

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

September 16, 2025

TCPI facilitator John Schuliger of Delonix Professional Consulting and Kay Rasmussen, One Okaloosa EDC Associate Director provided opening comments. Attendees and respective representatives were welcomed and introductions were provided.

Agenda overviewed.

TCPI Structure & Responsibilities

- TCPI flow chart provided and overviewed
- New Advisory Board Members were recognized
 - Col Smith, 1 SOMSG/CC
 - Councilman Payne Walker, City of Fort Walton Beach
 - Sandra Wilson, Crestview Chamber of Commerce
 - Shane Weddle, Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce

Line of Efforts

- The four lines of effort and respective work groups were overviewed
 - Education & Training
 - Career Readiness Assistance
 - Talent Pipeline
 - Infrastructure
 - MIRR Implementation
 - Quality of Life
 - Childcare Workforce
 - Workforce Housing
 - Enabling Oversight
 - Enabling Tools

Work Group Updates

An outcome from the September 2024 Advisory Board Strategic Planning Session was for each work group brief to not only address the topic and progress but to also communicate how the AB may provide assistance; as needed.

- Career Readiness Assistance: Co-Chair Kelly Jordan briefed
 - Recent hiring events were highlighted.
 - A Military Spouse Coffee & Careers event was held September 4
 - Upcoming hiring events outlined
 - A TAP survey update will be provided at the next Advisory Board meeting
 - Kay Rasmussen overviewed the recent Military Talent survey conducted by Florida's Great Northwest; slide provided website address. While it was identified that an average of 5,200 military personnel transition out of regional installations each year, Okaloosa installations make up 84%, or 4,368 personnel. This provides an opportunity for talent retention and creation for local businesses.

- Childcare Workforce: Co-Chairs Sharon Brown and Deborah Schoewe briefed
 - Focusing on workforce attraction and retention, incentive packages are of relevance; this includes sign-on bonuses
 - Military Family Life Consultants and Special Needs Inclusion Coordinators, a pilot program, are being utilized
 - The Federal hiring freeze has decreased the number of applicants on installations
 - Non-traditional care is increasing in demand; nights, weekends, emergency care
 - Advocating for Childcare Aware has increased
 - Eglin currently has 42 on waitlist and Hurlburt has 110
 - Hurlburt Field has plans to build a new CDC
 - A leadership meeting was recently held with Co-Chairs and it was shared that community facilities have open slots. Discussions suggested a possible analysis for an asset map identifying locations, capacity, openings, hours, etc. This information can be developed into a website dashboard that all entities could utilize. Further vetting required.
- Workforce Housing: Co-Chair Randall Roland briefed
 - Previous co-chair Uriah Matthews has resigned. New community co-chair is Britnee Orr.
 - The annual BAH survey, a six month process, has been completed
 - Focus is on off base housing in the community
 - Recommended strategies from Okaloosa County's recent strategic plan are being vetted
 - Connect developers to funding programs
 - Conduct a public education campaign
 - Utilize AF orphan parcels for housing developments
 - Establish or partner with a Community Land Trust
 - Enhance funding sources
 - An Okaloosa County housing summit will be held Sept 24
 - Hurlburt Field will be building an apartment complex within the housing privatization agreement with approximately 400 units
 - Transportation infrastructure is a key component to obtainable, affordable housing
 - Kay Rasmussen shared that One Okaloosa EDC submitted a grant application to the state that includes conducting an Okaloosa County housing asset analysis. The study will identify planned/permitted developments, location, density, square foot size, price point, and rent or purchase. A housing dashboard will be added to the EDC's website.
- MIRR Support: New Community Co-Chair Nick Pulire briefed
 - This work group is very comprehensive and has been meeting every two weeks
 - The group is developing a project tracker for IGSA's
 - Projects are being divided into long-term and short-term
 - Col Hagemeyer overviewed the current IGSA's progress. Three agreements should be finalized within four months.
 - Event space Okaloosa County
 - Community Center City of Niceville
 - Mosquito Control Okaloosa County
 - There are five IGSA's in discussion
 - Stray animal control
 - Grounds maintenance
 - Fencing repair
 - Recycling
 - GIS services
- Talent Pipeline: Co-Chair Scott Norman briefed
 - Current careers in demand have been identified to include, cyber security, AI, aircraft maintenance, HVAC, early childhood educators, firefighters, police, public service, hospitality

- Internship opportunities are needed
- A focus needs to include messaging what a career path look like
- Walton County School District will be holding a job fair
- CTE needs a placement plan
- An identified challenge includes community engagement for internships
- The idea of combining this work group with the career readiness work group was presented
- Enabling Tools: Co-Chair Steve Loken briefed
 - This work group is intended to identify resources to support projects identified in the other work groups
 - The current funding spreadsheet is available on the website: www.floridapartnerships.com
 - Florida Legislation passed a \$4M EIA for Highway 98 to assist with collector road to alleviate traffic congestion west of Hurlburt Field
 - Ten DCIP infrastructure projects were awarded; none from the local area

Where We Are

- Timeline progression overviewed
- The Eglin-Hurlburt CPP meeting will be held in November
- The next Advisory Board meeting will be December 16

Emerging / Closing Topics

- A battle-rhythm is needed for the next OLDCC DCIP application opportunity
- Participants are reminded that work groups are fluid and can be stood up or stood down as needed. If a work group has met their objective, it will be stood down; which is the goal.
- An exit strategy for work groups was recommended; to include key performance indicators
- A public meeting will be held in DeFuniak Springs on October 14 to discuss the Choctawhatchee Bay watershed
- Work groups are intended to be synergistic and holistic

Meeting adjourned.