

Public Safety Literacy Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, June 20 2:00 PM
Kids Hope Alliance Board Room

Member Presents: Connie Hall (Chair); Paula Renfro; Frank Denton; Rachael Fortune; and WC Gentry.

Subject Matter Experts Present: Debbie Verges (former Project Director for the Jacksonville Journey during Mayor Peyton's and Mayor Curry's Administration) and Dr. Saralyn Glass (CEO of the Kids Hope Alliance and an expert in birth to 18).

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Connie discussed the committee should look to establish three short term and three long term goals. A literacy inventory should be taken; what are the opportunities for improvement; what new programs should/could be offered. The emphasis is on K-3.

What programs are funded through KHA that have a literacy component? The literacy component could be more robust. Rachael discussed the Read Jax work that is being conducted. Rachael will send the inventory list. Over the last 18 months Read Jax has worked to break down silos. KHA supports many programs with 8 identified schools with measurable goals. She agreed that training is critical. Pinellas County is utilizing the Lastinger program.

WC discussed the new budget will be finalized by July 15. He recommends that we ask for funding to train teachers on how to teach reading that included ongoing coaching once the training is complete. How do we engage our families in this effort?

Connie discussed eliminating silos is key, this will increase the impact and make a greater difference. The City of Jacksonville and DCPS messaging should complement each other. Connie agreed training of teachers is very important.

Advancing the Science of Reading will be critical. Is DCPS doing this with the new reading curriculum? Frank asked that we learn more about the curriculum.

WC discussed how do we make "Reading is Cool" a theme; Read USA has huge potential; a letter is being drafted from the Read Jax Steering Committee to the Search Committee for the new DCPS Superintendent. Communication funding is needed.

Saralyn discussed that we should learn what is every department/division at COJ doing for literacy. The National Grade Level Reading program has several best practices on its website. Visuals to show progress should be developed.

Frank stated we need buy in from the business community. A literate workforce is critical. All businesses are impacted with a literate workforce. How do we build an initiative that sustains?

We should get all parties involved in a room and brainstorm infusing literacy in the daily work.

Where does early learning fit? How do we train the 0-5 teachers? KHA could pay for coaching. WC stated we should have early learning at the table. How do we incentivize quality? We could select the best curriculum and pay for it. Saralyn said she would research this and determine the cost.

An area of weakness of fidelity of implementation. This must be done by a third party.

WC stated the focus should be on crime prevention and how the program impacts crime.

All handouts will be posted on Google Drive.

How do we mobilize the community so that Literacy is a community value?

Paula discussed that we should help the community understand reading and the science of reading in the home. We should work with the libraries. As has been said by others a robust and engaging community component is critical.

We will convene the community at a later date.

The next meeting of the Literacy Subcommittee will be Wednesday, July 12 2:00 PM at KHA.

The meeting was adjourned 3:30 PM.