



# Community Based Crime Reduction Program

## *Cross Sector Strategic Planning Team Meeting Minutes*

City Hall - 117 W. Duval Street - Mayor's Large Conference Room (via Zoom)

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened 1:03 p.m.

**Attendees:** Kendra Mervin, Arquan Joseph, Dr. Pauline Rolle, Mike Weinstein, Tyrona Clark-Murray, Kim Pryor, Assistant Chief Derrick Mitchell, Mia Hobdy, John Pappas, Chiquita Moore, Kristopher Smith, Jerry Box, Glenn Weiss, Misty May, Stephen Seigel, Lisa Page, Lizette Ott, Vironica Brown, Kiaria Nixon, Tanya Washington, Lynn Sherman, Brian Jefferson, Shawn Hught, Dr. Kristina Wilson and Jynelle Robinson.

### **Discussion:**

Kendra Mervin, CBCR Program Coordinator called the meeting to order. After welcoming the Cross-Sector Team members to the meeting, she thanked them for their attendance and asked each representative to introduce themselves and his or her organization. She briefly went through the agenda for the meeting and expressed that Ennis Davis would be giving a presentation of the targeted areas to help the members get a better understanding of the impact their work will contribute to these communities. Kendra gave an update on the research partner search and concluded that Justice & Security Strategies Inc has been identified as the best candidate to serve as the CBCRP's official research partner. She then shared her desire to have a designated outreach person in the New Town area to interact with the community. Kendra asked for all the chairs of the Cross-Sector Team subcommittees to give their reports and thanked them for their dedication.

### ***Public Safety/ Juvenile & Social Justice Subcommittee***

Assistant Chief Derrick Mitchell expressed the subcommittee's desire to move forward with a blight reduction initiative. The focus for the initiative will be to clean up abandoned houses and illegal dumping debris by working with JSO officers and other agencies. Assistant Chief Mitchell has invited Garland Scott with JSO Violent Crimes Initiative to work with gang members in the community and provide them with alternative lifestyles to reduce gang related activities in the areas. JSO Assistant Chief Ellis Burns will be working with Assistant Chief Mitchell to conduct warrant sweeps in the targeted areas to enforce outstanding criminal warrants. Assistant Chief Mitchell concluded that the Crime / Public Safety/ Social Justice Subcommittee is committed to finding solutions to reduce blight in the targeted areas, since crime and blight work in conjunction with one another. Questions were asked by the members about procedures needed for dealing with debris on individual's properties.



### ***Housing and Community Development Subcommittee***

Chiquita Moore conveyed to the team that the subcommittee focused on strategies that could possibly be implemented in the early action plan in relation to the neighborhood matching grants. The subcommittee discussed putting two matching grants together into one in hopes to have a larger impact in the targeted areas. Chiquita also expressed that the 8<sup>th</sup> & Myrtle Avenue location could be a potential impact area where the subcommittee could use funds to clean up the area and make it more visually attractive to the community. The subcommittee is still in the planning phase for attracting businesses to participate in the neighborhood matching grants but, some ideas did include hiring an artist to draw energy around local businesses and or, allowing for those businesses to compete for the grants.

### ***Education Subcommittee***

Kendra Mervin informed the members of the subcommittee that Dr. Cedrick Gibson at FSCJ would like to participate in sharing information on an opportunity to use CARE Act funding for educational projects and the possibility of an apprenticeship.

### ***Community Outreach Subcommittee***

Mia Hobdy expressed that the subcommittee had been working on a community engagement event for October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 "Trunk or Treat" Due to concerns about the rising Covid-19 positive cases and large gatherings, the event has been postponed. The subcommittee will partner with partner with the Crime / Public Safety / Social Justice subcommittee on blight reduction in mid-November and will be reaching out to Assistant Chief Derrick Mitchell and his subcommittee.

### ***Research & Data Subcommittee***

Dr. Kristina Wilson reported that the subcommittee has been focused on creating community profiles for the targeted areas. The community profiles when finished would be shared with the Community Outreach Subcommittee to help provide data concerning the social & economic demographics and characteristics of the neighborhoods. In addition to the community profiles, health indicators have been created by the subcommittee so that the team could have a better understanding of the resources currently present in the neighborhoods and surrounding areas. Dr. Kristina Wilson expressed to Kendra that the subcommittee would like to review and make necessary recommendations on the findings from the research partner, that comes on board. Kendra Mervin asked for Mike Weinstein to also share existing data and information from KHA with the Research & Data Subcommittee.

### ***Economic Development Subcommittee***

Jerry Box shared that the subcommittee is going to conduct a community wide walking audit in late November or early December to document what pressing structural, aesthetic and public safety issues the community needs to be addressed in the early action plan. Jerry Box also named the listed agencies that should be invited to participate in this audit and members are more than



welcome to add more agencies if necessary. He expressed that, with the help of Jynelle Robinson, through their organizations have partnered with Amazon to allow for Amazon to be a second chance employer. In addition, a flyer was passed out to spread the word about Amazon's virtual informational sessions. Box informed everyone that the subcommittee is working with many agencies like UF Health, Jaxport and Florida Department of Corrections to provide employment to the targeted areas.

### ***Health Subcommittee***

Lynn Sherman, along with Dr. Pauline Rolle, has identified the health needs and demographics of the targeted areas based upon the data provided by the Research & Data Subcommittee. They both concluded that medical services are available in the community. Poverty is the overarching issue. Lynn Sherman informed that the subcommittee is awaiting a report from KHA and other agencies to get the status levels of the current mental health and trauma in the targeted areas. Based on the data, the Health Subcommittee determined that health problems stem from poverty. The subcommittee will work with the Economic Development Subcommittee to address the issue of racism and poverty. Comments and questions were taken concerning the report of the subcommittee.

Kendra Mervin went into further details about the early action plan and its activities tentatively launching in November to engage the community. If Justice & Security Strategies joins as a research partner in November, they will be able to help to identify the objectives for every strategy. The first community impact days will address blight and outreach in partnership with different agencies along with the walking audit being the next initiative. Kendra welcomed everyone to participate by sharing feedback, comments or, concerns with relation to the upcoming events.

Ennis Davis gave a presentation of the history and transformation of the focus neighborhoods.

**Meeting Adjourned: 2:17 p.m.**

*The written minutes for this meeting reflect an overview of the full discussion.*