

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); Amanda Colwell, DOH-Okaloosa; JB Whitten, City of Crestview; Robert Bage, Fort Walton Beach Police Department; Greg Cain, Okaloosa County EMS; Jason Fulghum, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office (OCSO); Autumn McAllister, Lakeview Center.

Welcome & Introductions – Amanda Colwell

- Amanda Colwell opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- She reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. Community Engagement Surveys from the previous meeting stated good collaboration and attendance.
- Meeting minutes from the September 19th, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action Plan Updates – JB Whitten & Robert Bage

Poster Contest Updates

- Emily shared a slide deck with poster winners. There were 207 submissions.
 - There were more than 40 submissions without a name. Chief Bage suggested printing a sticker next year with that information. Attendees agreed.
 - Others suggested submissions going to front office staff in lieu of SROs.
- Chief Bage, Mayor Whitten, and Captain Fulghum will present winners with prizes at the November 12th School Board Meeting.
- Emily opened discussion to incorporate VPK classrooms in the competition through partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast. They would require classrooms to complete a safety lesson and posters would be developed as a class project. The ELC would secure a gift card to present. Emily will coordinate to set deadlines, secure poster judges, and confirm logistics.

Protecting Pedestrians Video Series

- Members discussed seeing the videos on social media channels. Chief Bage asked for feedback on how they were being received. Emily will request information from PIOs.

Best Practices Guide Dissemination

- Mayor Whitten stated he shared the guide with government partners. Chief Bage forwarded it to law enforcement leadership and other key public safety personnel.
- Mayor Whitten opened discussion to hold a Town Hall or 'listening session' to gain community insights and feedback. He challenged the group to take the best practices guide to the next step by providing public education and soliciting feedback.
 - Attendees discussed including representatives from FDOT, the county, TPO, and municipal leadership.
 - This item will be discussed further in the next meeting.

Substance Use Educational Series

- Emily provided an overview of the educational series that was suggested during the International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) hotwash. The OCHIP Champions met in early October to discuss the idea further.
 - This agenda item will be led by the Healthy Communities OCHIP group and will be a focus of the November meeting.
- Attendees discussed the need for an engaging data presentation to communicate key statistics to government, non-profit, and other stakeholders as well as the public.
- Captain Fulghum reminded attendees about OCSO's Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (LEAD) program. He will gather more information.
- Autumn McAllister shared Walton County is using curriculum from Botrin, focused on resiliency skill building.
 - Emily will investigate practices at other schools in the region.

Action Items – JB Whitten & Robert Bage

- Emily will coordinate with the ELC for VPK poster submissions.
- Group members will further develop ideas for a traffic safety listening session and substance use educational campaign prior to the next meeting.
- Captain Fulghum will obtain details on LEAD.
- Emily will investigate youth substance use education programs in the region.

Closing – Emily Pickens

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

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 21st at 9:00 a.m. at DOH-Okaloosa

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Coordinate VPK poster submissions	Emily Pickens	10/31/2024	Complete
Brainstorm traffic safety listening session/town hall and substance use educational campaign ideas	ALL	11/21/2024	In Progress
Obtain LEAD program details	Jason Fulghum	11/21/2024	Complete
Investigate local youth substance use education campaigns	Emily Pickens	11/21/2024	In Progress