

Summary of Event

EVENT: Speak Up Broward “Let’s Talk Transportation” presentation
DATE/TIME: December 19, 2013, 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Children’s Services Council, 6600 W Commercial Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319

PRIMARY AUDIENCE: Social and health service agencies which included representatives of Children’s Services Council, Memorial Healthcare Systems, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, FLITE Center, Broward Chamber of Non Profit Organizations, United Way, Workforce One, PACE Center for Girls, and Camelot Community Care

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED: 12

PROJECT TEAM MEMBER PARTICIPATION: Speakers Bureau volunteers Barrington Wright (speaker) and Dave Wallace (facilitator) were accompanied by Davicka Thompson and Pamela Adams

PRIMARY CONTACT: Sue Gallagher, Director of Research, Analysis and Planning, Children’s Services Council. Email: sgallagher@cscbroward.org. Phone: 954-377-1671

SUMMARY OF EVENT:

- ✓ The meeting began with introductions. Each audience member represented a non-profit organization serving families with children, children with special needs, and youth aging out of Foster care.
- ✓ Barrington Wright introduced Speak Up Broward with the “Let’s Talk Transportation” presentation.
- ✓ Following the presentation, the audience voiced many concerns about the current transportation system. Suggestions made included the following:
 - Concerns for the safety of children – particularly young women, at-risk young adults, and youth with special needs - when they are on buses and at bus terminals or bus stops.
 - Explore implementation of queue-jumping technology for buses.
 - Transportation Options Program (known as TOPS) that serves people with special needs could use more analysis and an overhaul. It is currently leaving young people waiting for long periods of time which leads to being late and missing work.
 - Unemployment results for many young adults because of the lack of dependable and accessible transportation.

- Accurate signage at bus shelters is needed – there are none in braille.
 - We need to address the politics in transit system planning – how can we improve the communication and direct link between people’s voices and elected officials?
 - Rebranding of public transportation in Broward is needed. There is currently a stigma associated with users of public transportation system.
 - Develop a program for non-profits to get bus passes for clientele through deeply discounted or free bus passes.
 - A representative from PACE Center for Girls suggested that Broward County reinstate provision of discount bus passes to low-income families. The federally-funded program was scaled back to only offer bus passes to homeless and should be expanded to include at-risk students, low-income girls, and other low-income families. More funding would be needed and this should be advocated for.
- ✓ Mr. Wright made a call to action and asked the audience to join the Speakers Bureau, citing himself and Mr. Wallace as examples of getting involved.

FOLLOW UP / ACTION RESULTS:

- ✓ Sue Gallagher requested a summary of the comments and concerns articulated by the audience during the meeting. She also asked if a summary of the conversation could be added to the Speak Up Broward website.
- ✓ Sue Gallagher offered to make the meeting summary available to the Children’s Services Council so they may share with other health and human service agencies.
- ✓ Sue Gallagher inquired about how the input and suggestions from this group would be used by the Metropolitan Planning Organization to change/improve transportation challenges for the people they serve.
- ✓ Sue Gallagher requested that the “Let’s Talk Transportation” presentation be made available on the Speak Up Broward website.
- ✓ Cammie Cacace with Memorial Health Systems is interested in presentation opportunities.
- ✓ The Children’s Services Council, with the Broward Children’s Strategic Plan, will continue the conversation among their constituent agencies.

EVALUATION OF EVENT: The meeting resulted in a constructive conversation about transportation challenges today and what is needed for an improved future transportation system used by not only the participants’ client base, but for the general public as well.

PHOTO CAPTION/INFO: N/A

PHOTO SOURCE/CREDIT: N/A