



Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council

For August 1999

\$2 million federal grant aims to reduce racial disparities in birth outcomes

Reducing racial disparities in birth outcomes will be the focus of a two-year, \$1.99 million federal grant awarded to the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition.

The Jacksonville award is one of only seven projects funded this year by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Perinatal Systems and Women's Health under its Healthy Start program.

The initiative will provide outreach, case management, enhanced clinical services, health screening and support services to women in northwest Jacksonville who are at-risk of a poor birth outcome. It will focus on five zip codes (32202, 04, 06, 08, 09) which account for more than half of the infant mortality among African-Americans in Duval County.

Infant mortality in Duval is higher than in the state, and the rate for Blacks is higher than for whites.

The Coalition will serve as the coordinating organization for the grant. Partner agencies involved in the project include the Northwest Quadrant Community Health Center, the Duval County Health Department, Healthy Families Jacksonville, and the Center for Community Initiatives at the University of North Florida. The project is expected to be operational by November.

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition is staffed by the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council. For info, call Carol Brady (904) 363-6352.

State honors local TD representatives

The Lifetime Achievement and Volunteer of the Year awards of the Transportation Disadvantaged program went to two local TD representatives this year.

Diedre Hicken, of the Clay County Local Coordinating Board, was recognized as 1999 Volunteer of the Year for her work in resolving citizen complaints. Shirley Conroy, of the Florida Department of Transportation District Two office, received the William G. Bell Lifetime Achievement Award for her years of dedicated service to Northeast Florida's TD programs.

The awards were announced at the 7th annual Transportation Disadvantaged Training and Technology Conference in Orlando

earlier this month. The two were nominated by the Council. For info, contact Stephen Jones (904) 363-6375 X115.

Staff sees lots of DRI activity

Argyle Forest amendment agreement

Details were worked out at recent meetings between owners of the Villages of Argyle Forest Development of Regional Impact and reviewing agencies regarding issues to be included in proposed amendments to the project's DRI Development Order. The project was approved in 1974 in Clay and Duval counties.

Council and Department of Community Affairs staffs determined the proposed D.O. amendments do not constitute a substantial deviation. Among other requirements, the developer will be required to donate right-of-way for Branan Field-Chaffee Road, complete the construction of Argyle Forest Boulevard, and pay the proportionate share for a number of improvements, including the eventual four-laning of Argyle Forest Boulevard. Local public hearings for the project will be held in Clay and Duval counties in September.

JIA submits Substantial Deviation ADA

The Application for Development Approval for the Jacksonville International Airport Substantial Deviation Development of Regional Impact was submitted for sufficiency review on August 11. Staff is reviewing the application to determine whether additional information is necessary.

Comp Plan amendment for Nocatee

Staff hosted a meeting with St. Johns County and Jacksonville staffs concerning a Comprehensive Plan amendment for the proposed Nocatee Development of Regional Impact.

The applicant presented information on growth projections in the region, and the need to adjust future population growth rates based on a number of data. The Council will continue to work with all parties in addressing the land-use allocation need issue for development in this portion of the region.

Bartram Park submits ADA

The Bartram Park Development of Regional Impact Application for Development Approval was submitted for sufficiency review on Aug. 16. The multi-use DRI is primarily located in

Jacksonville along the Duval County/St. Johns County line.

The applicant has reached tentative agreement to sell 2000 acres of the project to the St. Johns River Water Management District, State Department of Environmental Protection, and the City of Jacksonville. Staff is reviewing the application to determine whether additional information is necessary. Both the plan showing the 2000 acres within the project and the plan eliminating the 2000 acres are under review; determination on the actual plan of development is contingent upon the sale being final.

For info on DRI activity, call Ed Lehman (904) 363-6375 X130.

Healthy Families Jacksonville serves nearly 8,000 families

Healthy Families Jacksonville served 7,868 families during its past fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, according to its annual report released this month.

The family support initiative continues to grow. The program is adding a second Child Developmental Specialist and an accountant to its administrative team. With the help of enhancement funds from Healthy Families Florida, eight Family Support Workers and three Family Assessment Workers will also be added to field offices for specific zip codes that have demonstrated increased need.

HFJ, which is staffed by the Council, is partially funded by the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition. For info, call Patricia Davis-Scott (904) 363-6351.

Hurricane Study available on CD

The text, map, and storm surge files of the Northeast Florida Hurricane Evacuation Study 1998 are now available on three separate CD-ROMs.

The Text disk includes the Technical Data Report, Behavioral Analysis and Transportation Analysis. Map files from the Technical Data Report and Transportation Analysis are on a

separate Map disk. The Storm Surge disk contains storm surge files in AutoCAD Map R2 format.

Two other parts of the study include the Transportation Supplement (available in print only) and the Storm Surge Atlas, which will be available on disk at a later date. Call Jeffrey Alexander (904) 363-6375 X134 for information.

Staff makes GIS presentation

Council staff made a presentation to the District IV Health and Human Services Board (HHSB) on an Asset Mapping project completed in collaboration with Team Jax.

The presentation included the value of asset mapping utilizing GIS for the identification of resources and its usefulness for analysis and evaluation purposes. Council staff was asked to assist the Budget and Planning subcommittee of the HHSB in the investigation of a central data center in which information and data can be located and shared among private and public agencies. The Council is also continuing to assist Team Jax on Phase II of the Pilot Mapping Study. For info, call Mike Brown (904) 363-6375 X135.

FRCA hears about growth management

The FRCA (Florida Regional Councils Association) Policy Board met August 19 with Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council Chairman Harry Waldron presiding as president.

The agenda included presentations from the Governors Office and the Department of Community Affairs on the state's approach to evaluating growth management. Florida is taking a serious look its growth management system, with DCA taking the lead in the evaluation and in developing recommendations for changes.

The state is looking at the 2001 Legislative Session for any substantial legislative changes to growth management in Florida. For info, call Mike Brown (904) 363-6375 X135.



9143 Phillips Highway, Suite 350
Jacksonville, FL 32256
(904) 363-6350 • FAX (904) 363-6356
Web site: www.nefrpc.org
E-mail: nefrpc@nefrpc.org

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