

Mayor's Parramore Task Force
Social Service/Education Subcommittee Meeting
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, February 25, 2004

The meeting of the Mayor's Parramore Task Force Social Service/Education Subcommittee was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., Dr. J. B. Callahan Neighborhood Center, 101 North Parramore Avenue. Chairman Veronica Anderson presiding.

Members Present

Veronica Anderson
Hudie Stone
Aaron Gallaway

Community Present

Holly Vanture
David van Gelder
Dorothy Dukes

Staff Present

Marcia Hope Goodwin
Lisa Early
Lisa McCoy
Linda Rhinesmith
Susan Harris
Cheryl Rainsberger

County Staff Present

Tyra Witsell
Jennifer Grant
Randy Lewis
Mike Carvana
Yolanda Brown-Morris

Members Absent

Tim Adams
Ann Brown
Terry Delahunty
Aminah Hamidullah
Beverly Morgan
Lorry James
Ron Mizer
NaShawndra Jackson
Brian Butler
AC Cowans

The subcommittee reviewed the February 4, 2004 meeting notes.

Orange County Citizens Commission for Children presented information on their Neighborhood Centers for Families (NCF). Their centers have become models for centers throughout the country.

NOTE: Veronica advised the subcommittee of the City's land use code that prohibits the expansion or increase of social services in the Parramore area. This code was established several years ago, due to the over concentration of social services in the Parramore area. Therefore, staff has advised that a center identical to a NCF is currently prohibited in the Parramore area. However, a resource center or "one stop shop" may be allowed.

Tyra Witsell and her staff presented the following: The Citizens' Commission for Children was established in 1989 with a mission to fund and monitor services for children, youth and families. Through this Orange County Department, Neighborhood Centers for Families (NCF) were implemented. There are currently 13 NCFs in Orange County. Their core services are health, family support, educational enhancement and childcare. They offer services for 90 school sights.

The centers are evaluated annually for outcome achievement. The two types of outcomes/evaluations are Youth/Educational Outcomes and Health and Safety Outcomes. The school outcomes are tracked by indicators such as the rise in GPAs, truancy reduction and number of discipline referrals. Indicators used for the health and safety outcomes are less scientific and based on clients and caseworkers' "self report" mechanisms. A "client" is defined

as a person in the community who has committed to making a change in their life. The percentage of neighborhood residents who are NCF clients was not available to the commission members who made the presentation. The NCFs produce annual reports, to remain constantly aware of objectives that are working and those that need to be eliminated.

Primary steps to start a NCF are to 1) Conduct Community Survey and Stakeholders meetings to determine what the needs are for the neighborhood, 2) Analyze the results, and 3) Select the service providers and location. Note: Focus groups were set up at neighborhood association meetings to access needs of the neighborhoods. The needs assessments have not changed throughout the years. Most of the needs are based on poverty.

Positive results from the Orange County NCFs include increasing the percentage of high school graduates. Currently, only 45% of Jones High School students graduate. The commission has looked at the Jones High School feeder schools, with the idea that the lack of education begins with the elementary schools. They are in the process of identifying ways to assist Jones High School students and families. Another objective is to provide computers and education to job seekers.

The Citizen's Commission for Children will provide the subcommittee with:

1) Recommendations on do's and don'ts learned from their past experiences, 2) Instruments used to access the needs of each neighborhood, and 3) NCF's annual reports. Focus groups were set up at neighborhood association meetings to access needs of the neighborhoods.

The subcommittee discussed the goals for presentation to the task force. See the attached list of drafted goals, which will be e-mailed to all subcommittee members for editing and/or approval, prior to the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Mayor's Parramore Task Force Social Services/Education Subcommittee will be on March 1, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall in Conference Room R. This meeting is for finalizing the goals that will be presented to the Task Force on March 3.

The meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Rainsberger

Administrative Assistant

City of Orlando, Office of Communications and Neighborhood Enhancement