



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)

Thursday, December 9th, 2021

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

Meeting Convened: 1:07 p.m.

Attendees: Sharon Pennant, Marc Swatt, Dan Durbec, Mason McVay, Jada Hunter, Kristopher Smith, John Pappas, Vironica Brown, Mia Hobdy, Tyrona Clark-Murray, Akilah Pope, Javon Knight, Shellie Solomon, Eliza Macuch, Kiaira Nixon, Bryan Mosier, Marie Crandall, Tony Jones, Lynn Sherman, Vicki Waytowich, Paul Restivo, Bryan Mosier, John Alexander, Chiquita Moore, Jaime Kurnick

Discussion

Sharon Pennant, Mayor's Community Based Crime Reduction Program Project Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the final meeting of 2021. She shared news that the Mayor's Violence Reduction Center plans to launch January 2022. She stated the Violence Reduction Center will be a multipurpose hub in the epicenter of target areas that will temporarily house CBCR activities. She explained the location is great because a lot of the surrounding agencies will align perfectly with CBCR's mission and build community capacity. She also announced that contracts have been fully executed for those partners that will be contracted through the city to work on several CBCR projects. She finalized her update by thanking everyone for their unwavering support during a very challenging year then turned it over to the subcommittees for their updates.

Justice & Security Strategies Research Firm

Dr. Shellie Solomon, Justice & Security Strategies CEO, introduced Mason McVay to the task force then advised he will supervise the community surveys and assist with analyzing data. Dr. Marc Swatt, Justice & Security Strategies, shared that they have completed geocoding the crime data that they received from Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for January 2017- September 2021. He also stated they are still in the process of updating dashboards with property crime and violent crime data. He concluded his report by requesting most recent crime data from JSO.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Kristopher Smith, LISC Jacksonville Community Development Program Officer, shared that they received a small grant to improve a local park then requested for JSS to help him identify the nearest hotspots with violent criminal activity in the target area. He advised that they wish to involve the New Town Success Zone/Edward Waters University in maintaining the local park, community garden, and vacant parcels in an effort to stabilize crime. He also stated they plan to collaborate with Jax Youthworks to complete blight reduction and façade improvement efforts some time in March 2022. Sharon mentioned that she will refer a local, prominent artist that specializes in education and activism to possibly assist with anti-blight projects. Kris suggested that it will be a good idea to ask local businesses, faith-based entities, and additional community partners what their challenges are in the target areas so we can make smart investments. Sharon expressed that getting residents and congregations involved will be the best way to sustain CBCR's efforts long after the program expires. Kris concluded his report by sharing that LISC selected the Moms Demand Action program to provide peer grief support in conjunction with UF Health Shands at one of their locations in the target areas. Chiquita Moore, City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods Director of Operations, cautioned Kris to not overlap existing efforts in 32209 and advised him to contact District 8 Councilwoman, Ju'Coby Pittman before he moves forward with any projects in District 8. Kris said he didn't plan to start any projects until March 2022 but he will connect with Councilwoman Pittman shortly. Sharon advised she will reach out to Councilwoman Pittman in the interim so the project will be ready to go before March 2022. Jaime Kurnick, Gainesville Police Department Assistant Chief, commended everyone for their innovative strategies and hard work so far. She also shared that she told her local commissioner about all the work CBCR is doing then thanked the task force for letting her attend the meeting.



Community Outreach Subcommittee

Sharon provided the update on behalf of Mia Hobdy, New Town Success Zone Executive Director. She shared that the November Community Impact Day was a Veterans/Thanksgiving giveaway and it had a really good turnout. She shared that there were over 25 volunteers that helped disperse 5,544 pounds of food and meal kits to 179 veterans and their families. She mentioned that family-oriented nonprofits, healthcare insurance representatives, and faith-based organizations also distributed educational materials and vital resources. She thanked Dr. Pope for assigning her staff from The Florida Department of Health to spread health care literacy about their Women Infants Children, Breast/Cervical Cancer Early Detection, Overdose to Action, and Healthy Start Programs. She also thanked JSO for continuing to protect and build trust with residents during the Community Impact Days. She reminded everyone that the final Community Impact Day will be December 11 because December 25 falls on Christmas day. She stated the event will be a contactless drive thru grocery distribution as well as a toy giveaway from 10am-1pm at the New Town Success Zone. She concluded the update by advising the CBCR events calendar will be updated and shared shortly with all Community Impact Days.

Crime / Public Safety/ Social Justice Subcommittee

Paul Restivo, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief, shared that 3 more churches from the target areas have signed up for OneCOP. Sharon mentioned that she has not had any luck engaging with target area churches so she reached out to CBCR's liaison at the International Association of Chiefs of Police and they will connect her with a Reverend that specializes in getting faith-based organizations engaged. A/C Restivo mentioned that he will invite Sharon to the next OneCOP event in February so he can build rapport with the target area churches. He also requested Sharon to provide him with the Reverend's contact information when she gets it. He finalized his report by sharing that all 12 unsafe structures in New Town and Durkeeville have now been addressed so he will send Sharon updated crime stats soon. He asked if there is a point of contact in the JSO crime analysis unit that he can reach out to if CBCR is needing certain information. Dr. Shellie Solomon, JSS, stated that they have been working directly with a group at JSO to secure needed data but any help getting the information quicker will be great.

Health Subcommittee

Dr. Akilah Pope, Florida Department of Health Interim Medical Executive Director, reminded everyone that the health subcommittee meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at 1pm then invited the other subcommittees to join and come up with great ideas. She advised that Dr. Laureen Husbands joined their last subcommittee meeting and brought up an idea for beautifying the New Town/EWU area. Dr. Husbands suggested getting target area residents involved in keeping their own community beautiful because it can indirectly increase morale which will decrease violence as well as other community-based problems due to violence. Dr. Pope explained that she loved Dr. Husbands idea so the health subcommittee will discuss how to implement them in the future. She also stated that they are planning a fitness walk at the Nat Glover Stadium in collaboration with the New Town Success Zone and a plethora of community partners. She expressed that the walk will be a good opportunity for residents to unite in groups, talk, and increase morale through health and wellness. She completed her report by stating that Lynn Sherman will collaborate with Girl Track and Justice League of Fitness for upcoming Community Impact Days.

Housing and Community Development Subcommittee

Chiquita Moore, City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods Director of Operations stated, was pleased to announce that the Hank Aaron baseball field and Myrtle Avenue projects are complete. She encouraged everyone to go drive by when they have time because it looks amazing. She said she has even seen people taking selfies next to the silhouettes on the fence so they seem to be building some momentum in the community. She also mentioned that establishing neighborhood associations in the target areas will promote comradery and neighborhood services is willing to help. She reminded everyone that the city's Mortgage Relief Program still has 1.2 million dollars remaining to assist homeowners with up to \$7,500 if eligible. She completed her report by stating that phase one of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program has assisted tenants with \$23 million and still has about \$6 million remaining.



Quality of Life

Bryan Mosier, City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods Department Director, agreed with Dr. Pope about helping these areas maintain the momentum. He suggested that one way to continue CBCR's efforts is that any of the neighborhood organizations or churches can do a cleanup at any time and the Neighborhoods department will supply all materials to make it happen. Dan Durbec stated that citizens can register their clean up, ask for supplies, and adopt a road by going online. Bryan finalized his report by sharing another idea is to have some of our target area business partners adopt some of the roads, that way they can help keep everything clean on a regular basis. Sharon mentioned that will be a good strategy to incorporate into CBCR's sustainability plan.

Closing remarks

Sharon again commended everyone for their contributions then opened the floor for closing remarks. Jada Hunter, Family Support Services Executive Director of Community Reinvestment, stated that FSS has similar initiatives in 32209 so she looks forward to being apart of more conversations regarding community reinvestment and strengthening families. Sharon said that so she is open to discussing possible future collaborations and leveraging resources with as many community partners as possible because 32209 is a resource desert. Kiara Nixon, State Attorney's Office Community Crimes Strategies Unit Coordinator, reminded everyone about the Seal and Expungement Fair sponsored in part by CBCR will be held January 26th, 2022, 4pm to 7pm at the Florida State College of Jacksonville's Advanced Technologies Center. Vicki Waytowich shared that we were just awarded a \$5 million federal grant for health zone 1 to build resiliency in communities experiencing stress and trauma so she asked for any opportunity to discuss possible collaborations during our next meeting. Sharon said she will love to discuss further as there are a lot of plans for economic development, health, youth, and families in the target areas so CBCR can definitely use all the help we can get. Sharon thanked everyone for their updates and wished them a wonderful holiday season then adjourned the meeting at 2:09pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:09 p.m.

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