



**Together  
for Children**

**HOMESTEAD/FLORIDA CITY/NARANJA**

**Coalition Meeting  
July 28, 2022  
10:30 a.m.**

- **Introductions**
  - **Organization & Committee**
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
- **Action Plan**
  - **Committee Reports**
  - **TFC Ambassador Report**
  - **Monthly Reporting**
- **M-DCPS School Safety Presentation**
- **Position Openings**
  - **Voting Members**
  - **Countywide Committees**
- **TFC Partner Spotlight**
- **Countywide Updates**
- **Area(s) of Prioritization**
- **Announcements/Celebrations**
- **Public Comment**

Together for Children's mission is to strengthen families, empower, and protect our community's youth.  
Only as one can we break the cycle of youth violence.

Meeting Commenced: 10:33 am  
Meeting Adjourned: 11:30

**Present:**

Alisha Reyes  
Anne Casimir  
Brandy Ramirez  
Carlos Pildain  
Jenifer Bailey  
Johanna Ralsten-Cox  
Mery Dominguez  
Virginia Munoz

**Absent:**

Flor Arzuaga  
Oscar Munoz  
Vanessa Vilchez  
Zahirah Calloway

Introductions

Review and Approval of Minutes

- Alisha Reyes shared that due to an uptick in violence she would like to include a presentation next month including statistics related to local gun violence and information on anti-violence initiatives. Brandy Ramirez made a motion to include this presentation in the August meeting, Jenifer Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Brandy Ramirez made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes, Johanna Ralsten-Cox seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Action Plan

- Mery Dominguez shared that the Strengthening Families Committee had three health events for the month of June that members participated in with 350 participants in attendance.
- Alisha Reyes shared that on August 9 there will be a backpack giveaway that is open to the public at Neighborhood Walmart on 1499 N. Homestead Blvd. from 8 am- 12 pm on a first come first served basis.
- Anne Casimir shared that the Protecting Youth Committee had five service providers participating, 49 referrals were made and all families received services.
- Mery Dominguez shared that there were two TFC Ambassador referrals for housing and two for substance abuse.

Voting Membership Position Openings

- It was noted that there are two parent representative positions and one youth representative position open.

TFC Partner Spotlight

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- As a follow up to last month's TFC Board of Trustees meeting, it was requested that all neighborhood coalitions would be presented with information regarding M-DCPS school safety protocols and initiatives. On behalf of Dr. Tommy Richardson, Dr. Diana Santangelo shared that the Miami-Dade School Police Department (MDSP) is accredited, has almost 500 officers, and is the largest in the country. The Raptor Visitor Management System (VMS) screens over 350,000 visitors daily, flags sex offenders and has other system controls to keep children safe. Fortify Florida is a Department of Education requirement to report suspicious activity through a mobile device. This information goes to the principal, district, and regional administrators and all reports must be addressed within 24 hours or the alert will go to the Superintendent. Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) is an electronic tool and the law requires schools to do an annual security risk assessment for each school site in the state. The state provides resources and funding to increase the welfare of students in schools. Alyssa's Alert/SaferWatch was selected by M-DCPS as all public and charter schools must implement a mobile alert system to ensure real time coordination integrated with local public services. Additionally, all schools must have at least one silent alert on school grounds and all alarms must be directly connected to law enforcement or emergency services. All are able to download the SaferWatch mobile app; it only activates for employees within school sites and is anonymous.

#### Countywide Updates

- Dr. Diana Santangelo shared that Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and her administration have included TFC in a comprehensive strategy to target violence prevention initiatives. There is a proposed investment of \$200,000 for the TFC Ambassador program, divided equally amongst the six coalitions, and an additional \$200,000 to fund the staffing infrastructure. She noted that the mayor is committed to supporting this work, though it was recommended that the funds be distributed through a fiscal sponsor. Ebony Johnson, Chair of the Miami Gardens/Opa-Locka Coalition and CEO of the Resource Room, has offered to be the fiscal sponsor. This will need to be approved by the County Commission and through the contracting process. All TFC members will receive updated information as it becomes available and all were welcomed to listen in at the monthly Board of Trustees meeting to get the most current information.
- Dr. Diana Santangelo shared that all six coalitions have hired their TFC Ambassador. With the support of their sponsor organization and committee members, each TFC Ambassador tracks the number of hours spent in their community reaching out to community members and connecting families with services. Referrals are tracked each month and the primary needs reported are for housing and substance abuse. TFC Ambassadors meet with the TFC Parent/Caregiver Committee and do a monthly check-in during which they provide support and guidance for each other, exchanging ideas and best practices. They are also connected as some referrals are sent cross-coalition to an Ambassador in another coalition due to the community member's location or specific need.
- Currently, Ambassadors are working with the countywide TFC Parent/Caregiver Committee and their respective Strengthening Families Committee to support Back-to-School events which are planned to incorporate resources for parents and caregivers to connect to mental health and wellness resources, in addition to the resources of many TFC member organizations. It was noted that there have been a plethora of back to

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school events in this coalition and that multiple partners have engaged with a variety of events.

#### Areas of Prioritization

- It was discussed again that prioritizing gun violence stats and potentially adding this information to the monthly agenda would be helpful and informative.

#### Announcements/Celebrations

- Ramon Sanchez shared that the TCT Children's Trust Expo will be in Cutler Bay.
- Brandy Ramirez shared to reach out directly for housing assistance for farmworker families.
- Johanna Ralsten-Cox noted that on July 31 funding for free Covid sites will be ending.

#### Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

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