



Human Services Department

Human Resources Department, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Section

115 S. Andrews Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7851•

Draft

Broward County Board of County Commissioners
 Racial Equity Task Force
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 September 20, 2024
 Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
 512 NE 3rd Avenue, Board Room
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
 Hybrid

Natalia Allen, Chair

1. Call to Order:

The meeting started at 10:05 a.m. Staff present at the meeting: Human Services Department, Deputy Director: Keith D. Bostick, Human Resources Department (HRD), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Officer: Delwynn Freeman, Equity and Community Investment (ECI) Administrator: David Watkins, Office of Small Business Development staff: Cheryl Robers, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs/Board Section Staff: Naomi Labaty, and HRD/DEI staff Anna Gibbs.

2. Roll Call:

Member Name Present/Absent Member Name Present/Absent

Allen, Natalia	Present	Lonergan, Tim	Present
Barry-Smith, Marcia	Present	Nesbeth, Kerri-Ann	Present
Bright, Mimi	Present	Norris-Weeks, Burnadette	Present
Carter, Adrian	Present	O'Flannery-Anderson, Jennifer	Absent
English, Norma	Present	Peterson, C. Renee	Present
Faulk, Regina	Present	Robinson, Annastacia	Present
Gallagher, Sue	Present	Romero, Christina	Present
Gupta, Sanjay	Present	Saavedra, Juan	Present
Holness, J. "Jeff"	Present	Shirley, Jasmin	Absent
Koch, Katherine	Present	Spragg, Susan	Present
Lindblade, Daniel	Present	Valenzuela, O. "Otto"	Present

Guest:

Name

Agency

Sabrina Brant	Students for Change

3. Approve July 19, 2024, Minutes

Chair, Ms. Allen, asked members to review the draft meeting minutes for the July 19, 2024, meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes for the July 19, 2024, meeting minutes.

First: Christina Romero

Second: Tim Lonergan

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: None.

Result: Passed.

4. Staff Report

Ms. Labaty provided an update on the requested changes to the advisory board membership. Staff answered questions and provided more in-depth information when requested.

MOTION: To approve the updated language to the Racial Equity Task Force ordinances.

First: Christina Romero

Second: Regina Faulk

Declaration of Conflict: None.

Discussion: None.

Result: Passed.

5. Committee Chair Reports

Ad-Hoc: No report was given.

10:33 a.m. Major Peterson joined the meeting.

Education: Ms. Koch reported that the committee has convened twice since the last advisory board meeting. During these sessions, they finalized items on their Committee Scorecard, reviewed programs aimed at supporting underserved children and identified barriers impacting these children and their families.

The committee explored the correlation between student outcomes and the strength of Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), noting that economically challenged communities often have smaller PTAs. This insight led to a discussion on potential opportunities to engage community partners in supporting students, specifically through establishing a homework assistance program. The program would track student progress on a quarterly basis and could be hosted at accessible locations such as local schools or Broward County libraries. Additionally, they proposed addressing transportation barriers by collaborating with Broward County Transit.

Dr. Holness also shared upcoming dated for community events hosted by the school board which will discuss the possible closure or repurposing of schools with low attendance rates.

Members also discussed the recent addition of metal detectors in schools and if that process is working.

11:00 a.m. Marcia Barry Smith left the meeting.

Employment and the Economy: No report was given.

Healthcare: Ms. Gallagher shared that the committee reviewed the scorecard and discussed how to reconvene or make the community event an annual event and bring our healthcare partners back to the table.

Housing: Ms. Romero shared that the committee reviewed the scorecard, discussed creating a homeowner resource guide or toolkit that contains several resources that homeowners have available to them. Collaborating with other agencies continues to be discussed and how to avoid duplicating efforts. Members also shared that conversations are being had with local government surrounding regulations that block development of workforce and affordable housing from land use, incentives, impact fees and time.

Mr. Lonergan also shared the negative impact that the short-term rental industry is having on affordable housing. Individuals are turning their homes into businesses and advertising on sites such as Airbnb instead of renting to a families or individuals that work in our community.

It was also shared that the Board of County Commission (BOCC) will be discussing Florida's new Homeless Law that prohibits individuals who are experiencing homelessness from sleeping on sidewalks, in parks and other public spaces.

11:15 a.m. Norma English left the meeting.

Law Enforcement and the Legal System: The advisory board discussed if this committee should continue with such few members. Christina Romero, Annastacia Robinson, and Tim Lonergan have joined the committee. Staff will coordinate the next meeting either before or after the next advisory board meeting.

Members discussed the impact that the new homeless ban will have on local law enforcement. Jails are not for housing the homeless and resources should be utilized to protect and serve.

11:30 a.m. Regina Faulk left the meeting.

Planning Committee: Members shared that the first townhall event will be held on October 16, 2024, at the new Nancy J. Cotterman Center, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and all are encouraged to participate. The name of the event is: Voices for Equity: A Community Exchange, "Ongoing Learning, Healing, and Building Together."

11:35 a.m. Major Peterson left the meeting.

6. Old Business

Members briefly discussed presentation suggestions.

7. New Business

Members shared that Florida Medical Center will be closing and expressed concerns about where the closest hospital or medical center that will serve that community will be located.

8. Public Comments

A member of the public expressed gratitude for the work that the advisory board has done thus far.

9. Good of the Order

Continue to identify racial gaps in our community and work towards eliminating them.

10. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 11:55 a.m.

These minutes were approved at the Racial Equity Task Force Meeting dated, November 15, 2024, as certified by:

Racial Equity Task Force Secretary