

## MINUTES

**Purpose:** Engage Okaloosa County community members in a health improvement process through an open, two-way dialogue to impact harmful events such as pedestrian injuries, falls, and substance use and to reduce the housing burden.

**Attendees:** Bernard Johnson, Florida Power and Light; Christy Craig, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Trisha Dall, FDOH-Okaloosa; Daniel Payne, City of Fort Walton Beach; Emily Pickens, DOH-Okaloosa; JB Whitten, City of Crestview; Karen Goodson, Alternative Living; Karen Brown, Crestview Housing Authority; Sheila Fitzgerald, Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners; Elizabeth "Beth" Smith, DOH-Okaloosa; Gabrielle Smith, CDI Head Start; Lida Fratangelo, North Okaloosa Medical Center; Stephanie Barnello, Ascension Sacred Heart; Anthony Sawyer, Fort Walton Beach Housing Authority; Crystal Harrison, Homelessness & Housing Alliance.

### Opening – Elizabeth "Beth" Smith

- Elizabeth "Beth" Smith opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Emily Pickens reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. She also shared results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting.
- Minutes from the January 19, 2023, meeting was reviewed and approved.
- Beth and Emily shared meeting minutes from the Substance Use Strategy meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to determine how each OCHIP group would operate to address substance use.
  - Attendees determined that the OCHIP Champions will meet quarterly to share progress updates across OCHIP groups to foster collaboration.
  - Additionally, Emily will share monthly emails that include dates of all OCHIP groups for all those interested in attending other group meetings. The DOH webpage, [www.HealthyOkaloosa.com](http://www.HealthyOkaloosa.com) has also been updated to list OCHIP meeting information including minutes, upcoming meetings, and updates.

### Action Plan Updates – Mayor JB Whitten

- The group agreed to postpone the final approval of the goals and objectives until the next meeting when more attendees are present.
- Beth reminded the group October is National Pedestrian Safety Month. Mayor J.B. Whitten asked who will be responsible for the dissemination of signage and messaging for the media campaign discussed at the previous meeting. The group aims to utilize common misnomers related to pedestrian safety and traffic regulations to develop a shared media campaign.
  - Emily stated the hospitals and cities would be responsible for dissemination and the messaging should be the same across entities to ensure clarity. The group agreed.
- Sheila Fitzgerald shared the county-wide community survey data would be useful to inform the group about the county's infrastructure and sidewalks. She also stated the County Commissioners are willing to provide support for educational components.

- Mayor JB Whitten welcomed any county input and specified that we should look at unlit areas due to that being a notable reason for fall risks.

#### **Action Items – Mayor JB Whitten**

- Karen Brown suggested that local city planners should be invited to the next meeting to discuss planning and strategies. The group agreed they would have the greatest knowledge of the area's infrastructure.
  - Emily shared that Daniel Payne from the City of Fort Walton Beach is an attending member of the group. She will reach out to the planners from the City of Destin and Niceville. Mayor Whitten will invite the City of Crestview's planner.
- The group discussed additional contacts surrounding fall prevention. Members named Ascension Sacred Heart, Twin Cities Hospital, and North Okaloosa Medical Center. Those with contacts at these organizations will invite them to the next meeting.
- Beth shared it is essential that the group set a deadline for action item and send updates on their assigned tasks if they are unable to make meetings. She also suggested group members should come prepared with existing efforts or ideas to share at the next meeting. Attendees agreed.
- Trisha Dall acknowledged the long-term needs for fall prevention through policy change and proposals addressing infrastructure. The group believes involving city planners and other personnel will help to address policy and environmental changes along with behavior-based activities.
  - Beth agreed and encouraged the group to recognize a Health in All Policies (HIAP) approach. She will provide more detailed information about HIAP and its relevance at a future meeting.

#### **Open Discussion – All**

- Sheila offered dates for proposals with the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners about affordable housing in February and March and said she would be able to offer more information in April.
- Gabrielle Smith shared Head Start is opening a food pantry soon. Donations can be made to their office in Fort Walton Beach. Contact her via email if interested.
- Christy Craig shared DOH-Okaloosa will host the Okaloosa County Health Resources Fair for National Public Health Week on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Methodist Church from 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Service providers interested in registering as a vendor should use the [link here](#).
- Karen stated she and Mayor JB Whitten met with the Okaloosa County School District the previous week to discuss efforts to reduce fentanyl use and exposure in schools. The meeting was positive. More details will be shared as these progresses.

#### **Closing – Trisha Dall**

- Trisha Dall thanked attendees for participating and asked them to complete the meeting evaluation form to provide feedback.

*Next Meeting – Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at DOH-Okaloosa in Fort Walton Beach*



**Healthy Communities OCHIP Group Meeting**  
**Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County**  
**221 Hospital Dr NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 & via Microsoft Teams**  
**February 16, 2023, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Update group goals and objectives	Emily Pickens	Next meeting	In progress
Submit action items prior to next meeting if not attending	ALL	Each meeting	Ongoing
Invite city planners and hospital staff to next meeting	Mayor J.B. Whitten & Emily Pickens	Next meeting	In progress
Report out updates on Healthy Behaviors OCHIP group	Healthy Behaviors members	Each meeting	Ongoing
Prepare fall prevention and pedestrian injuries ideas, practices to report out at next meeting	ALL	Next meeting	Not started