would be considered by the Leadership Council, who would then write a strategic plan with a target completion date of June, 2014. She stated that the subcommittees would not convene until November 7, 2013, at which time each would elect a chair and vice-chair. The Chair of each subcommittee along with the Leadership Council members would form the Steering Committee. Committee Chairs would be required to attend meetings of the Leadership Council to provide status reports on the work of their respective committees, which would be the first order of business on the Leadership Council's meeting agendas, after which the Committee Chairs would be free to leave. She stated that this information was being shared now as it may impact decisions on who to elect for chair of each committee. She then introduced other staff and team members present. She thanked everyone for being present and for their participation.

Dr. Herb Marlowe, Project Facilitator, opened the morning committee workshop portion of the meeting. He reviewed a handout entitled "18 Data Indicators" which was provided to the attendees and asked the committee members to introduce themselves to one another, and to discuss specific indicators they believed should be looked at more closely to help understand violence in their community, and be prepared to share their collective conclusions. He asked each committee to select as chair the member who had lived in the community the longest.

Committees broke off for individual table discussion for approximately 15 minutes.

Dr. Marlowe asked each chair to present, or appoint someone to present, a brief report on their findings. He asked Bob Sheehan, Project Manager, to collect the notes from each table after reports were given.

Mark Hudson, Data Collection Committee, reported that their committee had a lot of free flow discussion, but much of the discussion was on safety and gang related crime. He concluded by stating they felt there were some agencies not present today with whom they wanted to make sure they had some interaction, such as the Planning Commission and the Children's Board.

Dr. Kathleen Heide, Education Committee, reported that their committee had chosen several data indicators they felt were important, including: poverty, school achievement and drop-out rates, lack of mental health services, a need to develop emotional and physical skills, structure of the family and parenting supervision, unemployment, need for conflict resolution skills, and certain high risk behaviors.

Judge Jack Espinosa, Health Care Committee, reported that their committee had discussed the following issues of importance: substance abuse, untreated mental health, treatment and early intervention.

Dan Jurman, Public Safety Committee, reported that their committee had discussed many of the same indicators already shared, but that two issues that came up the most were poverty and transients in the community.

Pastor Ted Fielland, Faith Community Committee, reported that their committee had discussed the importance of religious participation, domestic violence, and the involvement of churches in our schools (specifying all religious organizations, not just Christian churches).

Andrea Layne, Community Organizations Committee, reported that their committee had discussed the importance of having a better definition of violence and violent crimes. She stated there were some risk factors not included in the list which were important, such as: the number of children in foster care, the number of title 1 and renaissance schools, the number of children completing Kindergarten through Fifth Grade in the same school which allows measurement of the transient population, and FCAT reading scores at Third Grade level.

Steve Hegerty, Communications Committee, reported that their committee had discussed many of the same issues already shared. They discussed: poverty, economic opportunity, family stability, supports for the family, mental health and support.

Dr. Marlowe thanked the committees for their participation and input. He stated we all speak from our own professional experiences which are all valid and important. He stated that we need to develop, understand and share a common intellectual framework in order to talk to each other more effectively and usefully, and that this was the purpose of today's agenda. He introduced Annie Lyles and Benita Tsao, of the Prevention Institute, who would be making presentations.

Annie Lyles welcomed everyone, and briefly explained the work of the Prevention Institute in health care based violence prevention. She said that the input of those who had been chosen would be valuable in helping to identify what needed to be changed in their community, and helping the Leadership Council to implement a plan to achieve those goals. She reviewed a handout entitled "Selected Risk and Resilience Factors for Preventing Community Violence." She asked the committees to discuss these factors and collectively identify, first, what was already being done to address them, and second, recommendations to Hillsborough County in a broader sense. She asked the committees to discuss these risk and resilience factors and be prepared to share their findings.

Committees broke off for individual table discussion for approximately 30 minutes, after which Ms. Lyles asked the committees to share their collective findings.

Jeff Eakins, Data Collection Committee, reported that their committee had identified education data, crime data and mental health data as areas already being worked on by their group. He stated that they had

identified the following as areas as recommendations for the broader community to focus on: quality schools, coordinating across agencies, employment and economic opportunities, access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, and poor parent child relationships.

Dr. Kathleen Heide, Education Committee, reported that their committee had identified the following being focused on by their group: coordination of resources and services, connection to a caring adult, skills in solving problems non-violently, connection and commitment to school, high expectations and quality schools. The following were recommendations for the broader community focus: connection to a caring adult, poor neighborhood support and cohesion, media violence, mental health problems, alcohol and substance abuse and community design that promotes safety.

Dr. Jason Wilson, Health Care Committee, reported that their committee had identified the following areas of focus for their group: coordination of resources, access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, community support and connectedness, economic opportunity, family conflicts, and incarceration and re-entry. For the broader community: coordination of resources and access to healthcare.

Tracy Mishler, Public Safety/Judiciary Committee, reported the following areas of focus for their group: feedback from the community, relationship building, addressing symptoms to strengthen neighborhoods, and collaborating and sharing resources. For the broader community: poor parent relationships, domestic violence, single parent families, lack of cohesiveness in the community, and community deterioration.

Chakita Hargrove, Faith Community Committee, reported their group's areas of focus as: poor neighborhood support, incarceration and re-entry, poor child-parent relationships, family conflict, academic failure and failure of the school system, diminished economic opportunities and high unemployment rate. For the broader community: weapons, alcohol and substance abuse, neighborhood poverty, collective efficacy and willingness to act for the common good, community design that promotes safety, coordination of resources among community agencies, and limiting access to alcohol and drugs.

Carolyn Collins, Community Organizations Committee, reported their group's focus areas as: connection and commitment to schools, connection to caring adults, relationships and attachments, coordination and sharing of resources of agencies, media violence, educational, economic and social policies and laws. Broader community recommendations: coordination or resources, employment and economic opportunity, poor child parent relationships, family conflict, mental health problems and alcohol and substance abuse, and low educational achievement.

Steve Hegerty, Communications Committee, report the following areas of group focus: community support and connectedness, coordination among community agencies, weak health, educational and social policies. He stated that the group suggested the indexing of crimes which, although crime rate is going down, are some of the more lethal and depraved crimes.

Ms. Lyles noted that four common themes on which there seemed to be a consensus were: coordination of resources, access to mental health/alcohol and substance abuse treatment, community design, and connections to caring adults and education. She asked if there were other issues of importance which the participants thought might bear discussion.

Various committee members shared the following issues: lack of providers on substance abuse issues, policy with undocumented populations, roadblocks to accessing resources, multi-cultural awareness and education, and consolidated government.

Ms. Lyles summarized that the morning session had focused on things we want to see changed and things we see as most underlying violence in our community. She stated that the afternoon session would focus on the strategies that impact risk and resilience and will move this data.

Morning session was adjourned at 12:04 PM.

Afternoon session convened at 1:18 PM.

Commissioner Kevin Beckner, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, gave welcoming remarks, and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2013 meeting of the Leadership Council.

Motion: (Holt-Cillura) That said minutes be approve. Motion carried.

Commissioner Beckner recommended having alternates attend the Leadership Council meetings as well as the regular members. He asked invited guests to make sure they signed the contact information list. He distributed a meeting schedule to Council members. He stated that they would like to have meetings at various locations throughout the County. He introduced the following key staff and team members: Legislative Aide Holly East, Facilitator Dr. Herb Marlowe, Projects Coordinator Robert Salmon, Legal Affairs Officer Brandon Wagner and County Administrator Mike Merrill. He then gave some brief background on how the Hillsborough County Violence Prevention Collaborative had been formed, following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. He recognized and thanked the Police Department and Sheriff's Office for their continuing efforts to successfully reduce crime and violence in our community. He stated that the burden of violence prevention could not be shouldered by law enforcement alone, and would require a community paradigm shift in how we think of violence. He stated that over the next 12-18 months they would be involving the medical community, the faith-based community, the mental health community, and the law enforcement. He stated that the County had contracted with the Prevention Institute to put together a comprehensive strategic plan that is unique to Hillsborough County to help us reduce violence. He introduced Program Manager Annie Lyles of the Prevention Institute.

Annie Lyles welcomed everyone to the afternoon session, and shared some background on the Prevention Institute and their work with cities and communities nationwide to help reduce violence. She stated that three important types of information which would be covered would be: what is going on with other cities and communities, the best available research on violence reduction, and how this all relates to our community. She stated that the goal would be to bring these three pieces together to develop an effective framework for violence prevention in Hillsborough County.

Upon his arrival, Commissioner Beckner introduced Mayor Bob Buckhorn and thanked him for hosting the meeting at the Convention Center today.

Mayor Buckhorn thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. He stated that Tampa would never be a great city unless the rising problem of violence was addressed, and we created an environment in which opportunity exists for all, regardless of race or color or economic background. He stated that we are here to combat the epidemic of violence, and that this is important stuff. He concluded by stating that this was part of the legacy we hope to leave to our children.

Annie Lyles and Benita Tsao, of the Prevention Institute, then proceeded to review in detail a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Three Keys: Framework for Preventing Violence." They welcomed interaction from participants throughout the presentation. Ms. Lyles asked the committees to discuss a spectrum for prevention, including some of the strategies already in place and ones they would like to see implemented.

Committees broke off for discussion for approximately 10 minutes, and then were given opportunity to share their findings.

After discussion, Ms. Lyles collected notes from each committee. She concluded by summarizing the six most common risk and resilience factors upon which the participants had some to consensus. These were: 1) coordination of resources and services; 2) employment and economic opportunities; 3) mental health and substance abuse and access to treatment; 3) community design that promotes safety; 4) parent child relationships; 5) connection to caring adults; and 6) weak health education and social policies.

Upon completion of their PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Lyles concluded by noting some additional tools and resources available on the website of the Prevention Institute, www.preventioninstitute.org . She gave contact information for herself and Ms. Tsao, for any further questions they may answer.

Commissioner Beckner thanked Ms. Lyles and Ms. Tsao for their presentation. He recognized Police Chief Jane Castor, Tampa Police Department, and Bob Sheehan, Project Manager, who were in attendance. He announced the next meeting of the Council would be held on October 8, 2013 at 1:00 PM in Temple Terrace, and the first Subcommittee meeting would be held on November 7, 2013. He asked everyone to fill out the survey provided by Prevention Institute to provide their feedback. He again thanked Mayor Buckhorn for hosting the meeting today. He asked invited guests who were interested in participating in the Collaborative to please provide contact information to his Aide, Holly East.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 PM.