

Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Human Services

10/18/2017

10:30am

SS101

ITEM 1. *Goals for 2017-2018*

Discussion:

- Human Services Bachelor's Program
 - Chair of BPC, Suzie Duff, informed council about progress being made toward starting a Human Services bachelors program, which was recommended by the council.
 - Dr. Stoupas, Professor Duff and Associate Dean Caldwell met with the Dean of the Bachelors Programs, then with the VP of Academic Affairs and are currently completing paperwork to move the program forward.
- Increase Addiction Studies Enrollment
 - Suzie informed the council of three initiatives being made to increase enrollment in the Addiction Studies program.
 - Dr. Stoupas has reached out to local treatment centers to build relationships and promote the program. He also planned a CAC and CAP information session and created promotional materials.
 - The Human Services program created a Human Services Facebook page, which currently has about 40 followers.
 - Professor Duff and Dr. Stoupas met with College Relations and Marketing about updating the PBSC Human Services website and creating a promotional video.

ITEM 2. *Updates from BPC Members*

Discussion:

- Suzette from 211 informed the council that call volume has tripled since Hurricane Irma and suicide call volume has elevated. People are frightened and don't know what to do. She said that homelessness in our area has increased because of the storm and the self-care of people answering the phone has been difficult since they are so busy.
 - Self-care is an important theme and students need to be taught how to implement coping skills when in school so they are prepared for the field.
- Millie from Community Partners informed the council that they are opening new programs to mentor middle schoolers at Lake Worth Middle and in Pahokee. She said that the hurricane was a big stressor for the children they work with and having no power has really affected them. Many students had mosquito bites because of open windows and a lack of electricity.
- Rita from DCF informed the council that they too, have seen an increase in stress due to Hurricane Irma. People were frantic looking for guidance and assistance and there were issues with FEMA regarding determining who qualified for assistance and who did not. Rita mentioned that the hurricane brought an increase in domestic violence which affects the children they serve in addition to families losing their homes because of hurricane damage.

Main themes in the field were immigration, the opioid/substance abuse issue, the aftermath of the hurricane and the importance of self-care. Dr. Stoupas, Dr. Blair and Professor Duff will take these themes back to the classroom so students are up-to-date with what is currently happening in the field.

Attendance

Professor Suzie Duff, BPC Chair, Dr. George Stoupas, Dr. Andrew Blair, Suzette Newcomber, Millie Ramos, Rita Glancz

Submitted by: S. Duff

Suzie Duff, Scribe