

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

**June 28, 2023**

Sal Nodjomian, TCPI consultant, welcomed attendees. Nathan Sparks, One Okaloosa EDC Executive Director provided opening comments. Advisory Board introductions provided. Welcome was extended to Colonel Wood, new 1 SOW MSG Commander.

The agenda was overviewed.

## **Small Business Development Center**

### **Rural Military Childcare Training**

- Kelly Massey, Regional Director, Florida Business Development Center highlighted recent achievements as a result of the Childcare Work Group.
- The Business & Leadership Institute (BLI) for Early Learning and the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at UWF joined forces and provided VLocity: Accelerating Growth & Leadership for Early Learning Childcare Entrepreneurs. This is a BLI For Early Learning grant program award by Wells Fargo Grant to support small businesses and to help communities meet the critical needs of the military, veterans, and their families with affordable childcare.
- The 11 initial students have completed the program and graduation certificates were provided.

## **Program Updates**

### **Emerald Coast Regional Council**

- Jeff Fanto provided an update on the Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) process. The MIRR will be an 18 month regional study to identify installation vulnerabilities and infrastructure requirements. The kick-off event was held April 26 in Okaloosa County.
- The data collection process is currently underway. The NAS Whiting Field community workshop was held last month. The Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field community workshop is planned for July 10.
- The end game of the study will be recommendations to mitigate challenges and to identify potential funding sources.

### **Work Group Stand Down Process Overview**

- Nathan Sparks overviewed the recently established process for standing down TCPI Work Groups. In short, the three co-chairs must be in agreement and receive support from the LOE Champion that their WG falls under. The stand-down recommendation is presented to the TCPI Advisory Board for their approval.
- Reasons to stand down a work group includes, 1) mission accomplished, 2) challenge resolved itself, or 3) not enough resources.
- Three work groups were discussed to stand down at the April Eglin Community Partnership Program meeting; Contract Services, Cellphone Services and Firing Range.
- Consensus was to stand down the Contract Services Work Group. Due to the increased awareness and utilization of IGSA, a new redefined work group may be considered in the future. In the meantime, Sal will attempt to obtain a copy of the IGSA from Prince William County in Virginia as a template.
- The Cellphone Services Work Group activities have been absorbed by the 96TW Range Group as an internal issue. It appears carriers aren't willing to install new towers where it is not profitable to them. An update will be provided at the September Advisory Board meeting.

- The Firing Range Work Group has two new military co-chairs; Maj Clements, 96SFS, and Maj Watts, 1SOSFS. The MOU engagement with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's office for a military partnership supporting utilization of their small arms firing range is pending signature execution by the 96TW.

## **Line of Effort Updates**

### **Infrastructure; Colonel Hammill, 96 CEG/CC**

#### **Traffic/Road Capacity**

- Dana McIntyre, 96TW reported for WG Co-Chairs. The Highway 98 Collector Road continues to move forward with incremental progress. The PJ Adams widening project should be completed early 2024. The SW Crestview Bypass has about 2 years until completion including new interchange. The Eglin Westside Expansion / SR 85 Realignment is undergoing review by Eglin. An update was requested for the September meeting.
- There is a desire to six-lane Highway 85 and four-lane Highway 285. An update on the TPO process was requested.

### **Education/Training; Col Davis, 96 MSG/CC**

#### **Career Readiness**

- Kelly Jordon, co-chair reported. Job Fairs and hiring events held since the last meeting were highlighted. Event dates up through September were provided.
- An additional slide reflecting successes and transitioning member data will be provided at the September meeting.

#### **Trade Skills**

- Jon Mizell, 1SOW reported for co-chairs. Clarification of Work Group intent and need was requested. Service member transitioning needs are addressed by the Career Readiness Work Group. Any required technical training is provided by the respective installation.
- The current need is identified as recruitment of engineer level skill sets.
- This discussion will be an agenda item at the September meeting.

### **Quality of Life; Colonel Wood, 1 SOMSG/CC**

#### **Childcare**

- Brian Wiggins, Co-Chair briefed. The BLI training graduates is a great success for childcare development services; in particular home-based Family Child Care which pays \$300/child/week with the maximum children served is six in a single home.
- Eglin is at 100% design on a new CDC which will provide approximately 120 slots. Construction should commence later this year.
- A partnership between the 96th Test Wing and the City of Crestview is providing for a new Military Family Care Complex development in the City of Crestview to provide a medical clinic and child development center, along with various military support agencies, to provide assistance to service members and their families. Design work is 35% complete.
- Workforce incentives are being offered for attraction and retention; i.e. free childcare for the first child, and 25% discount for every subsequent child, for parents who work in the CDC.
- Waitlist continues to be a challenge.
- Wages have been increased to be competitive in the local market.

### **Housing**

- Randall Rowland, co-chair reported. The recently completed Housing Requirements and Market Analysis (HRMA) report a 1,212-housing deficit (i.e. demand exceeds availability). There is currently a four-month waitlist for on-base housing. The Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) has increased by 40% over the last two years. However, it appears that when BAH increases so do the rental rates.
- A new agreement with a developer will provide 91 townhome rental units in Crestview for military families.
- There are currently 5,000 new housing units under development in Crestview.
- The Poquito Bayou area is being considered for a housing EUL.
- Okaloosa County is conducting their Affordable Workforce Housing analysis and are executing stakeholder workshops for public information gathering. When complete the strategy development stage will begin. A draft plan is anticipated by September.

### **Oversight; Nathan Sparks, One Okaloosa EDC**

#### **Grant Funding**

- Dana McIntyre reported for co-chairs. As shared earlier, the ECRC MIRR will feed grant opportunities.
- The Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape Initiative will be holding a regional workshop in Okaloosa in July. The Sentinel Landscape provides for federal funding opportunities that support environmental and installation resiliency.
- Okaloosa County submitted an OLDCC DCIP application to support water and sewer infrastructure at Shoal River Ranch.

### **Going Forward/Closing Comments**

#### **Upcoming Dates**

- The Florida Defense Support Task Force will be meeting in Okaloosa County on July 20 at the Island Resort.
- The next TCPI Advisory Board Meeting scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Eglin CPP meeting will be held in October; date TBD.
- The ADC Installation Innovation Forum will be held in Orlando November 6-8.

**Meeting adjourned.**