

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

September 28, 2022

Cameron Bowsky, TCPI consultant, welcomed attendees. Nathan Sparks, One Okaloosa EDC Executive Director provided opening comments. Advisory Board introductions provided.

The agenda was overviewed. In respect to the recent refresh process, the TCPI structure was overviewed to include community partners, work groups, TCPI Advisory Board and the Eglin-Hurlburt Community Partnership Program.

Program Updates

Federal

- DoD approved a spouse fellowship program.
- President Biden formalized a plan for a 4.6% DoD civilian pay raise.
- A continuing resolution was approved through December.
- OSD provided DCIP program awards for 19 projects, \$90M

State

- The Association of Defense Communities in partnership with Enterprise Florida hosted a Florida Defense Forum in Okaloosa County Sept 22-23. Key topics included resiliency and funding opportunities.

Line of Effort Updates

Each line of effort champion provided an introduction and work group co-chairs provided progress reports to date.

Quality of Life; Mr. Brian Wiggins for Colonel Richards, 1 SOMSG/CC

Housing

- Co-Chair Randall Rowland reported. Military orphaned lands are being considered for potential housing locations. Okaloosa County will be conducting an affordable housing study. A strategic plan will be developed.
- Six lines of effort highlighted.
 - Increase Basic Allowance for Housing. Eglin and Hurlburt are conducting a rental market survey.
 - Increase on-base housing capacity. Hurlburt has completed their Housing Requirements and Marketing Analysis. Eglin is nearing completion. Potential of renovating / building duplexes/apartments.
 - Engage Air Force Community Partnership Program for potential outgrants and EULs.
 - Increase temporary lodging expenses; increase time and reimbursement rate.
 - Secure short-term NAF lodging rate discounts.
 - Expand the FAMCAMP area.

Childcare

- Co-Chair Brian Wiggins reported. The work group has continued to expand with new members. Job fairs have been provided. Higher Ground Education is continuing to move forward with

their development of two childcare development facilities; one in Crestview and one in Navarre. The Crestview groundbreaking is expected in December. Home based facilities offer a viable career path. Eglin is moving forward with an additional MILCON CDC. Hurlburt Field is adding three classrooms.

- Next Steps: A community conversation is scheduled November 7 for training opportunities. Billboards are being considered. Additional funding to support.

Infrastructure; Colonel Hammill, 96 CEG/CC

Traffic

- Co-Chair Steve Loken reported. Progress continues to move forward, however it is a slow process. A collector road west of Hurlburt is in discussions. The potential collector road would run parallel to Highway 98 and alleviate some traffic off of Highway 98. It would be a county road on an Eglin easement. There is an endangered salamander in the area that can be relocated. The Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Planning Organization, TPO, is working as a priority.

Cell Phone

- Co-Chair Randall Rowland reported. An Air Force Long Term Evolution (LTE) contract is underway to increase towers and coverage. AFCEC is evaluating a possible phased contract. Eglin will be meeting with Verizon and AT&T for coordinate increased coverage.
- Next step: coordinate with AFCEC for Eglin-Hurlburt site visit.

Contract Services

- Co-Chair Jeff Mixson reported. Due to installation fiscal year 4th quarter contracting demands, no progress has been accomplished.
- Next Steps: Re-engage in the new 1st quarter in October. Work with ECRC on their grant opportunity for an IGSA.

Firing Range

- No Co-Chair present. No updated provided.
- Next Steps: An asset map reflecting known firing ranges in the area was shared at the June meeting. Did this informational map address the need? Should this work group be stood down?

Education/Training; Colonel Davis, 96 MSG/CC

Trade Skills

- Work Group Member Amanda Negrón reported. Some confusion existed as to the intent of this work group. Further discussions are required to solidify need and path forward to address challenges installations face in finding skilled trades contractors for specific projects. A list of resources is being developed which will help identify gaps to fill.
- Next Steps: Work with installation public affairs offices to develop an information sharing strategy.

Career Readiness

- Co-Chair Kelly Jordan reported. Updated volunteer TAP survey results provided and overviewed. Between January 1, 2021 and September 21, 2022, 222 total surveys were received. The percentage of separating personnel staying in the area has increased to 70% from approximately 30% five years ago.
- Next Steps: Continue hosting job fairs and hiring events. Coordinate marketing efforts. Align Air Force Specialty Codes data with current non-military job titles.

Enabling/Funding; Nathan Sparks, One Okaloosa Executive Director

Grant Funding

- Co-Chair Steve Loken reported. The intent of this group is to assist other work groups identify possible funding options for identified projects. A clearinghouse spreadsheet of possible funding options is under development. This spreadsheet will be distributed to all work groups for their situational awareness. The spreadsheet will be continually updated as information is identified.
- Next Steps: Assist work groups with funding information. Continue to populate the clearinghouse spreadsheet. Identify grant timelines.

Going Forward/Closing Comments

Emerald Coast Regional Council

- ECRC has been awarded a grant to conduct a regional Installation Infrastructure Resilience Study. Northwest Florida Intergovernmental Partnership Agreements will be targeted.

West Side Development

- The Eglin West Side Development project continues to move forward. The project will move the installation's west gate allowing for increased development opportunities on the installation. A charrette was held to start development of a 10-20 year plan. Highway 85 will be reconfigured. Okaloosa County engaged HDR for an infrastructure development plan. The preferred option has been sent to FDOT. FDOT will conduct a feasibility study. The Air Armament Museum may need to be relocated. A West Side EUL request has been presented to AFCEC for the location adjacent to the UF REEF to support an enhanced educational campus.

Meeting Schedule

- Work Groups will continue to meet at least once a month to gather data, develop concepts, coordinate analyses, and execute plans
- The CPP Executive Council will meet October 26 for accomplishment reporting and/or assistance requests.
- The next TCPI Advisory Board will meeting will be March 15, 2023.

Meeting adjourned.