

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); Petra Maddens, DOH-Okaloosa; Amanda Colwell, DOH-Okaloosa; Taela Cintron, DOH-Okaloosa; Allison Dozier, DOH-Okaloosa; JB Whitten, City of Crestview; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Greg Cain, Okaloosa County EMS; Jenna McElyea, Bridgeway Center; Jason Fulghum, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office (OCSO); Claire Jones, A Bed4Me; Devon Ravine, City of Fort Walton Beach; Trisha Dall, DOH-Okaloosa; Shawn Nickel, NWF Health Network; Kendra Henderson, Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital; Catherine Card, Okaloosa County School District; Gretchen Peoples, Florida Department of Transportation; Brian Muhlbach, OCSO.

Welcome & Introductions – Emily Pickens

- Emily Pickens opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- She reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. She also shared the results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting. Results indicated meeting needs are being met.
- Meeting minutes from the July 18th, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – JB Whitten & Robert Bage

Pedestrian Safety Poster Contest

- The contest will be sent to all Okaloosa County School District schools, as well as homeschool families through email.
- The prizes will include a certificate signed by all the local mayors and a \$100 gift card. Mayor Whitten will utilize funds to cover this year's prize costs.
- Emily opened discussion for providing poster boards to schools to eliminate any financial barriers for families to participate in the contest. Catherine Card confirmed they would accept the posters and could be dropped off with contest flyers.
- Attendees discussed how to increase participation in the high school age group. Ideas included creating a challenge between high schools and focusing on marketing to the leadership classes to gain participation.

Protecting Pedestrians Videos

- The protecting pedestrian videos from last year are located on the County's YouTube page. There are currently three videos. Meeting attendees discussed creating a new video to introduce at the press conference on October 3rd.
 - Video ideas included focusing on street parking and large parking lots.
 - Devon will contact the other PIOs for assistance and determine what can be done in the given timeframe to create a new video.
- Pedestrian safety videos will also be played at OCSD schools during homeroom.
 - Catherine suggested cutting a shorter video to accommodate for the time limit during homeroom. She and Devon will coordinate offline.

Best Practices Guide

- Emily shared the best practices guide for pedestrian safety created by Deputy Brian Muhlbach. Attendees provided feedback and expressed it was a largely comprehensive document.
 - Emily will send the guide to attendees for further review prior to the October meeting. She will also edit the guide to include graphics, image examples, and format it in a Canva template.

Action Items – JB Whitten & Robert Bage

- Emily will coordinate with Shelia Fitzgerald for a date for the Pedestrian Month press conference. A calendar invite will be shared after.
- Emily will send the best practices guide for further review via email.
- PIOs will coordinate a fourth pedestrian safety video if time permits.

Open Discussion – ALL

- Shawn from NWF Health Network shared they launched a new app for locals to find health related services. They also are looking for Christmas sponsorships for foster children in the area.
- Claire from A Bed4Me shared they will be celebrating their 3,000th bed on August 31st at Third Planet Brewery in Niceville. They are asking for pillow donations at the event.
- The International Overdose Awareness Day community event will be held on Thursday, August 29th at Crosspoint in Niceville from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. There will be free dinner and a program to follow. Partners are encouraged to share marketing materials.

Closing – Emily Pickens

- Emily thanked attendees for participating and asked them to complete the community engagement survey to provide feedback.

Next Meeting – Thursday, September 19th at 9:00 a.m. at DOH-Okaloosa.

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Share marketing materials for IOAD	All	8/29/2024	Ongoing
Coordinate date/time for Pedestrian Safety Month press conference	Emily Pickens	9/19/2024	Completed
Review and suggest edits for the Pedestrian safety Best Practices guide	All	9/19/2024	Started
Coordinate and create a 4 th Pedestrian Safety video	County PIOs	9/19/2024	Completed