

Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative Advisory Board Meeting Northwest Florida State College, Student Services Building

June 15, 2022

Sal Nodjoman, TCPI facilitator, welcomed attendees. Nathan Sparks, One Okaloosa EDC Executive Director provided opening comments. The audience was reminded that the topics discussed in this forum are working ideas being vetted for possible partnership opportunities and are not ready for public dissemination or announcement.

The agenda was overviewed.

Program Updates

EHCPP Executive Committee

- An updated Eglin and Hurlburt Community Partnership Program (CPP) charter was executed at the April 17 Eglin led CPP meeting amongst One Okaloosa, Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field. The charter facilitates discussing possible partnership opportunities and collaboration between Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, Florida state government organizations, Northwest Florida local governments, and other public and private entities.
- The Eglin-Hurlburt CPP Executive Committee empowered work groups to *go forth and make it happen*.

Lines of Effort

- The refresh process over the past 11 months has identified three overarching lines of effort; 1) Quality of Life, 2) Infrastructure, and 3) Education/Training
- Each line of effort has a military champion to oversee respective work groups
 - Quality of Life: Colonel Richards, 1 SOMSG/CC
 - Infrastructure: Colonel Osborne, 96 CEG/CC*
 - Education/Training: Colonel Black, 96 MSG/CC*
- A funding oversight work group is championed by Nathan Sparks, One Okaloosa Executive Director
- Each work group has finalized their respective charters and completed their Air Force quad charts

Work Group Updates

Each work group overviewed their quad charts and efforts to date.

Career Readiness

- CareerSource Okaloosa-Walton received \$700K grant to help facilitate job placement for military leaving the service.
- SkillBridge program has slowed its engagement due to manpower shortage. The work group will investigate.
- DMDC data is no longer flowing. This is very important data skills of military leaving service. Tyndall AFB led the charge in sharing data pertaining to their separating military. Our program was modeled after theirs.

Cell Phone

- LTE Initiative looking at on-base only. Walton and Okaloosa counties are both looking into improving coverage. Need to team together as coverage overlaps.
- Possible DCIP funding for off-base coverage.

Childcare

- Hurlburt and Eglin are #4 and #5 in the Air Force in terms of unmet childcare needs.
- Jim Heald spoke to the possibility of Higher Ground Education (private sector) constructing childcare facilities in Crestview and Navarre. The company has requested assistance with fast-track permitting.
- Nathan Sparks shared that he has been in touch with the City of Crestview and they are ready and willing to assist.
- Potential underutilized/under-advertised program: Designated Childcare Provider program is AF program to approve off-base in-home childcare providers. Program only requires that one child be from a military family, and military will even pay for playground equipment, etc.
- Nathan Sparks suggested that one way the TCPI and its partners (specifically Chambers) could assist would be to help promote this opportunity throughout the tri-county area.

Contract Services

- IGSA is perfect vehicle for Contract Services once requirements and participants are defined. Possible restrictive FAR requirements may be involved.
- Additional IGSA and FAR understanding required.

Firing Range

- Fairchild AFB just broke ground on a new indoor firing range with a partnership between the base, the sheriff's office and the county.
- <https://www.fairchild.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3002470/fafb-spokane-county-begin-construction-on-small-arms-range/>
- Hurlburt Deputy BCE and MSG are in discussions to consider an IGSA for the off-base county owned range. IGSA documents will be shared with the group.
- Asset map reflecting known firing ranges in the area was shared

Housing

- Incoming military and civilians cannot find a home within a reasonable commute distance that they can afford.
- An Air Force Housing Requirement and Marketing Analysis is underway.
- Options include increasing privatized housing on base.

STEM Education

- Cecil Williams reported that the initial STEM education need that was identified at the July 2021 internal Air Force workshop has been resolved. There is no longer an identified need, and this Work Group is requesting to be stood down as a result.
- Dr Tibbetts (Principal, South Walton High) was interested in exploring TCPI support for Walton County STEM initiatives. Follow-on conversations is required to better understand needs.
- This Work Group may be reinitiated in the future.

Trade Skills

- Some confusion exists as to the intent of this work group. Is it a duplication of the Career Readiness Work Group? Further discussions are required to solidify need and path forward.
- Nathan Sparks shared that his understanding was that the original intent, per the Military-only SAFIE led session last July, was that Eglin/Hurlburt were concerned about the challenges they faced in finding skilled trades contractors for specific projects (which is not in conflict with the Career Readiness Work Group, and their efforts to help connect transitioning military members to employment opportunities).

Traffic

- Traffic congestion negatively impacts both Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field.
- Jason Autrey reported that efforts are underway for planned traffic infrastructure improves; to include federal, state and local entities.
- A key focus area is Hwy 98. Florosa Elementary School access remains a key congestion driver. Okaloosa County is developing project maps/drawings for a parallel service road. Eglin AFB is working possible real property utilization.

Enabling: Grant Funding

- The intent of this group is to assist other work groups identify possible funding options for identified projects.
- A clearinghouse of possible funding options will be developed.
- Current OLDCC DCIP grant applications are due by 18 July. Walton County Sheriff office is applying for a DCIP grant for a new fire station in Choctaw Beach. They are coordinating with 96 CEG Community Planners for the required installation letter of support.
- Okaloosa County has reviewed the opportunity and doesn't appear to have anything that is approaching "shovel ready" status

Going Forward

Meeting Schedules

- Work Groups will continue meet at least once a month to gather data, develop concepts, coordinate analyses, and execute plans
- The TCPI Advisory Board will meet on a quarterly schedule; June, Sept, Dec, Mar
- The CPP Executive Council will meet on a bi-annual schedule; Apr, Oct

Florida Defense Forum

- The Association of Defense Communities in partnership with Enterprise Florida will be hosting a Florida Defense Forum September 22-23, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Fort Walton Beach
- Discussions will focus on improving military community and installation resiliency and sustainability
- Various state and federal programs will be overviewed
- Workshops with grant proposal evaluators will be conducted
- <https://defensecommunities.org/regional/florida>

Closing Comments

- The most successful work groups and task forces result from clear communication and buy-in by all three partners; community, Eglin and Hurlburt.
- *Col Osborne and Col Black will have a permanent change of station this summer. Their replacement commanders will be integrated into the TCPI framework.
- Col Jeremiah Hammill, new 96 CEG/CC was in attendance and expressed his commitment to support the Infrastructure Champion role and the TCPI framework.
- The next Advisory Board meeting will be September 28, 2022.

Meeting adjourned.