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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager  
**From:** Thomas J. Harrington, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator  
**Date:** 4/5/2021  
**Subject:** Youth/Young Adult Workshop – Institutional Partners

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**Susan Wright, Library District Manager** – National Library Week is this week; their mission is to participate, connect, and discover with staff who are trained for children and teens as well as adults (a lot of outreach to caregivers). Currently, they administer virtual programs. The Student Library Card is a partnership with SBAC (3<sup>rd</sup> year of partnership). Every single public school student has a library card from K-12. Tutor.com allows free tutoring as a resource since it is purchased for the entire community. A HS paid internship program in library sciences is also available.

**Tina Certain, SBAC Member** - Accelerate and ameliorate COVID19 loss that some students have experienced. A specific goal of district to improve reading/math scores, particularly in older students for post-secondary opportunities. SBAC partners with SFC and it is building a system to communicate with out-of-time providers to share information.

**Dr. Simon, School Superintendent** - Rezoning/re-imagining of district is a priority; how to utilize federal funding – broadband internet access and public transit access are both important things to address and tackle. Collaboration on meaningful engagement that involves technology is very much of interest. She wants supports for mental health, not just individual but group therapy as part of also building back relationships. They are trying to work across governments and most effective when working together. In addition, they are also piloting a STEM program at Metcalfe for next Fall.

**Dr. Ratna Acahrya, UF Shands Pediatrics Department** - pediatric anxiety disorders and depression are high amongst teenagers/young adults. 40% of anxieties are not treated amongst adolescents. The need for counseling is so high so having counselors in schools would be immensely helpful up to 21 years of age. Awareness about so many crisis intervention centers

available locally and statewide could be enhanced. She has a flier that can be shared via email. The Mayor mentioned he loves the idea of more help with our public schools in terms of counseling.

**Alan Paulin, Meridian** – full continuum of care from adults to children including a mental health criminal diversion program of about 10 years along with child welfare. A lot of expansion going on with co-responders. The County was able to get an additional grant to make a 5<sup>th</sup> one with a peer specialist. Meridian is trying to map out with both the County and City to ascertain intercept points prior to a crisis happening. Certified prevention staff can go wherever youth are, e.g. – summer camps, etc.

**Dr. Lisa Armour, SFC** – exciting changes, one being arrival of their new president, Dr. Paul Broadie, along with adoption of a new strategic plan with the bottom line to increase economic and social mobility within City and surrounding areas. They would like to expand knowledge and understanding among youth with options such as the partnership it has with Builders Association of North Central FL. She is excited about developing a new array of short-term certificates and credentials. SFC received a very generous \$40M gift several months ago and is excited about investing (with pillars) in the community and have been meeting with various individuals. They also partner with Howard Bishop School in a number of ways. Programs located at new Blount campus will be business and IT.

**Shruti Kolli, Students for Alachua Resources Committee** – student-led contra-COVID effort at UF. The Committee would be a continued effort to update resource guides working with both UF PHHP and COG.

**Dr. Kurt Gurley, UF Civil Engineering Department** – STEM-related outreach; 2<sup>nd</sup> of 5 year phase of funding cycle for NSF (wind tunnel facility on East campus near Gville airport). Major component of funding is K-12 outreach.

**Dr. Lane Washington, UF Student Affairs' Strategic Initiatives** – UF and East Gville initiatives; focus on volunteering/service efforts. Access efforts include trying to do more touch points in Alachua County, specifically in East Gville. Part of the task is to implement community mini-grants for students to create proposals alongside nonprofits for new projects to benefit the City as a whole. [Gatorsvolunteer.edu](http://Gatorsvolunteer.edu)

**Sue Crowley, UF Community Affairs Outreach** - UF for Charities – various youth organizations receive funding; UF has a community partnership at Howard Bishop, UF Center for Pre-Collegiate Education and Training (20 different programs for students, STEM, and teachers), and College of Health and Human Performance's Gators in Motion – students from lower-income communities after school with UF students.

**Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa, UF IFAS** – faculty/staff works on food and resources and everything in between – a federal, county, state partnership under law. She's able to have an extension program in every county the way it's implemented in Florida. The Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs are both training programs. UF through IFAS runs the entire

statewide program for 4-H. Clubs begin at 5-18 years of age and then collegiate versions with three 4-H camps around the state. They provide a lot of expertise through their website: [edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu). One of their academic departments is Family, Community, and Youth Sciences. Specific programs are [streamingscience.com](http://streamingscience.com) (for science literacy), Fishing 4 Success which partners for schools teaching kids how to fish (the City could help support the bait for the program – sponsorship opportunity), a dairy farm has schools which can visit (open house), and Kids in the Woods summer camp.

**Alicia Swanson, N. FL Regional Medical Center** – collaborate with local HS regarding career paths. They would like to build strategic relationships on career/resume building for health care field with this age demographic.

**Lt. Will Halvosa, GPD** – HEROES program last summer (CTAC helps with funding). A lot of youth come into juvenile justice system that are black and brown. They still do police-youth dialogues and continue to develop at-risk youth while breaking down barriers. Jobs for 15-17 year olds are paramount. Youth can minimize some of their trauma if they are gainfully employed as a good distraction.

**Capt. Kurnick, GPD** – Reichert House is still operating but reduced numbers due to COVID19. The goal is to keep the kids in school and occupied; Reichert House is that one step.

**John Alexander, GPD** – Youth & Community Service Bureau Director; about 7 different programs starting at age 8. A lot of programs and services in Alachua County but a disconnect still exists as a lot of people do not take advantage of the resources. They are utilizing parents and faith-based leaders about such. Their newest program is Reset which is a partnership with the County.

**Cheryl Twombly, DCF** – DCF has been working over the last few years to transform from crisis response to prevention. Economic challenges tend to be the cause for their programming. 30.6% of individuals are living at the poverty level in COG. Of the 25,545 individuals receiving food assistance, over 14,000+ are between 15-30 years of age. Housing affordability is an important factor. Most families involved with DCF find that home ownership is unachievable. Home ownership is equated with stability. Over 50% of child removals in 2020 stemmed from substance abuse as first or second causes. Anything COG can do to support substance abuse prevention would be helpful.

**Lt. Koehler, GPD** – when programs occur, they should be incorporated when rolling out programs.

According to the Mayor, GRU also has amazing science programs, especially with water/wastewater.