



**Together
for Children**

HOMESTEAD/FLORIDA CITY/NARANJA

**Coalition Meeting
June 23, 2022
10:30 a.m.**

- **Introductions**
 - **Organization & Committee**
- **Review and Approval of Minutes**
- **Action Plan**
 - **Committee Reports**
 - **TFC Ambassador Report**
- **Voting Membership Position Openings**
- **TFC Partner Spotlight**
- **Countywide Updates**
 - **Countywide Priorities**
 - **Back To School Events**
 - **Youth Summit**
- **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: 10:36 am
Meeting Adjourned: 11:23 am

Present:

Alisha Reyes
Anne Casimir
Brandy Ramirez
Carlos Pildain
Flor Arzuaga
Jenifer Bailey
Johanna Ralsten-Cox

Absent:

Mery Dominguez
Oscar Munoz
Vanessa Vilchez
Virginia Munoz
Zahirah Calloway

Introductions

Review and Approval of Minutes

- Brandy Ramirez made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes, Carlos Pildain seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Action Plan

- Johanna Ralsten shared that internship opportunities were the focus of the last joint committee meeting and information was shared with youth providers. Alisha Reyes shared that the Strengthening Families and Empowering Youth Committee is now meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am. The Health Fair was held on June 11 and there were 20 agencies that participated and there was also a food distribution.
- Anne Casimir shared that the Protecting Youth Committee met and reviewed the action plan and updates regarding their goals for the 2023 school year. She noted that once this is complete, the action plan updates will be sent to the group.

Voting Membership Position Openings

- Dr. Diana Santangelo noted that there are two Youth Representative positions and one Parent Representative position in this coalition. It was requested that youth are recruited to participate in the countywide TFC Youth Committee.

TFC Partner Spotlight

- Sam Hopwood shared information on the Unite Us platform which is a resource that allows for case management, referrals, and data tracking. It can also be utilized as a resource under the My Network tab where organizations can be contacted and services

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are provided. Please reach out to Sam Hopwood for more information at sam.hopwood@uniteus.org and you can register to be a partner organization.

Countywide Updates

- Dr. Diana Santangelo shared that at the Board of Trustees meeting prioritization of organizations collaborating for Back-to-School events and the incorporation of opportunities to learn more about mental health/wellness and resources should be included. (This is a priority of the TFC Parent/Caregiver Committee.) It was noted that this topic will be covered at the next Strengthening Families Committee meeting and that the P/G/RH Coalition has selected August 13 for their collaborative event. After discussion, it was determined that the August 5 event could be the MG/OL date for the Back-to-School Event.
- It was noted that the Overtown Coalition voted on their voting members and there were no changes made. Tina Brown remains Chair, Dr. Graylyn Swilley-Woods remains Vice Chair, and Thema Campbell remains Secretary. It was also noted that the Board of Trustees executive leadership would be finalized this summer as the neighborhood coalitions have completed their voting for the next two years.
- Dr. Diana Santangelo shared that she has joined LM Genuine Solutions full time and will continue to work with TFC moving into a leadership role, as per the recommendation of the Board's Staffing Subcommittee. She noted that she will support TFC through December 2022 and assist the transition of new staff following the board hiring of TFC support staff.
- In yesterday's Board of Trustees meeting, a presentation was held regarding M-DCPS School safety, which will also be presented at all neighborhood coalition meetings this upcoming month. This presentation was made at the request of the Homestead/Florida City Naranja Coalition.

Areas of Prioritization

- Alisha Reyes shared that the prioritization of engaging students over summer has been successful and that it is important that engagement continues in the upcoming school year. She noted that it is important for providers to attend the Trust listening sessions and provide feedback regarding the upcoming RFP.
- Johanna Ralsten noted that it is important to continue the discussion around School Safety and requested a presentation in the upcoming coalition meeting so that all have the information shared by M-DCPS.

Announcements/Celebrations

- Informed Families is offering alcohol and drug prevention trainings at your summer camps. Contact Jeanne at pjtamargo@informedfamilies.org
- Start Off Smart/PAL summer camp is underway. Let us know if you still have families who are interested. Contact Jeanne Tamargo at cpc_pjtamargo@hotmail.com
- Flor Arzuaga shared that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and more information will be shared for the walk on October 20. She also shared that there is a safety defense class being offered for young students ages 5-12; please reach out for more information.

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- Kimberly Lopez shared that adoption and foster classes will begin. There is also a back-to-school materials drive for foster parents; please reach out for more information and arrange pickup if necessary.
- The Summer Youth Employment program for charter school students aged 15-18 is June to Sep. 25 with a \$2,082 stipend; slots are still available.
- Jenifer Bailey shared that A ShotSpotter program was passed in Homestead and she would like to provide more information and garner feedback next month from the coalition. Florida City has an inaugural survivor's peace walk on Saturday from 9 am- 3 pm and will include a memorial for parents and family members who have lost children to gun violence.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.