

## MINUTES

**Purpose:** Engage Okaloosa County community members in a health improvement process through an open, two-way dialogue to provide feedback for each OCHIP group and ensure continuity, especially regarding substance use activities.

**Present:** Emily Pickens, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Petra Maddens, DOH-Okaloosa; Lauren Hobbs, DOH-Okaloosa; Beth Smith, DOH-Okaloosa; Lynn Wadsworth, DOH-Okaloosa; Amanda Colwell, DOH-Okaloosa; Sgt. Jessica Trimboli, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Stephanie Wedel, Freedom Life Compass; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Deb Willis, West Florida Area Health Education Center.

**Absent:** JB Whitten, City of Crestview; Trisha Dall, DOH-Okaloosa; Danielle Wilson, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center; Ardelle Bush, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

### Opening – Elizabeth “Beth” Smith

- Beth opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Emily Pickens shared Community Engagement Survey results from the previous meeting. Attendees stated their opinions were valued and the meeting needed more time. This was addressed by extending the meeting by 30 minutes.
- Minutes from the September 13, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved.

### General OCHIP Updates – Emily Pickens

- Champions shared the names of their awards and recipients:
  - Healthy Behaviors: Member of the Year to Jenna McElyea and Organization of the Year to Freedom Life Compass.
  - Healthy Children: Community Partner of the Year to Jim Bay, Outstanding Partner of the Year to Eric Nation and Stacey Read.
  - Healthy Communities: Excellence in Injury Prevention to Captain Jason Fulghum, Excellence in Opioid Prevention to Mayor JB Whitten, and Member of the Year to Captain Greg Cain.
  - Healthy Moms & Babies: Alliance for Maternal and Child Health Excellence to Christina Schaefer, Maternal and Child Health Excellence to Bethany Guillory, and Rising Star in Maternal and Child Health to Amarylis Emrick.
- The OCHIP Champion of the Year Award will be announced at the Celebration.
- Emily requested input from attendees to make the event engaging.
  - Jessica shared United Way had balloon letters, a balloon arch, and a photo booth at their 40 Under 40 Celebration that was memorable.
  - Chief Bage suggested local mayors, city managers, and County Commissioners be invited to learn about the groups' accomplishments.
- Emily shared she visited The Island to see the space. They will do a mixed seating plan to encourage mingling and networking. This can accommodate around 100 people.
  - She will develop an agenda, PowerPoint and script for the event. The agenda and script will be presented at the next meeting.

### **OCHIP Group Reporting – OCHIP Champions**

- Jessica provided an update for Healthy Children. She shared they want to work in the new year to create more defined roles for DEC trainers and members. This will encourage more members to step up and take on action items.
  - Emily suggested having a meeting with the Champions and DOH leads to discuss strategic planning for the upcoming year. Attendees agreed this would be beneficial.
- Stephanie shared the Healthy Behaviors recent meeting was attended by the State Attorney. She provided an update on pre-arrest diversion efforts in Circuit One.
  - Escambia County's program will launch on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Walton County will follow on March 1<sup>st</sup>, with Okaloosa the same date or soon afterwards.
  - Members developed a Responder Briefing to educate law enforcement, EMS, code enforcement, and other responders about existing community resources. Presentations will be scheduled soon.
    - Jessica suggested partnering to present to Crestview Police Department since she needs to teach Handle with Care also.
- Emily shared the substance use rack cards and first responder stickers arrived. These will begin distribution at the responder briefings and community events. Any group members can distribute these items. The stickers are for responders or field workers (i.e. social workers, peer counselors). The cards are for the general public.
- Emily provided updates for Healthy Communities and Healthy Moms & Babies.
  - Healthy Communities completed a robust Pedestrian Safety Month campaign, including a press conference, three pedestrian safety videos, and a poster competition via the school district. In the new year, they will continue working to assist EMS with community paramedicine efforts. They will also revisit housing goals in preparation for the Okaloosa – Walton Housing Summit in May.
  - Healthy Moms & Babies is working to re-engage members, including hospital staff. They are also working to include members of the faith community to reach moms regarding maternal advocacy, breastfeeding, and safe sleep.

### **Action Items – OCHIP Champions**

- Emily and Lauren will order awards and decorative items for the event. They will develop an e-invite and event program.
  - Emily will also draft a meeting agenda, script, and PowerPoint.
- OCHIP Champions will share additional ideas for the celebration with Emily via email.
- Emily will schedule meetings with group Champions to discuss action planning for the coming year, if desired.

### **Open Discussion – ALL**

- Stephanie shared Crosspoint is hosting an event with Santa on December 9<sup>th</sup> benefitting Freedom Life Compass. It's \$15 per child or no more than \$50 a family.
- Jessica stated the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is hosting a tree decorating event benefitting older adults in the community. Trees will be judged and then donated to bring joy to local adults in assisted living facilities.



**OCHIP Champions Meeting**  
 Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County  
 221 Hospital Dr NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 & via Microsoft Teams  
 December 6, 2023, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**Closing – Amanda Colwell**

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

*Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 AM at DOH-Okaloosa*

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Develop and purchase awards and materials like programs, e-invites, etc.	Emily Pickens & Lauren Hobbs	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	In progress
Develop internal and external agenda for event	Emily Pickens	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Not started
Develop internal script for event	Emily Pickens	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Not started
Share interest form followed by registration	Emily Pickens	December 14 <sup>th</sup>	In progress
Purchase decorations, fringe items as applicable	Emily Pickens & Lauren Hobbs	February 1 <sup>st</sup>	In progress
Share ideas for additions to the OCHIP Celebration with Emily via email	Emily Pickens	Ongoing	Not started
Schedule planning meetings with each group's Champions	Emily Pickens	January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Not started