



Together in Partnership Steering Committee

Meeting Report

Monday January 22, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.
Brevard County Government Center, Viera
Commissioners Room Building C

Members Present: Lisa Bradley, Lisa Elam, Traci Klinkbeil, Amanda Walker, Jean Bandish, Mackenzie Quirarte, Patricia Seibert, Phil Scarpelli, Caroline Joseph-Paul, Leigh McElroy, Patricia Sierra, Deanne Dawkins, Jennifer Floyd, Erin Weidensaul, Rebecca Thibert, Richard Acevedo

At-Large Members Present: Stanley Brizz, Beatrice Boursiquot, Abigail Jones, Kathryn Parker

Guests Present: Garielle Bargerstock, Verlese Pender, Xzondra Bergman, Michelle Hallman, Chana Speir, James McCauley, Leandro Fusco, Brian Fusco, Elisabeth Bublitz, Jeannine Doyle, Vickie Walker, Chris McPherson, Cindy Mitchell, Laura McCarthy, Haley Gordon, Ruth Singer, Dina Mezza, Elizabeth Fears, Chantal Riggins

Staff: Natasha Jones

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Phil Scarpelli at 9:35 a.m. Introductions were made by everyone present.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve November 27, 2023, minutes were made by Leigh McElroy and seconded by Traci Klinkbeil. Motion passed unanimously.

Together in Partnership Reports:

- 1. Family Strengthening/Infant Mental Health Task Force/Healthy Start Coalition:** No report given. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2023.
- 2. Child Abuse Prevention Task Force:** The Child Abuse Prevention Task Force is planning for the Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

- 3. Brevard Prevention Coalition (BPC):** The Better Without It School Diversion Program is doing well. BPC started the program under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant (SAMHSA) called the Positive Choice Positive Life. The first part of the program is located at Joe Lee Smith Center, The Dock, and Carver Park. The second component will be at Riverside Charter High School. BPC is working with the Sherriff Department on creating a Fentanyl Public Service Announcement. BPC has a meeting today at 11:30 a.m. in the Atlantic Room.
- 4. Brevard Homeless Coalition (BHC):** No report given. The Point In Time Count will be held on January 25, 2024.
- 5. Brevard Family Partnership (BFP):** The National Center for Innovation and Excellence is in the process of writing a new grant. They have additional funding that must be expended by August.
- 6. Career Source:** Career Source have a program called Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program. It is designed to work with individuals who are mandated to pay child support. The grant is intended to provide education, training, and job placement. Career Source is in partnership with Dwyer Workforce Development to train up to 50 individuals for a certified nursing assistance program. Career Source have the Crosswalk Agency Referral Portal for anyone that wants to refer clients to their agency. The Nextgen program serve young adults ages 16-24 seeking to gain work experience and enter the job market.
- 7. Domestic Violence Task Force:** The Domestic Violence Task Force meet every other month. The next meeting is February 8, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. in the Space Coast Room. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.
- 8. Regional Children’s Cabinet (5-Year Plan):** Traci Klinkbeil gave an update on the Department of Children’s and Families initiatives. Traci participated in the statewide alliance meeting on January 25, 2024. HOPE Florida statewide phone number is 850-300-HOPE. It’s a statewide hotline that help individuals to overcome barriers to achieve their short and long-term goals independently.
- 9. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ):** The new legislative cycle for 2024 has started. They are monitoring the Juvenile Justice House Bill 1181 and Senate Bill 1274.

Unfinished Business: The Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (CAPTF) meeting was January 18, 2024. The START Transition Conference will be held on February 24, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at the Brevard School Board. The CAPTF banquet will be held on April 26, 2024, at 12:00

p.m. Project Response Incorporated will have a support group for men on February 1, 2024.

The Brevard Family Partnership is having an open house for individuals that are interested in foster care and employment opportunities on January 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

New Business: None

Public Comments: If anyone is interested in the Substance Misuse & Mental Health Resource cards, please contact Elizabeth Fears at Eckerd Connects.

Christina McPherson gave an update on the Christmas Drive. They assisted over 400 families. They need mentors for the students.

Laura McCarthy is working with Recovery Connections of Central Florida, Inc. The Brevard Recovery Fest website is up and running. The Space Coast Human Trafficking Task Force had a meeting on January 11, 2024. If anyone is interested in being part of the Task Force, please contact Kim Curry at New Life international. On February 17, 2023, Sober Surfers International is having a recovery event on the beach. Blue Plaid Society is having a Fentanyl Awareness and Narcan training at the Posey Center on February 2, 2024, from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. The National Mental Health Month event will be held on May 1, 2024.

Stanley Brizz gave an update on the Opioid Abatement Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m. The next meeting will be **March 25, 2024, at 9:30 am**, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C, first floor Commission Chambers.