



# **Meeting Minutes**

*Safe and Thriving Communities Youth, Family &  
Community Responsibility/Engagement Working Group  
Meeting*

Monday, April 24, 2017  
At 3:00 pm

**The Sanctuary @ Mt. Calvary**  
2360 Kings Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32209



Present were:

Terrence Harvey  
Erika Brown  
Brooke Melian  
Torreka Manning  
Katie Bakewell  
Rhonda Lattimore  
Ardel Jones  
Alan Louder  
Leofric Thomas

Damian Cook  
Angela Tompkins  
Jackie Green  
Karly Jacobsen  
Vicki Burke  
Ruben Bryant  
Linzee Ott  
Linda Dyke

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 p.m.

Terrence Harvey welcomed everyone. Following introductions, the direction for the meeting was established, a summary of the information gathered from area pastors and faith based organization leaders.

Following is a summary of that information:

- There are services and agencies that they are unaware of.
- There needs to be some kind of streamlining and updating of information regarding services that are available to the youth and families.
- Possibly developing a pilot program to link services to churches since there is unused space that could possibly house agencies which bring the services to the community
- They need direction and input so that the work they do already can be expanded because they know there is more to do.
- The families they serve tend to have a problem getting to the resources. Many of them believe there would better success rates if the resources came to them, making use of the space available at many of the faith based organizations' facilities.
- There is a lot of blight, including businesses moving from the communities leaving lots of open buildings that could be utilized to serve children and families.
- CDC's being formed in at least one of our target zip codes by pastors to become a resource hub for community members.

NLP Logix representatives presented information to the group on data and asked what specific data needs this group has. There was a detailed discussion of Diagnostic Data (what is happening), Predictive Data (why is it happening) and Prescriptive Data (what should we do). Data is currently being provided by JSO, DCPS and JaxJourney. All of this data is designed to determine the best utilization of services for the kids. The information produced by the working

groups, coupled with the data might lead to an interactive tool to locate the best referral to services for youth and families.

NLP is available to assist the churches with the collection of the data that they need, as long as they are provided the parameters. In some instances there will be redacted information provided, but NLP is requesting the information that is needed for the project. (Names of kids will never be provided but information relative to the information this group needs will be provided.) COJ is working on an agreement that will allow providers to submit their information in a useful manner.

The pastors present spoke and shared information about the sources of information they are using to refer children in trouble and recognize that at times it is insufficient. Information was also provided from the pastors about the programs they currently utilize in their churches. The group was advised that the information that the pastors provided is precisely the work that this group needs to focus on; developing a process to enhance programs to help youth in the communities.

In response to the pastor's comments, the group's attention was directed to the data and the trends that it shows. The goal will ultimately be to keep the pastors in the loop of the data so that programs can be developed that will affect the trends in the neighborhoods that each of them serve. NLP Logix will be working on an overlaying type of mapping depicting churches, neighborhoods, and violence.

Comments from Torreka Manning, one of the community youth involved in this working group. Her unique perspective demonstrated to the group that kids are drawn to areas where security is lacking. In addition, she believes that not enough attention is paid to parental involvement when programs are planned, for those kids whose parents don't appear to be involved. She cautioned the group, however, that the issue is not always the parents, but instead it may be the familial circumstances. The parents may need help that they don't know how to ask for or who to ask.

Comments from Angela Tompkins regarding the number of churches in 32209; how can this group help make the faith based organizations a viable partner in this effort. Examples of the need for more focused involvement include:

- Most churches have largely available and unused space during the day
- Most of the churches have nothing for youth during the spring break
- Most churches have summer camps that begin 2 weeks into the summer and end 2 weeks before school starts for the fall.
- Maximizing the efforts of the faith-based organizations to help the children, the families, increase security in communities.
- Increase the perspective of the pastors to be more community pastors instead of congregational pastors

Representatives from the State Attorney's Office also offered perspective. Programming and parenting go hand in hand when it comes to helping children. Specialized programming

from individuals strong in the areas of need should be explored and provided as resources to the parents.

Jacquelyn Green of Department of Children and Families provided detailed information on the role of DCF and the new perspective being paid to issues with children. The focus is being drawn to root causes as opposed to merely removing children from homes. Family Support Services goes into the home and teaches and empowers parents with help for underlying issues. The success rates for families who have been provided these services is about 98%.

Erika Brown summarized the reason that this group exists and reminded everyone of the need for indicators and data that could lead to the information needed to impact change in the community related to youth violence.

Meeting adjourned by Terrence Harvey at 4:30 p.m.