

## **MINUTES**

**Purpose:** Engage Okaloosa County community members in a health improvement process through an open, two-way dialogue to create an environment with healthy and safe children, families, and communities free of the negative impact of substance use and drug activity.

**Attendees:** Amanda Colwell, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa), Emily Pickens, DOH-Okaloosa; Danie Crowley, DOH-Okaloosa; Kiffa Hogans, Department of Children and Families; Remeeka Wilson, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Cozette Costanza, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Christeia Hawkins, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center; Diane Freeman, A Bed 4 Me; Dana Hodges, Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast; Leslie Fuller, The Pearl Project; Chief Arron Murry, Northwest Florida State College; Chris Hatch, Department of Children & Families; Autumn McAlister, Lakeview Center; Chrissy Nieten, District One Medical Examiner's Office.

### **Welcome & Introductions – Amanda Colwell**

- Amanda Colwell opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Minutes from October 18, 2023 were reviewed and approved.
- Emily reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. Danie shared the results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting. The group shared that they felt that their ideas were heard but would like more community involvement specifically from the OCSD.

### **Action Plan Updates – Amanda Colwell & Emily Pickens**

#### **Community DEC Approach Training**

- Amanda shared the Community DEC Awareness training held on November 13<sup>th</sup> in Crestview was poorly attended. The training was held after work hours in hopes of drawing greater attendees. The group will explore more opportunities after the new year, potentially in Fort Walton Beach. New trainers will be asked to assist.

#### **DEC Trainings**

- Remeeka reported that the DEC Awareness training at the Boys and Girls Club in Fort Walton Beach was well attended with good participation.

#### **Run for Health**

- Amanda shared the Run for Health 5K will be in downtown Fort Walton Beach and the discretionary funds will go to The Early Learning Coalition.
- The 5K is currently on hold, pending insurance issues with legal are resolved.
  - The resolution is currently being discussed with the DOH-Okaloosa's legal department regarding additional insurance requirements by the City of Fort Walton Beach, FDOT, and the construction company working on the Brooks Bridge. As a state agency, DOH-Okaloosa cannot add additional insurance.

### **Lockdown and Lockout**

- Emily explained the purpose of the program and the need to expand it not just to schools, but to daycares as well.
- Sgt. Trimboli and Dana Hodges are currently at a standstill with this project, pending an agreement with The Early Learning Coalition and the Okaloosa County School District.
- Aaron stated that Safer Watch is a system the school district uses to notify any user instantly of an emergency. This system can incorporate daycares to be alerted of any lockdown or lockout.

### **Action Items- Amanda Colwell**

#### **Community DEC Approach Training**

- Trainers plan to hold another afterhours community DEC training after the new year in Fort Walton Beach. The location is TBD. Email Emily with suggestions.

#### **DEC Trainings**

- Remeeka will follow up with Boys and Girls Club to schedule the DEC Approach training.

#### **Run for Health**

- Emily stated after a resolution is found with the city, the next step will be to contact the Northwest Florida Track Club for their help with plotting and timing the race.

#### **Lockdown and Lockout**

- Emily will follow up via email to find out where the Early Learning Coalition and the Okaloosa County School District stand on this issue.

### **Open Discussion – All**

- Leslie Fuller from Project Pearl shared that they provide training and support for foster, adoptive, kinship and biological families. They utilize a Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) practitioner coaching. They offer online workshops and training, plan family events, and retreats, and have a clothing closet for those in need.
- Dana stated 3,000 books were given to 300 families at the Story book Village event by the Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast and United Fidelity Bank.
  - She also shared the Early Learning Coalition has created the Rally for Reading outreach program to encourage literacy within families. They are distributing bookshelves within the county and filling them with books.
    - Email Dana with suggestions for drop off sites.
- Autumn shared that Lakeview is out of their emergency shelter funding.
  - At this time, they are doing outreach by providing lunches at Blue Door and assisting with SNAP enrollment, promoting TEAM Dad, and enrolling eligible individuals for Medicaid.

### **Closing – Amanda Colwell**

- Amanda thanked attendees for participating and asked them to complete the meeting evaluation form to provide feedback.

*Next Meeting – Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center in Niceville and via Microsoft Teams.*

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
DEC Trainers to plan and complete trainings	Certified Trainers	Ongoing	In progress
Investigate grant funding for Lambi Books/plush toys	Sgt. Jessica Trimboli	Next Meeting	In progress
Reach out to Run with It to request partnership in event planning	Emily Pickens & Lauren Hobbs	Next Meeting	In progress
Create a final draft for Run for Health event T-shirt design	Alison McDaniel	Next Meeting	Not started
Invite the OCSD, trainers and Healthy Start to Healthy Children Meetings	All	Ongoing	In progress
Share Lambi YouTube Video with Healthy Children Partners	Emily Pickens	Next Meeting	Not started