

Florida PACE EH Monthly Reporting Form



Project Name: Fellsmere PACE EH

County Health Department: Indian River

Name of Coordinator: Julianne Price, Clayton Weiss Contact #: 772-794-7445

Environmental Health Director: Cheryl Dunn Contact #: 772-794-7441

Date: 02/29/08

Directions

- **Frequency of Submissions.** Information must be submitted by email on a monthly basis to Daniel_Parker@doh.state.fl.us
- **Information Needed.** Please follow the format below as closely as possible reporting with team input.

1. Project Summary

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Those involved with the Hall Carter James and Wabasso PACE EH projects can say they have made many beneficial changes by actively participating in the process of improving their communities. By working together on a unified front to address community identified issues, each individual community member has been affected in some way and numerous residents have benefited directly from improvements to the communities involved in PACE EH projects. Goals should be directed towards finding and implementing solutions to keep people and their environments healthy. Our health department’s PACE-EH Program will continue to play vital roles in West Wabasso and Hall Carter James by facilitating change through empowerment.

Community meetings previously held in West Wabasso led to the realization that the community was not formally recognized by Indian River County. On February 5th, The West Wabasso Civic Progressive League and Julianne Price presented to the County Commission a brief history and argument to why the community should be recognized as a distinct community. Clearly the presentation was logically sound, because every Commissioner voted “yes” to identify West Wabasso as a community of its own. The recognition was a step that needed to occur and this victory will eventually give the community leaders more leverage when applying for grants for community improvements.

The Fellsmere PACE-EH community meeting took place on February 16th. Community leader Annie Mae Brown was especially vocal this meeting. Most of her words were directed at the lack of response from applications residents had submitted for federal housing grants through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The city of Fellsmere’s Community Liaison, Mrs. Heck, turned in some of the applications, which caused Mrs. Brown to voice her displeasure towards Mrs. Heck. Mrs. Heck explained that it was USDA that had not responded and the lack of communication was not through any fault of her own. Mrs. Heck and Julianne set an action item for the next meeting to invite representatives from USDA to attend March’s community meeting to explain to resident’s why they are not getting the proper responses. Since the meeting, we were successful in our request to USDA to send staff to explain the program and elaborate on why there might be a lack of response from the applications submitted to their department. The resident’s will be able to connect directly with USDA at the next community meeting, and can voice their opinions to government officials.

Representatives from both regional and national members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) made their preliminary visit to Fellsmere on February 25th. Their visit was due to the successful grant submission by our health department, with support from the city of Fellsmere, to undertake a Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) project. The day was spent introducing the AIA to the community, which included visits to meet Annie Mae Brown and Hope Leet. Mrs. Leet is a strong community leader who completely owns the view of Dr. Martin Luther King’s quote from up above. Because of Mrs. Leet, there is new hope that a large scale community learning center will be built in the community in the future. Due to fact that the main objective of the SDAT grant is to improve community design, a new community learning center would allow city a great place for its children to play and for both adults and children to learn. In addition to meeting with these community leaders, the group met with Bob Keating, the Director of Community Development for Indian River County. The meeting was definitely an interesting one, but did not give promises of any financial commitments from the county.

Throughout the month, the IRCHD spent time in writing an EPA CARE grant. If awarded this grant, the septic and sludge disposal problem that plagues Hall Carter James will be resolved. The grant should be ready for submission with 2 weeks. Also, it’s noteworthy to report that months ago, Julianne joined The Coalition for Attainable Housing. A goal that the group has is to build a “green house” for a mother and her three children. The green house will be made of recycled materials. Currently, the Coalition is at a point where they are researching what type of loan the recipient will qualify for to pay off the home. The recipient has a full-time job and this project is also a goal that the SDAT Team will work together to bring to a successful completion. The potential for the building of this green house is great. If completed, the house will be built in the Hall Carter James community, which would add to the successes that PACE has accomplished in the neighborhood.

In all, the month of February was a successful month. There were great signs of community empowerment from both PACE communities, Wabasso and Fellsmere. The AIA brought representatives from the national and regional offices to conduct its preliminary assessment of the project area in Fellsmere. The team also showed interest in building a green house for a needy family of 4. Finally, an EPA CARE was prepared and is close to being completed. If awarded, the grant would bring many more improvements to the Hall Carter James community.

2. Work plan and Process Update

Clearly specify the PACE EH Task you have worked on, are currently working on including future plans to complete Tasks. How close are you to achieving your outlined goal for the assessment?

PACE-EH Tasks	Action	Outcome	Target Date
Task 1: Determine Community Capacity	Conduct first community-wide meeting	Completed	
	Meet with leaders and officials to determine if support exists to undertake this project	Completed	
	Evaluate attitudes of community residents to determine if they want our involvement	Completed	
	Define geographic boundaries and parties who will be involved in project	Completed	

Task 2: Define and Characterize the Community	Define demographics of the community Locate interior resources and unique features within the community	Completed Completed	
Task 3: Assemble A community – based environmental health assessment team	Once issues are identified from surveys, applicable government officials will be asked to participate on CEHA team Ask community leaders if they wish to be part of the CEHA team	Completed Completed	
Task 4: Define the goals, objectives, and scope of the assessment	Gather information to learn what is to be accomplished by PACE EH Decide and focus on desired outcomes identified by CHD and community members	Completed	
Task 5: Generate a list of community-specific environmental health issues	Distribute survey assessment to entire community via door to door interaction Continue to gather verbal information at meetings and events	Completed	

Task 6: Analyze issues with a systems framework	Our Information Technology dept. has aided us in creating an access database to populate with our survey data. The database will include a few reports so that we can analyze the issues efficiently and effectively.	Completed	
Task 7: Identify locally appropriate indicators	Contact the Indian River County Planning division and research census 2000 data and charts.org to acquire local indicators	Completed	
Task 8: Select standards against which local status can be compared	Research demographics in greater detail. Compile statistics for project area and research/ compare against larger area statistics such as county, state, national data.	Completed	
Task 9: Create issue profiles	List issues that have been identified in the community and describe how they relate to the area.	Completed	
Task 10: Rank issues	Rank the top 5 issues of the community. These will be provided by the analysis of the data base.	Completed	
Task 11: Set priorities for action	During steering committee meetings, develop plans for action that solve community issues. Assign responsibility to individual(s) in order to get tasks completed.	Completed	
Task 12: Develop action plans	Perform asset mapping at steering committee to brainstorm list of resources available to address community identified issues. Based on identified resources, assign committee	Completed	

	members duties to execute actions plans.		
Task 13: Evaluate progress and plan for the future	Conduct a post-survey in the community to quantify the results of the project. This will be done with the help of NACCHO.		May 2008

2. Outstanding Issues/Concerns

In our application for the SDAT grant, we budgeted for \$11,200 in salary. We just found out that this money goes toward the experts who are part of the design team's travel and to prepare a report. This realization comes at a bad time where we are facing budget cuts and such outside funding would have secured our involvement to see the PACE project through to completion. Because the project is anticipated to wrap up in May of 2008, we will continue support after that date by attending monthly community meetings and be part of the SDAT team.

3. Miscellaneous

Indian River Hometown News: 2008 Feb 15 - 01:18

In historic neighborhood, officials aim to undo neglect

By Warren Kagarise
Staff writer

FELLSMERE - In Carter Hall James, a neighborhood of sagging houses and residents pushed to the margins by years of neglect, there are now signs of hope.

The long turnaround of Carter Hall James began last spring. Since then, the Fellsmere Community Redevelopment Agency steered \$5,000 to renovate Granny's Grocery on State Street. Residents repainted homes and painted over graffiti at Grant Park. Nearby, volunteers built two houses last November - on one Saturday.

"We see little changes," said Pamela Jefferson, 41, a lifelong Carter Hall James resident and mother of three children. "We can see the light from the darkness."

Still, steep challenges remain for this predominantly black community.

Houses lining streets of the five-square-block neighborhood are old, with many of them in need of repair.

Most of its 219 residents live near the poverty level, according to census data.

At the Indian River County Health Department, which spearheaded efforts to improve the neighborhood, a \$15,000 grant could help Fellsmere plan further upgrades.

A team of planning experts from the Washington-based American Institute of Architects, which awarded the grant, will visit Fellsmere by next month. To identify problems, the team will examine building design, transportation options and other factors.

Julianne Price, statewide coordinator for the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health program, talks about using "low-hanging fruit," or smaller, attainable projects, to win residents' trust. Years of broken government promises left residents wary.

Through the PACE program, Ms. Price helped bring streetlights to West Wabasso, and connect houses there to county water.

Now, in Carter Hall James, where residents cited housing as their top concern, Ms. Price wants to attract volunteers to renovate crumbling houses.

Building two homes last fall - one for Ms. Jefferson and another for her neighbor, Martha Rainey - changed the perception for Carter Hall James residents, Ms. Price said.

"You squash all of the despair and it infuses the community with hope," she continued. Alongside housing, residents listed concerns about the lack of public transportation and streetlights. And, to improve the neighborhood, residents suggested upgrading Grant Park with a restroom and building a community center.

When she was a girl, Ms. Jefferson said Carter Hall James residents rallied around sports and other community-wide events. But a baseball field was fenced off and converted into a retention pond.

"Now the kids have nothing to do but hang out on the corner," Ms. Jefferson said.

Moreover, municipal officials want to connect isolated Carter Hall James with surrounding neighborhoods like Whispering Pines, which provides housing for farm workers. Indian River Habitat for Humanity is building the 68-home Grace Meadows subdivision nearby. Expertise and grant funding from the American Institute of Architects should help the city move ahead, Jason Nunemaker, the Fellsmere city manager, said last week. Other plans call for a regional park in the area, he continued.