



## 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  
February 26, 2015

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. Regina Harris (FDOH Volusia)	12. Shanda Nobles-Milton (VITAS)	
2. Chris Daun (Rebuilding Together)	13. Diana Lee (B-CU)	
3. Ethan Johnson (FDOH Volusia)	14. Eburn Grimes (FDOH Volusia)	
4. Stephan Harris (River to Sea TPO)	15. Sharon Warriner (Halifax Health)	
5. Suzanne Grubbs (FDOH Volusia)		
6. Christina Quinn (FDOH Volusia)		
7. Charles Bethune (FDOH Volusia)		
8. Darrell Snell (Intuitive Networking)		
9. Johnnie Ponder (Midtown HEAT)		
10. Nadine Heusner (B- CU)		
11. Synthia Williams (Midtown HEAT)		

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

Johnnie Ponder called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Brief introductions were made by all attendees. Meeting minutes from January were approved pending edits.

*Johnnie Ponder*- Tuesday is the health summit, please try to make that. I’m going to be introducing Chief Chitwood. Please spread the word about the event to the community.

**Presentation: Make Your Mark** (*Pat Northey*)

Our TPO is a multi-county TPO; it includes all of Volusia and some portions of Flagler. This happened after the 2010 census. All the cities and both counties sit at our table to rank projects and prioritize them. It's a planning process that's very inclusive. They are also required by law to include grass roots input. The TPO prioritizes federal dollars for transportation improvements. We have representatives from the cities as well as county commissioners. The TPO is required to develop a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Prioritized project list, and a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The biggest project for us is the 2040 LRTP. LRTPs must include major capital projects, consider public input from underserved populations and the business community, address planning factors, be cost feasible, and must be consistent. Outreach meetings such as "Make Your Mark" are how we consider public input. Examples of the type of direct input we are looking for at the Make Your Mark events are transportation issues that most directly impact your business, how important (or not important) high quality gateway corridors are to you, and your opinion on the correlation between the development of transit corridors and continued growth in this area. The next Make your Mark meeting will be held March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am in the Graduate Seminar Room at Bethune-Cookman University. The TPO's priorities are improving the efficiency of the existing system, preserving what has been built, providing a more balanced transportation system, expanding public transit, and identifying transit corridors. For more information on the 2040 LRTP visit our website at <http://www.r2cmobility2040.com/>.

**Update: Whole Kids School Garden Grant** (*Ethan Johnson*)

Back in October we conducted the CHLI Assessment at Word & Praise. One of the issues that was brought up there was the fact that they would like to do a lot more in terms of nutrition education and physical activity, but they just don't have funds. They mentioned that a great way to expand their nutrition education would be to construct and utilize a school garden. After the CHLI Assessment we applied for the \$2,000.00 Whole Foods Grant. We found out last week that we've received it. Word & Praise only has about 80 students, therefore \$2,000.00 is more than enough to start a small school garden that all of their students can learn in. This is exciting for Midtown HEAT and the community! Finishing up with the CHLI Assessment we now know school and community gardens are the next items we want to tackle. When the Word & Praise garden is successful we'll be able to reapply for the same grant next year for Word & Praise and another school in the area if we desire. Suzanne and I will be meeting with Dr. Fuqua at the beginning of next month. The funds should be distributed at the end of next month. Our hope is that we can make an event of the construction of the garden inviting the students and the community. Hopefully construction of the garden will take place sometime at the end of April.

Suzanne Grubbs- I think a volunteer build event would be great. It's going to be several raised plant beds installed so more than likely we would need volunteers from the

community. We've also been keeping in contact with Katrina Locke who will be a good partner for this project.

**Update: SMART Objectives** (*Suzanne Grubbs & Ethan Johnson*)

For the last couple of meetings we have been having a discussion centering on creating SMART Objectives for our target area of Healthy Food Access. Today we will continue the discussion in order to compile everyone's ideas. We will come back next month with the ideas condensed into SMART Objectives. SMART Objectives are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time bound.

**Brainstorming Session:**

**Specific:**

*Who-* Residents of Midtown

*What-* Accessible fresh healthy food for residents in Midtown

*When-* Within the next year and half

*Where-* Schools and the Midtown Community

*Why-* To bring health equity (healthy Choice/easy choice) to Midtown

*How-* Farmers Markets, Supermarkets, Mobile Markets, School Gardens (2), Community Garden (1), Garden Curriculum at Schools, Community Dining, EBT Access

**Measurable:** Develop 2 school gardens within Midtown by Dec 2016 (Models), Community Participation in Measure, EBT Access at fresh food stores ###, Education through school garden/schools (measure knowledge), Count number of servings back into school/feed, How many bags of fresh produce going out to community, Survey the children's knowledge, Count # of tokens at farmers market

**Attainable:** Curriculum, Master Gardner/Ag Extension Service, Volunteers, Pro-Bono Donations/Sponsorship

**Relevant:** Healthiest Weight

**Time Bound:** Dec 2017

**Meeting Comments:**

- This meeting was very productive and actually stayed on track
- What I liked about this meeting was the info exchange
- Excellent

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