



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 -
September 25, 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. Belinda McMillian	12. Stephan Harris (River to Sea TPO)	
2. Chris Daun (Rebuilding Together)	13. Bob Williams (Halifax)	
3. Ethan Johnson (FDOH Volusia)	14. Ida D. Wright (Volusia County School Board)	
4. Inez Jeffers (Volusia County Library)	15. Synthia Williams (Midtown HEAT)	
5. Suzanne Grubbs (FDOH Volusia)	16. Nadine Heusner (B-CU)	
6. Diana Lee (B-CU)	17. John Long (VITAS)	
7. Charles Bethune (FDOH Volusia)	18. Launa Taylor	
8. Charles J. Bryant (City of Daytona Beach)		
9. Johnnie Ponder (Midtown HEAT)		
10. Eburn Grimes (FDOH Volusia)		
11. Thomas Bryant (FDOH Volusia)		

Welcome and Introductions:

Johnnie Ponder called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Brief introductions were made by all attendees. Meeting minutes were approved from August 28th.

Update: Dickerson Heritage Library (Inez Jeffers)

This past summer we participated in the summer food service program from June 9th to August 15th. This was our second year providing this service through the library. We served 1,220 meals and snacks. We could not have done it without the help of Mrs. Johnnie Ponder who volunteered to help. The County also hired someone to help and between the two of them it all went very well. We also had a Florida Youth Program sponsored by the Friends of the John H. Dickerson Library. The theme is set by the state, and we secure presenters and purchase crafts to create activities for the kids. This year we did seven programs over the summer and served around 134 kids. Our programs are 45 minutes to an hour long. We usually have elementary students and some middle school students.

We're currently looking for other things for the kids to do, especially on early release days. For kids that are there on days without programs they are usually on the computer. They also like to color, but to color they have to read a book and tell us what they are reading. We try to keep them occupied, but it doesn't always work because they are free to come and go. When we are having a program, lunch time or snack time we turn the computers off. They always want to be on the computers so they rush through other things just to get there. We make them wait until lunch hour is over to get back on the computers. For the children we have six computers. They are allowed 30 minutes and then if there is no line they are allowed to log back on. These are computers provided by the county. We also try to focus on reading and writing. We use the sunshine readers list at the library. We keep a list and they send the books automatically to us once they have been nominated and are available for the kids to read. We try to gauge how well the kids are reading and challenge them, but at the same time we're trying to work the library and do this. We try to get the kids not to just read, but understand what they are reading. A big problem is reading comprehension. Volunteers are definitely needed and the perfect volunteer would be someone able to engage kids, read to them and expose them to different topics to pin point their interests.

Johnnie and I are trying to get a program together where we can bring the police officers into the library where they can interact in a positive way with the children. Johnnie and I met with Chief Chitwood on Tuesday and we'd like to start a program called "Sit, Snack and Chat". This program will allow students once a week to sit down and get to know some of their local police officers. Once a month we're trying to talk Friends into providing snacks. We're hoping this will help develop respect between police and the children and the children and police. We feel the library is the perfect place because it's non-threatening and the kids are there every day. Chief Chitwood was very receptive to the idea. We're looking forward to getting this started sometime in October. We also have Nadine Heusner from Bethune-Cookman and are starting a program called "My Story". This is a program where students from Bethune-Cookman will come and help the kids at the library with reading and writing. Hopefully they will be able to write stories and poetry and this program will give them a way to express themselves in a positive way.

Johnnie Ponder- The library doesn't have a lot of staff, but the staff that is there does a wonderful job dealing with both the children and the adults in the library. The police

program is really important for us to do just so the kids to see there is something positive you can attain to be.

Presentation: Access to Care Data Brief (Thomas Bryant)

We take data and turn it into information that the community can take and use to make informed decisions. The report that I'm presenting today is the second of the quarterly reports and is on Access to Care. Our first report detailed the general health status of the county. We compile this report in conjunction with the Healthy Volusia Coalition. All of our reports are available on HealthyVolusia.org. The cover page of the report is usually an overview of what the report is about. It sets the stage of what's going on with the issues in Volusia. Since it's just a page it is a very brief overview. The next two pages are a report card that shows what's going on with Volusia as compared to the state, the country and the healthy people 2020 targets. We fall short at all levels for the healthy people 2020 target, but for Florida we're pretty close. In the second half we give a summary of the report card. Following the summary we get providers and people from the community to participate submitting reports for the data brief. In this report we were able to have Dixie Morgese from the Healthy Start Coalition write about substance exposed newborns, Joann Weatherax (Dental Program Director at FDOH Volusia) wrote a report on oral health, and Natalie Moise and Kevin Murphy are writing on ambulatory care sensitive conditions (ACSC) and hospitalizations. We work with all the authors in providing data for them if they do not have their own data. Our focus is on the sub-county level data. Florida Charts.com has data for the county level. The final two pages give a breakdown of health outcomes by health quadrants for the county. We know that what's going on with health outcomes varies greatly based on geography. Volusia County is culturally very different depending on where you live.

One Voice for Volusia is looking at the perception of access to healthcare around the county. We want interview people in the community to allow them to tell us what some of the issues they are facing in regards to barriers to healthcare. We find it interesting that we have one of the most robust health systems in this region, yet so many people report having problems accessing healthcare. We want to know what exactly these barriers are. We want to find out how cost impacts them and how well people know how to navigate or "manipulate" the system. We will ask questions such as, "Did you feel like you were treated unfairly because of your race, how you spoke or because of the type of insurance you have?" Midtown HEAT can help with this by offering up additional questions and by facilitation of one of our county focus groups. We are looking to do approximately 8 focus groups (2 in each quadrant). Daytona Beach Midtown falls in quadrant 2 and we would like Midtown Heat to facilitate a focus group in this area.

Update: Volusia County School Board (Ida D. Wright)

Ida Wright opened up the floor to any initial questions our group might have for her:

Chris Daun- I just read about the financial literacy program about rewarding students for good behavior. That was in the News Journal this past week. What are your feelings about how effective that will be in the long term in terms of self-esteem?

Ida Wright - Most schools have always had something like that. We have always had incentives to keep students on track, especially in the ESE Program. This isn't something new. That is a different program from the financial literacy program though. What many elementary schools are doing is incentivizing good behavior and encouraging good citizenships. Like I said, it isn't new, but we want to encourage schools that do not have programs like this to adopt them because we've seen good patterns for schools with programs like this.

Chris Daun- How much are we spending on pizza total?

I can't give you a total number, but we chose dominos because of the FDA guidelines and the number of store locations dominos has. They also just all around had a better product. I can get the dollar amount, but the students actually pay for it and it allows schools to generate funds for the cafeteria or whatever the schools want to spend it on. It is an income generating source.

Bob Williams- I want to commend you and the leadership for the move you made on the half cents sales tax. We just earlier heard from Inez Jeffers about the phenomenal work they are doing with kids outside the school, but one of her frustrations was that on their computers they don't have any curriculum content for reading. There are a number of software curriculums that engage kids and help with reading are you aware of any of those resources in the school board and is there a way to help the library?

Ida Wright- I'm headed to meeting now with all of the county and city officials and we're looking at how we can leverage all of our dollars together to be beneficial to the county as a whole. I can also speak to Don Bellwort because there is probably some free software out there, or we may be in a position to offer them some assistance in getting free or reduced software.

Charles Bethune- There is discounted reading software for schools who engage in it in a cluster. It is called Brain Pop, which I'm sure you are familiar with. It's a great education tool that I think should be implemented in the afterschool programs. It's a tool that is being used and it has been validated as far as its effectiveness.

Ida Wright- We do use Brain Pop, and we actually have Dr. Stephany Henry locally who created Math Party and Reading Party. We're getting ready to sit down and have a conversation with her about possibly traveling around to the local community centers and libraries to sit down and show students and parents how to use the software. That would be a big plus. That would be a great way of tapping into our local resources.

Charles- Has Volusia used the Accelerated Reader Program?

Ida Wright- No, the two programs most widely used are Brain Pop and Eye Ready. Eye Ready has a full program for reading and mathematics. We are very happy with these two products. The schools that have used Stephany's product are also very happy. We're trying to narrow it down and instead of having all the schools use 4 or 5 items have them

use 2 or 3. What we normally do is get with the curriculum team at each school and solicit feedback. Following this, our team will sit down and speak with the vendors. We'd rather vote on whether or not we're going to fund as the school board, rather than vote on what we are going to select because we are not the experts. We prefer the teams in the schools to come up with that.

Johnnie- You and I were talking about the books for the Keech Street Library, the Dolly Parton Imagination Station. Could you explain that?

Yes, it's actually being sponsored through the Head Start Program. Any child born after Feb 12th can receive a free book that lives in 32114. They can receive a book every month for 5 years. This is a way to encourage literacy in the home at a young age so by the time they come to kindergarten they will be fluent readers and enjoy reading. We gave flyers out at the mayor's backpack give-away and we are looking for sponsors. The sponsorship is going really well. We want to adopt Keech St and have organizations come in once a month when a new book is introduced and read to the elementary schools close to the library. Part of the issue Flagler had is when parents move out of the zip code you can't forward the book. This will be a little challenging for us, but we're going to start the program and figure out what to do logistically later.

Johnnie Ponder- Partner with rose Marie Bryant, Suzanne Grubbs- Partner with Word and Praise, Chris Daun- Partner with Chiles Academy

Other things going on...

Right now part of the challenge I gave to my other board members is finding a way we can help our students. Our teachers do a lot so we need to start building relationships to bring other people to our schools for support. We plan on starting stem academy at Campbell in the spring. Faculty and students from BCU will come and teach and provide additional help at Campbell. We are also starting a "Parent University". We'll first talk to parents about what they want to hear and then twice in the fall and twice in the spring we'll have a meeting. Parents will be able to move around and interact with the public school system and learn about what's going on. We also are looking to start an evening feeding program with hot dinners next summer similar to the program that went on this past summer in Orange County Public Schools. Turie T. and Campbell will probably be sites.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Meeting Comments:

- The next meeting could be improved by ending the meeting on time
- This is the first meeting I feel our objectives are meeting resistance in the greater community (for various reasons)
- Very into school board policy and initiatives
- I liked the exchange of information
- Information given was very good
- Very informative