

## **MINUTES**

**Purpose:** Engage Okaloosa County community members in a health improvement process through an open, two-way dialogue to create an environment with healthy and safe children, families, and communities free of the negative impact of substance use and drug activity.

### **Attendees:**

Danielle Wilson, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center; Lauren Hobbs, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Amanda Colwell, DOH-Okaloosa; Emily Pickens, DOH-Okaloosa; Kiffa Hogans, Department of Children & Families; Jaclyn Coatney, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center; Remeeka Wilson, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Cozette Costanza, Bridgeway Center, Inc.; Chris Hawkins, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center; Gabrielle Smith, Okaloosa Head Start; Nancy Robert, Northwest Florida Health Network; Madison Harris, Northwest Florida Health Network; Hailey Hamilton, Department of Children and Families.

### **Welcome & Introductions – Amanda Colwell**

- Amanda Colwell opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Minutes from the meeting held on September 20, 2023, were reviewed and approved.
- Emily Pickens shared Community Engagement Survey results from the previous meeting. She reported attendees felt there was enough time to share feedback and opinions.

### **Action Plan Updates – Danielle Wilson**

#### **Community DEC Approach Training**

- Danielle stated the DEC training held at Crosspoint in September went very well. There were minor technical difficulties.
- Members discussed the November Community DEC Awareness training. The community-based trainings will be held across the county for the general public, with the first one in Crestview. The training will occur on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Bridgeway Center Inc. will have a table at the training.
  - Emily emphasized that the group would need to begin to promote the training. Members should promote through the city departments, police office community groups, social media, libraries, and schools.
  - Flyers have been made and will be given to members for distribution.

#### **Field Day**

- Emily briefed attendees on the Cruisers and Cops event. The event was successful with about 300 attendees. Several students shared they had heard of Handle With Care and/or seen the television advertisement.

#### **Lockdown & Lockout**

- Lockdown & Lockout will be discussed at the next meeting, as Sgt. Trimboli was unable to attend and report out on this action item.

#### **DEC Trainings**

- Danielle emphasized that people enjoy learning about DEC. She asked for suggestions from attendees about where to do more DEC trainings. Suggestions included libraries, city halls, and council chambers.

### **Run for Health**

- National Public Health Week occurs in April. Amanda shared last year DOH-Okaloosa hosted a pop-up health fair. It was not well attended. She proposed this year the Healthy Children OCHIP group partner with the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) to host a 5K/fun run with DEC and National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April) incorporated into the purpose.
  - Proposed event details include:
    - Description: 5K/Fun Run, time staggered by race and age groups
    - Location: Downtown Fort Walton Beach and "The Landing"
    - Volunteers: Local high school students, DOH employees, and OCHIP members
    - Date: Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, early morning
    - Theme idea: Blue for Child Abuse Prevention Month
    - T-shirt design ideas: running stick figure with health wording, heartbeat line with stick figures holding hands, mission of DEC, and sponsors on the back of the shirt in a largely blue design on a white shirt
    - Involvement: DOH preparedness section for safety measures, James Bay with Emerald Coast Social Sports to help with engagement, local organizations such as Beach Camp Brewery, Run with It, hospitals, churches, etc. for sponsorship.
    - Other items needed: city permit, law enforcement involvement, medals for winners, bib numbers for participants

### **Action Items – Danielle Wilson**

- Lauren and Emily will reach out to Run with It to request partnership in event planning.
- DOH-Okaloosa will create a draft for T-shirt design for group approval.
- Emily will begin the process of obtaining a city permit for the run.
- All members of Healthy Children will spread the word throughout the community about the November DEC Training.

### **Open Discussion – All**

- Danielle shared a preliminary idea on behalf of Jessica for an OCHIP conference for FY24/25. This conference would be held at a local hotel or conference center over the span of four days, each day assigned to an OCHIP group. The presentations provided by the groups would include general group information and subject matter experts as speakers on related initiatives. For example, Healthy Children could host the author of Lambi as a guest speaker.
  - Other ideas of guest speakers include the Drug Enforcement Agency or the Drug Task Force.
  - Members suggested having raffle baskets and hands-on activities to encourage engagement.
- Remeeka Wilson shared Bridgeway Center Inc. will host an "Out of the Darkness" walk on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> at Beasley Park. Check-in is at 9:00 a.m. The walk begins at 10:00 a.m. For

more information, contact the walk chair Cindy Kelly at 850-830-2770 or ckelly@bridgeway.org.

**Closing – Emily Pickens**

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

*Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 9:00 AM at Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center in Niceville and via Microsoft Teams.*

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
DEC trainers to plan and complete trainings	Certified Trainers	Ongoing	In Progress
Investigate grant funding for Lambi books/plush toys	Sgt. Jessica Trimboli	Next Meeting	In Progress
Reach out to Run with It to request partnership in event planning	Emily Pickens and Lauren Hobbs	Next Meeting	In Progress
Create a draft for Run for Health event T-shirt design	Allison McDaniel	Next Meeting	Not Started
Share information to community about the November DEC Training	All	November 13 <sup>th</sup>	In Progress