



## Midtown Health Equity Action Team “Engaging the Community for Equity in Health”

Department of Health in Volusia County -  
Facilitator: Suzanne Grubbs/Ethan Johnson -  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes -  
December 18, 2014 -

The Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health or PACE-EH is a tool designed to encourage local health officials and community members to work together to identify and address community environmental health issues. Residents of the community voice concerns and prioritize issues, while the Steering Committee assists in facilitating the process by organizing meetings, speakers, and identifying funding opportunities.

### Attendance:

1 Stephanie Fyock (FDOH Volusia)	12. Thomas Bryant III (FDOH Volusia)	
2. Chris Daun (Rebuilding Together)	13. John Long (VITAS)	
3. Ethan Johnson (FDOH Volusia)	14. Eburn Grimes (FDOH Volusia)	
4. Emma Rogers (Kingston Community)		
5. Suzanne Grubbs (FDOH Volusia)		
6. Christina Quinn (FDOH Volusia)		
7. Charles Bethune (FDOH Volusia)		
8. Stephan Harris (River to Sea TPO)		
9. Johnnie Ponder (Midtown HEAT)		
10. Dorothy Maddox (DBHA)		
11. Synthia Williams (Midtown HEAT)		

### **Welcome and Introductions** (*Johnnie Ponder*)

Johnnie Ponder called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. Brief introductions were made by all attendees. Meeting minutes were approved from November.

**Update: Light-up Midtown Debrief** (*Suzanne Grubbs*)

This year we had approximately 93 volunteers and 933 attendees.

*Comments:*

- Although some didn't care for the color selection, the stage looked nice; very fresh and beautiful.
- There were a lot of ant piles when we went out to set up the field the day before. Thankfully they sprayed for ants before the event and that wasn't a problem.
- This year we had 10 additional healthcare vendors.
- Farmshare was an amazing addition to this year's event. They brought 10,000 pounds of produce. Farmshare gave away silk milk, granola bars, okra, plantains, green beans, green tomatoes, bottled water, and potatoes. We wanted to start small since this was our first year partnering with Farmshare, but by 12:00 all of the produce was given out to the neighborhood.
- We'd like to try to bring Farmshare back a couple times throughout the year. We should look into having them come to Juneteenth.
- Where we had the welcome table set up people had to come to us to sign-in and then go back to where they came in for the vegetables. The flow needs to be set up a little better so people aren't going back and forth.
- One of our limiting factors with Farmshare was we didn't have a fork lift therefore they had to be on the asphalt. Maybe next year we can get a fork lift. This will allow them to bring more produce and inside the fence (rather than outside the fence in the parking lot).
- Maybe we should get crowd control ropes around where the produce is to direct people to the welcome table.
- Maybe we should start the health fair a little later because there weren't a lot of people on the street for the parade.
- I heard that part of the reason the parade attendance was so low was because the past two years we had a low amount of participants in the parade. We need to get more people to participate and advertise it further in advance. The bands change everything.
- Maybe we should extend the parade a little bit longer; down to Charles Street.
- We need to address the problem with people parking right along the gate. The cars were in the way when trying to get the fire trucks and prevention on the move in. The cars along the fence also made it difficult to direct the crowd.
- I thought that last year we had more health vendors who offered services like flu shots, pneumonia shots, diabetes testing, vision screenings, etc. I'd like to see us offer more health services at next year's fair (we would also have to provide follow-up as well).

- We need to do a better job scheduling. We need to have it on a day with less competing events (BCU graduation, other parades, etc). This year was a little bit better than last as far as conflicting parade times though.
- We need to set the bar as far as healthy food in the community. Maybe handing out the doughnuts isn't necessarily a bad thing, but I don't think we should have Krispy Cream at the welcome table.
- Midtown EcoVillage's healthy cooking demonstration was an amazing way to tie in the fresh produce provided by Farmshare. Farmshare said that this was the first time they had seen that at an event. Next year we could do a little bit better by handing out recipes to people who are picking up the fruits and vegetables.
- In order to keep health at the fore-front maybe we can be sure to incorporate preventative health vendors closer to areas where the hamburgers and hot dogs are being given out.
- We could improve some of the organization the day of by having pre-determined jobs/tasks for volunteers.

#### **2015 Elections** (*Suzanne Grubbs & Ethan Johnson*)

- The 2015 Midtown HEAT Vice-Chair will be Synthia Williams
- The 2015 Midtown HEAT Chair will be Johnnie Ponder

#### **Update: CHLI Assessment** (*Suzanne Grubbs*)

Tomorrow Ethan, Christina and Charles will be doing the final assessment for Turie T. The final assessments for Kingston, Uptown, and Brentwood/Mason Park will be conducted in February. Hopefully by the end of February we can have the assessments wrapped up. The Boy's & Girl's Club still needs the initial assessment and the final.

#### **Update: Action Plan** (*Suzanne Grubbs*)

We have three priority areas; Crime and Drugs, Healthy Food Access, Building Walkable Communities, and Supporting the Light-Up Midtown Community Event. With Crime and Drugs we have narrowed that down to youth related delinquency. Most of our speakers have expressed the need for mentoring and extracurricular activities for youth. These two activities have been proven to deter young people from participation in delinquent activities. Under our current Action Plan we have five tasks that fall under the target area of Crime and Drugs:

1. Engage youth to reduce delinquent behaviors
2. Support mentoring and tutoring programs such as: JEM program, PAL program
3. Research Truancy as local issue to work towards solutions
4. Encourage more youth activities within Daytona Beach
5. Partner in community service projects and local cleanups

In addition to these five there is a possibility that we could add a tasks related to mental health services for youth.

*Suzanne Grubbs*- Data shows that communities that are well kept have lower rates of crime. What would be interesting is to have the police officer who is charge of crime prevention through environmental design to come speak to our group.

*Johnnie Ponder*- The resources are there, we just don't know about them. We need to use the resources that are available. Learning how to use the 2-1-1 would be beneficial.

*Thomas Bryant*- The problem isn't referral though (which is what the 2-1-1's primary function is), the problem is having access to ongoing care and ongoing counseling. Even with a referral system like 2-1-1 it's difficult to receive the care you need when you are from a low-income disenfranchised community. Our next quarterly report is going to focus on accessibility of health services for veterans, the homeless and those suffering from mental health issues.

*Johnnie Ponder*- We need an asset map of youth related and mental health related services. Part of the problem is the lack of accountability of the organizations. They have money but aren't doing anything. We have groups and organizations in our community that aren't being forth coming with information about what they do. Creating a youth services asset map would be a good first step to identifying the gaps.

*Dorothy Maddox*- We need to target the issue and stay focused. We have to be specific and concise in order to do this. We need to narrow down what we mean by Mental Health and how we want to impact the issues surrounding it.

*Ebun*- I think the task related to truancy is no longer "research". After having Mrs. Carla Quann present and Chief Chitwood we know what the data looks like. We should pull data into a one-pager and move forward with action steps related to this task.

### **Round Table:**

*Suzanne Grubbs*- I want to introduce Sarah. Sarah is a professor at Stetson and she is working on her Master's in Public Health Nutrition. We had a volunteer that started doing an assessment for healthy food access in the midtown grocery and convenience stores. Sarah is going to be looking at the kinds of healthy food options that are available within the enterprise zone. She's also going to be helping us out in the spring hill neighborhood in Deland by doing a duplicate assessment. We're going to map it and do some data analysis on it. The two communities have different characteristics and we'll be able to do some comparisons.

*Rev long*- I'll be working on the project "Double Up Food Bucks" in 2015. For vendors to participate it requires them to have fresh fruits and vegetables and be able to handle EBT cards. People who are on the cards would swipe their card for a maximum of \$20.00 and they would get two times as much worth of tokens (\$40.00 Max). They then would be able to take those tokens and use them for only fresh fruits and vegetables. They can participate in the program once per week. This program promotes healthy eating, sustainability and all the things we were talking about. Keep it on your radar as we gather the other pieces of the puzzle together.

*Johnnie Ponder*- I've brought small pamphlets given to me by Cynthia Slater. These pamphlets detail what to do when you're pulled over by the police officer and what your rights are. This is really good information. Please look over them when you get a chance. I'm in the process of gathering more so we can distribute them.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.