

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE
Afterschool Business Partnership Council
Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2018
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
South Olive Community Center

ITEM 1. Welcome – Luisa Brennan, Program Director of Early Childhood & K-12 Programs – Palm Beach State College

Discussion: Luisa Brennan, Program Director, called the meeting to order and asked that everyone introduce themselves, identifying which agency they work for and their role in Afterschool/Youth Development. She thanked Debra Strange and said Debra was kind enough at our last meeting to talk about Sgt. Frank and all the wonderful things that you do so we would love for you tell us a little bit more.

Data Source consulted: Not applicable

Action: Not applicable

ITEM 2. Sgt. Frank Danysh – Adopt A Cop, Inc.

Discussion: Sgt. Frank started with saying since he's met Debra, a lot of really horrible things have happened and for the last two years we have been talking about, in Broward County, about the problems they've been having and Palm Beach County is not far behind. In 2006 we had a shooting in the Boynton Beach mall, on Christmas Eve where a gang member killed another gang member. The reason this whole non-profit started was the fact that I'm the last police officer that we have in schools and that's kind of a problem because that was like 20 years ago. When we saw that the agencies were pulling themselves out of the community we saw how our societies started moving in with different role models for our children and that's become a really big problem because if there's nobody there to mentor, somebody is going to mentor them either way, so that's why this creation of Adopt A Cop happened. Since I ran a program for leadership development for the last 18 years in Boynton Beach it's kind of a next transition to raise awareness in our communities and to bridge that gap between the community and the law enforcement officers that serve there. Law enforcement isn't the most trusted entity in some foreign countries and they come to the United States, where parents already don't trust the law enforcement so then there is a lot of being taken advantage of, by different people in our countries. Since the tragedy happened in Parkland things have kind of ramped up in another direction because not only are we going to mentor in schools, we also provide a layer of protection and what kind of protection are we going to provide for our kids? At first, we were looking for volunteers and would take any police officer into our schools or deputies but because of those recent events, and I'm not saying that 99.99% of our officers don't do the right thing but just like in every other situation, we have to be sure. Now these officers and deputies have to go through an assessment type training through our program before I give them to a school. We have a 12-week curriculum that is being developed and we are 99.99% ready with that to roll into the schools and it's a work book and because of the program I taught before they used a lot of role plays, which were cool but the role plays were, and no offense to that professor but he came out of California and I don't think he had his feet on the ground for Florida and that's a problem. You can't come in to a neighborhood like Lake Worth and say "Do a program that's the same as Boynton Beach". Even though their sister cities, they are different. We're doing something a little bit different where we're making it unique to those different areas. So when the kids walk

by a different store, like in Boynton there is the Boynton Cherry Hill mini mart. All of those kids know where that location is. So when they read that in their book, it gives them a chance to engage. The other thing with our role play is, which is very unique, is we use animals. They're kind of funny because of the names but there is TTT Rex. She's a dinosaur so she's extinct so her big deal is she wants to know why manners went extinct. When I was driving here today I realize that manners are a big problem on the turnpike on I-95 and Lake Worth road. A lot of our societal problems are kind of based on that. Our kids aren't getting those lessons about manners and self-esteem and resiliency and it's playing out as adults. That's kind of where we took this direction. That's why Ms. Strange invited me to this opportunity because there is a big break down with our law enforcement officers across the country and we need to bring that back together.

Data Source consulted: Not applicable

Action: Not applicable

ITEM 3. Luisa Brennan, Program Director of Early Childhood & K-12 Programs – Palm Beach State College

Discussion: Luisa started on the next agenda item and said the next thing we have on here is the Afterschool/ Summer Camp Job Fair updates. So I wanted to hear a little from you that attended what your feedback was. Have you gotten any hires from that? We brought some feedbacks on evaluations. We had approximately 130 students that attended and we had 25 vendors that participated. So these are just comments from the students and some from the vendors. I know Michele had mentioned possibly having another one in the summer for our afterschool starting in August. I know the college is having a Job Fair coming up in two weeks I think on the 18th. Some of you had asked for that information and we forwarded it to you to see if you wanted to participate. Luisa asked Sue Sims if that date was correct. Sue corrected her and she said the 11th. Any feedback that you can share about the Job Fair? Rene Connors was the first to respond by stating that she wasn't able to attend but she had two supervisors go and they said that they thought they were awfully young. Jennifer Johnson responded to Rene saying we did promote to the students at the college. It could have been some potential students that are coming right out of high school. Luisa added on stating that someone had mentioned there were a few 17-year olds. Luisa stated she was being asked, if they would hire 16 to 17 year olds and she said that she knows some programs will hire 16 or 17 year olds for counselors in training. I'm not sure what agencies that are going to be there would do that but you can come so if you wanted to get experience on what a Job Fair is and also get promotional information about the college. I know there was a group there from Lake Worth High School. Christin Martin added on saying that she was so impressed on how fast it came together. We had just talked about it at the last meeting and then the next thing I know it was out and then to have 25 vendors on top of it, that was great. Luisa mentioned that she felt like there was not one time that there was not some students walking through the entire area. There were people waiting before we opened and we had to close the doors around 7:45pm to not let anyone else come in. So it definitely went the whole time. Other feedback, I'm not sure it's on here, was that maybe it was little too long because we did it from 4:00pm-8:00pm. I think I would agree with that. Anything that you can think of, again, we don't have a problem offering it again next year but we would like to plan with a little more time. So if it's something that you feel would be beneficial for us to hold around this time next year for your summer camp employment process, just let us know. Christin Martin asked who was invited out to come to the Job Fair. Was it just promoted through the college? Luisa responded by saying no. Sue Sims joins in and explained that they had sent some programs specific emails to students at the college. So we sent the email and we also sent a follow-up text message. We have our internal marketing that did some other postings for us. So I can speak for the college stand point that we were very specific who we were marketing to. Luisa adds on that we had sent to all the afterschool directors, school-age sites, promoted at the resource fair, we put it on our social media page and then we posted it on all of the boards on the campus. Christin mentioned that maybe for a future one, and that was great that

we obviously advertised at the college because that is probably mostly where we are going to get a lot of great staff, but maybe next time too we could promote outside? Like through CSC, Primetime? Luisa responded stating that we did promote to them as well. Christin then responded saying okay good. The reason I say this is because obviously we talk to a lot of people but us being a specific agency looking for individuals who have worked with people with special needs, we didn't get a lot of that. We had some and I didn't expect a ton to be honest with you but I just didn't know how it was going to look like the first year. So we got, maybe a handful. I don't do the hiring for our agency so I don't know how many people were actually hired. Jennifer brought up the idea of something we can do is send an email to all the vendors and ask how many were hired. Jowie Mohammed joined in explaining that he received the same feedback. Most of the kids were like seniors in high school. I think in like a month or two I could tell you more because we are just starting to interview now. So what we plan on doing is as we pull those applications ask them how did you hear about us? Christin said the applications we actually handed out, we wrote on them "Job fair" so we knew we could track it from there. Holly Strawser joined in saying I would put it out there that there are other programs. I have a biology degree. I have friends and family that they have science degrees that have gone into teaching because usually if you enjoy scientist and things like that you tend to enjoy sharing with others. Just to put that out there and especially because you're looking at afterschool and summer camp, it's a perfect job to put around your studies and a perfect part time job.

Data Source consulted: Not applicable

Action: Not applicable

ITEM 4. Jennifer Johnson, Director of Early Childhood & K-12 Programs – Palm Beach State College

Discussion: Jennifer Johnson started the next agenda item by saying she wanted to share with you all the NAA, the National Afterschool Association, had their national conference in Atlanta this year. My first time going to an afterschool conference so I was really excited about it. I was really blown away with the professionalism of the field. It's just something that's new to me. We had a lot of phenomenal break-out sessions that we went to and great guest speakers. The NAA posted some videos and some information about the keynote speakers and the break-out sessions on their website, so if you're interested in learning more about it. Great professional development opportunity. A couple of the ones we went to that we thought might be helpful for you, one of them was with the National PAL Maximizing Your Community's Net Worth and this was one of the things they were sharing. It was Sargent Christopher Hill and Harold Foley. They head up the pal in their area and they were talking about, and you'll see in the handouts, about that very thing that I was just mentioning about using your resources in your community. I don't know how much you're doing already, you might be able to share with each other a little bit about that but also getting to know your parents on a different level and you could really have a lot of good resources. They have their headquarters out of Jupiter, so he mentioned that he'd be willing to come and be a guest speaker for us and so maybe he can share a little more about some of the things they've done in their area to try and raise money or to bring additional afterschool activities or programs to their centers. Maybe we can take moment and elaborate on somethings you're doing already. Dennis Carpenter responded saying that he knows that at the Boys & Girls club, they collaborated with them. They lost a lot of funding in the last couple years. So as far as basketball we can do some athletic things with them in the West Palm area. Jennifer added on saying another thing he mentioned there were some kids who weren't receiving services, I don't know how that would happen, but we are not receiving the level of services that they were supposed to be receiving when they were in school during the day. At one of his centers where a parent that was a speech pathologist, he was able to offer some of their services at a discounted rate to other parents. So that was just another angle of getting to know your parents and what it is you can do as far as helping. Whether be programs within your center or things like that where you can offer those discounted programs to parents outside even your program. The other one that we attended, which goes right along with what we were

talking about was Trauma-Informed Care and I know we spoke about this before. This was probably one of the first Business Partnership meetings I attended. I think somebody brought this up as one of their biggest issues and concerns that you're dealing with on a daily basis. An interesting statistic was that 60% of students you're probably dealing with on a day-to-day basis, have been exposed to some type of trauma and this goes right along with what you were talking about as far as what's trauma to one person it's very different for someone else. The guest speaker was just sharing that it could be a bully situation for that child for that day or it could be divorce. Just having specialize training so you know how to deal with these students and understanding a little more about your need as far as how you're dealing with them to take this step back when you have a child that is really upset or handling a situation in a certain way that you can defuse it by maybe getting them out of that space or doing something else for a few minutes before you are actually addressing the situation. Holly mentioned that for preschools the new buzz word is conscious discipline. Jennifer brought up that Primetime is offering some things too. Katherine's break-out session that she did, she said that they are offering it here at Palm Beach County. Is that something that you check periodically? Jowie responded saying that they do. We highly encourage all of our staff to sign up for Friday forecast. We require them to get like 18 hours in-service a year, so we try to push them on this as much as possible.

Data Source consulted: Not applicable

Action: Not applicable

ITEM 5. Group Discussions & Debriefing

Discussion: Luisa asked if anyone has any program sharing information. Dennis responded that another thing with the NAA conference that he went to, if any of you have been on the You for Youth (Y4Y), it's called Department of Education where you can get some summer learning experiences that you might be able to implement. Jennifer asked if that was associated with the Journal of Youth Development. Dennis responded no. Jennifer mentioned that Journal of Youth Development is also associated with the NAA so that might be a good resource we could send out to you all. Luisa explains that we decided to have the meeting only twice a year now because we were having them too often. We did not have enough on the agenda and we still struggle to get things on the agenda or even to know who is coming to the meetings. Sgt. Frank asked when the next meeting is. Luisa responded asking everyone if August or September would work. We could do the first week of September. Let's shoot for September 6 and we'll send an email. If someone would like to host it since we are trying to go to different locations. Dennis responded that he could host it but he just needs to find a location. Luisa asks if 10:30am works for everyone and everyone agreed.

Data source consulted: Not applicable

- Council toured South Olive Community Center 345 Summa St, West Palm Beach, FL 33405

Next Meeting: September 6, 2018,

Attendance:
Members

Dennis Carpenter	Rene Connors	Christin Martin	Jowie Mohammed	Susan Sims
Debra Strange				

Guest(s):

Holly Strawser	Sgt. Frank Danysh	Jennifer Johnson	Luisa Brennan	Natalie Fernandez

Submitted by: Luisa Brennan
 Natalie Fernandez, Scribe