

MINUTES

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

Attendees: Emily Pickens, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Trisha Dall, DOH-Okaloosa; Petra Maddens, DOH-Okaloosa; Greg Cain, Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services; Katie Scott, DOH-Okaloosa, Demeika McClendon, Community Member; Crystal Harrison, Homelessness and Housing Alliance; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; JB Whitten, City of Crestview; Chance Leavins, City of Crestview; Mercedes Feris, Community Member; Karen Brown, Crestview Housing Authority; Sheila Fitzgerald, Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners; Tim Gibson, City of Fort Walton Beach; Jason Fulghum, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office (OCSO); Shane Binger, OCSO; Devon Ravine, City of Fort Walton Beach; Mikiko Tucker, City of Fort Walton Beach; Karen Goodson, Elder Services; Traci Randolph, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Robert Schohn, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Fauzita Conway, White Wilson Medical Center; Gabrielle Smith, CDI Head Start; Stefanie Fontaine, Bridgeway Center, Inc.

Opening – Emily Pickens

- Emily Pickens opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Minutes from the April 20, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Emily also shared Community Engagement Survey results from the previous meeting.

Action Plan Updates – Robert Bage and JB Whitten

National Pedestrian Safety Month: Video Progress

- Chance Leavins met with PIOs across the county to discuss video development. The three videos will focus on the following topics:
 - Pedestrian and cyclist crosswalk use, filmed in Crestview
 - Pedestrian and cyclist roundabout safety, filmed in Destin
 - Pedestrian and cyclist safety in school zones, filmed in Fort Walton Beach
- Chance video locations would remain ambiguous but be obvious it is in the county.
 - Chief Bage stated he can assist with blocking off roads as needed for filming. He also encouraged the individual cities to be seen in the video.
 - He suggested the school zone filming also show a right turn with the need to stop for a pedestrian or cyclist. He shared many people only look left before making a right turn, and they often miss people approaching from the right side.
 - Captain Fulghum shared pedestrians may be able to react quickly enough to get out of the way, but cyclists have a slower reaction time.

National Pedestrian Safety Month: Marketing Outline

- Mercedes Feris stated she will work with Emily to develop a full marketing outline before the next meeting. Emily will include the DOH-Okaloosa PIO.
- Chief Bage suggested collaborating with a local news station to film a behind the scenes look at the video development and drum up excitement for its release. Mikiko Tucker offered to reach out to her contacts at the stations.

- Katie Scott suggested someone contact Cox for the Beach TV that is shared at local condos and hotels. Emily will request the DOH-Okaloosa PIO reach out.
- Attendees discussed sharing the videos and poster contest information across organizations' social media platforms. Mikiko Tucker shared she will create a media kit including a master tag list and other helpful information.

National Pedestrian Safety Month: School Poster Contest

- Mayor Whitten shared the Superintendent was interested in the event, but wanted to ensure schools across the county were invited to participate.
- Emily shared Chance connected her with the OCSD PIO, Catherine Card. She requested guidelines for the poster competition to share across the district.
- Attendees decided to include elementary, middle, and high schools. There will be a first-place winner in each age group. They will receive a \$100 gift card and a certificate of recognition by local government officials. Posters will be displayed in public buildings across the county. Winners will be announced October 17th via social media.
- The poster theme will be "How do you safely walk in your community?"
- Chief Bage suggested the group include homeschooled youth and other youth of school age across the county. The group will spread the word through social media. Students not in OCSD can turn in posters to their local library or police department.
 - Emily will reach out to Vickie with the public library cooperative.

National Pedestrian Safety Month: Walk, Bike, Roll to School Events

- Attendees discussed hosting numerous small events across the county or fewer, larger events with multiple schools. Members determined the group needs to know which schools plan to participate across the county to decide.
- Captain Fulghum will contact the SRO supervisor to ask if they are able to contact their principals to determine which schools will participate this year.
- Attendees discussed the following timeline of events during October:
 - October 2nd press release to launch events and drum up excitement.
 - October 4th Walk, Bike, Roll to School events and posters due.
 - October 17th announce poster contest winners via social media.

Infrastructure Best Practices Guide Development

- Chief Bage suggested placing this action item on hold until after Pedestrian Safety Month. The group agreed to revisit it in November.

Action Items – Robert Bage and JB Whitten

National Pedestrian Safety Month: Video Progress

- Chance and the other PIOs will begin shooting the video in August.

National Pedestrian Safety Month: Marketing Outline

- Emily and Mercedes will develop the marketing outline with the DOH-Okaloosa PIO.

National Pedestrian Safety Month: School Poster Contest

- Emily will notify Catherine Card of the poster theme, guidance, and associated prizes. Emily will request the DOH-Okaloosa PIO complete a flyer with competition information.
- Captain Fulghum will contact the SRO supervisor to determine their involvement.

National Pedestrian Safety Month: Walk, Bike, Roll to School Events

- Captain Fulghum will contact the SRO supervisor to request SROs determine which schools are hosting an events. The group will finalize event plans in August.

Open Discussion – ALL

- Petra Maddens shared August 31st is International Opioid Awareness Day. DOH-Okaloosa plans to purchase purple pinwheels and signs in honor of the observance. She asked attendees if their organization would like to be provided with materials too.
 - Fort Walton Beach Police Department, City of Fort Walton Beach, City of Crestview, and Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office stated interest.
 - Chief Bage suggested the group develop a proclamation for the observance. He will share it with Mayor Rynearson. Mayor Whitten agreed to participate. Deputy Bininger will contact Bobby Wagner to gauge his interest.
 - Emily will develop the proclamation and share with everyone by the beginning of August.
- Officer Randolph with FWBPD shared she is organizing the next National Night Out in Fort Walton Beach. It will be on Tuesday, October 3rd at Chester Pruitt Park. Community partners can register to bring a table to the event to share information.
- Chance shared the City of Crestview is hosting an event for older adults on October 21st. He will share details with Emily to forward to the group.
- Sheila provided an update on housing progress with the County. She shared they recently held a stakeholders meeting and will have more detailed information to share at the August meeting.

Closing – Trisha Dall

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

Next Meeting – Thursday, August 17th at 9:00 AM at DOH-Okaloosa

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Develop three pedestrian safety short videos based on group agreement	Chance Leavins, City/County PIOs	September 21 st	In progress
Present video draft to group for final edits	Chance Leavins	September 21 st	Not started
Create proclamation for International Overdose Awareness Day	Emily Pickens	August 1 st	Not started
Request FWB mayor involvement in IOAD and poster contest	Robert Bage	August 18 th	In progress
Develop poster flyer for OCSD and contact Beach TV	Allison McDaniel	ASAP	In progress
Develop media toolkit for pedestrian safety month	Mikiko Tucker	September 21 st	Not started
Determine OCO SRO involvement in poster contest and request school event info	Captain Fulghum	August 18 th	In progress
Purchase poster contest prizes	Robert Bage	September 21 st	Not started
Coordinate poster contest info with OCSD	Emily Pickens	ASAP	In progress