



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 -
November 20, 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. Christina Arnold (BCU)	12. Darrell Shell (Intuitive Networking)	
2. Chris Daun (Rebuilding Together)	13. Dorothy Maddox (DBHA)	
3. Ethan Johnson (FDOH Volusia)	14. Stefany Strong (FDOH Volusia)	
4. Emma Rogers	15. Synthia Williams (Midtown HEAT)	
5. Suzanne Grubbs (FDOH Volusia)	16. Swain Strickland (FDOH Volusia)	
6. Christina Quinn (FDOH Volusia)	17. Nadine Heusner (BCU)	
7. Charles Bethune (FDOH Volusia)	18. Matt Hallman (Halifax Health)	
8. Alex Barabas (FSU-COM)	19. Tarayn Korkus (FDOH Volusia)	
9. Johnnie Ponder (Midtown HEAT)		
10. Shyriaka Morris (PEACE ARTS)		
11. Thomas Bryant III (FDOH Volusia)		

Welcome and Introductions:

Johnnie Ponder called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. Brief introductions were made by all attendees. Meeting minutes were approved from October 23rd.

Guest Speaker: Chief Chitwood

Achieving diversity in the department is something that is easier said than done. Philadelphia has the most diverse police agency on the planet, but it took them a long

time to get there. It's also important to note that Philadelphia may have the most diverse police department, but they are also the most sued. They paid out more in civil rights suits than any other police department. At the end of the day bad cops are bad cops regardless of their race or ethnic background.

Here in Daytona Beach if you are a minority candidate you would be a fool to take a position with our department because everybody is out to offer you a job. Being a person with desires and goals you want to ask yourself, "What is the best opportunity for me?" When we go to recruit minorities the first thing people want to know is what we are offering, and compared to Tampa, Miami and sometimes Orlando we are not offering much. Currently we are giving scholarships though. Any minority that wants to work for us we'll pay for their police academy tuition. We haven't really hired anyone in the past 4 years because of a hiring freeze but we are now in the process of hiring 26 officers. We try to hire officers with at least some college education, and we try to avoid hiring 18 to 20 year olds.

If you didn't already know, we have a huge gang issue here in Daytona. Gangs fill in the gaps left by families, churches and communities. They give money, sex, leadership and a sense of belonging. Some kids that don't have a propensity towards delinquency end up getting involved in some of this gang activity out of obligation. After our last count we estimate that there are there about 22 gangs in the city. We have them in the schools, the neighborhood and pretty much all over. With a recent grant we have received we will be able to place 10 officers in the Daytona Beach schools. Seven of the ten schools are elementary schools. The principals of each school will interview the officers and be able to select them. Our hope is that gang activity will decrease (along with many other delinquent behaviors and activities). Through this grant we will be saving the school board one million dollars over the course of three years. We're hoping that by partnering with BCU at Campbell the impact will be even greater. We will be pushing the selected officers to get certified to teach at the school as well. We want them to become a part of the school system and culture. In Volusia County we have a very high rate of alcohol and drug use among our teens. The research we have done ranks us as number 1 in the state. Truancy, marijuana use and alcoholism are all precursors to delinquency.

The role of policing is to prevent, detect and apprehend. More so than anything we need strong male role models. Our PAL program focusses on education and we have tutors and teachers available for students that come to our program. We only have money to affect 25 kids so we put the word out to the schools churches and whoever responds first is included. Our ankle monitor program is linked to PAL as well. Instead of locking them up we give them six months and address all of their issues. Programs such as substance abuse counseling, anger management, and PAL tutoring all aid in the rehabilitation process of a delinquent teen. At the end of six months the judge assesses their growth. 60% of those kids don't reoffend in the first year.

Update: CHLI Assessment (Suzanne Grubbs)

	Initial Assessment	Discussion Guide
Worksites		
BCU	✓	--
City of Daytona Beach	✓	✓
Afterschool Sites		
RMB Center	✓	✓
Boys & Girls Club	--	--
Schools		
Turie T. Elementary	✓	--
Word & Praise	✓	✓
Neighborhoods		
Brentwood/Mason Park	✓	--
Daytona Gardens/ Keech St.	✓	✓
Highland Terrace	✓	--
Kottle Circle	--	--
Uptown	✓	--

Presentation: Certificate of Appreciation (Johnnie Ponder)

In recognition of Swain Strickland’s valuable contribution to the Midtown HEAT he was honored with a certificate of appreciation. Swain will be moving at the start of next year.

Nominations: Chair/Vice Chair

Nominations were made for Chair and Vice Chair.

Round Table:

Light-Up Midtown (Suzanne Grubbs) - One of our other initiatives is to support the Light-Up Midtown Community Events. This is a partnership between The City of Daytona, Florida Department of Health in Volusia County and Midtown HEAT. We will be sending the flyer out by email so that you can help us spread the word about Light-Up Midtown. The event had a really great turnout last year so we are hoping for the same or better. The parade already has over 60 participants. The health fair vendors include United Way, Stewart-Marchman, Beach House, Riverside Eye Clinic, BCU Health Equity Center, Daytona State College Admissions, Medallion Healthcare Services, Adaptive Technologies, Outreach Community Care Network, several departments from the Health Department, and many more. Our vendors are really shaping up.

“Our Story” (Nadine Heusner)-At Bethune-Cookman we created a program that we offer to the community during the month of October. On Wednesdays from 2pm to 4pm Bethune-Cookman student volunteers worked with elementary age students at the Dickerson Library to help them write “their story”. This is a literacy program that in a way also offers mentorship. The objective is to engage them in reading and initiate

positive relationship building activities. Volunteers would ask students certain questions and draw out details from them. Students would then draw pictures and transfer their stories into the written word. Approximately twenty kids who came throughout the month. It seems as though the community received it quite well.

PEACE ARTS (Shyriaka Morris) - PEACE ARTS is a 501c3. The acronym stands for, “Positive Education and Creative Expression/ Always Ready to Serve”. It is an academic and art school for gifted minds, and we believe all kids are gifted. We focus on the individuality of each child and give them tools to express themselves. By merging education and art it creates a bond between home, school and community. Now-a-days everybody is so busy this bond that was once strong is now broken. We help kids find the beauty within themselves and the beauty around them. We tell our kids that there are no actual mistakes because mistakes make masterpieces. PEACE ARTS partners with a number of different organizations and observes their activities to see if there is a creative component that can be added to programs. PEACE ARTS aims to change the mindset of youth.

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

Meeting Comments:

- I liked the information about community events & Chief Chitwood
- I liked the Chief’s presentation
- Wow what an awesome group of people who truly care about our community. Johnnie’s enthusiasm is inspiring ☺
- I am learning more about my community
- I liked Chief Chitwood’s report
- At the next meeting we should have a “mini review” of the HEAT Action Plan to start the new year
- I liked the exchange of info and networking
- Chief Chitwood was very informative