

NEFLA Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

April 2007

Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy graduates the Class of 2006-2007

The Class of 2006-2007 for the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy concluded its program at a Closing Retreat on April 12-13, 2007, held at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront in downtown Jacksonville. Class members discussed the impact of regional growth patterns with chief specialists within the First Coast region. The regional leaders explored many ways to manage growth patterns by participating in a regional visioning activity ("The Chip Game"), which gave class participants an opportunity to plan the region for 2030. The visioning exercise enabled the class participants to visualize different alternatives to regional growth.

A highlight of the two-day retreat was an educational bus tour of the downtown Jacksonville area. Terry Lorince, executive director of Downtown Vision, and Joni Foster, program director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), gave the class a detailed tour of the downtown area, ranging from the new high rise apartment buildings on the river to the HabiJax homes on the Westside. During the bus tour, Craig Von Horn, president of Synopsis and owner of 9th & Main Restaurant provided a wonderful lunch at his restaurant in the historic Springfield District.

The event also included guest speakers, Ed Preston, Baker County planning director; Dr. Suzanne Montgomery, Montgomery, Copley & Associates; and Ben Warner, Deputy Director of the Jacksonville Community Council Inc. (JCCI).

During the program, each member of the class was encouraged to think critically about the region and explore the ways they can each be a regional steward. The seven-month long leadership program culminated in a graduation ceremony. Applications for the Class of 2008 are currently being accepted and can be accessed at www.neflra.com. For more information, please contact Mike Hadden at 279.0885 x. 104.



RLA CLASS OF 2006-2007

Council CEO "On the Road"

CEO, Brian Teeple, represents the Council at a number of events in the month of April

First Coast Real Estate Economic Outlook Conference & Expo

Brian joined regional figures Jerry Mallot and John Haley, on April 4, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency, to participate in a session addressing the Cornerstone Economic Development Partnership and discuss growth and infrastructure in Northeast Florida. Brian specifically addressed the changes that are on the horizon for our seven counties.

Rural Lands, Development and the Future of North Florida Forum

Brian Teeple, Council CEO, and Mario Taylor, Deputy CEO, participated in the Florida Land Use Initiative's Rural Lands, Development and the Future of North Florida conference on April 6, 2007, at the University Center, University of North Florida, discussing what is happening on agricultural lands as they develop in this area.

The forum was hosted by the Florida Land Use Initiative (FLUI) and was designed for private-sector and local government decision-makers, including members of zoning, planning, elected and appointed officials, architects and persons in real estate, agriculture, community activists and many more.

National American Planning Association Conference

Brian served on a panel of experts in Philadelphia, PA at the American Planning Association's 2007 National Planning Conference, April 14-18, 2007. His role in the conference was to address regional sustainability. More than 5,000 planners, students and citizens participated in the national event. The Conference included informational sessions, mobile workshops, training seminars and networking opportunities.

For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at (904) 279-0880.

Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

“THE HUMAN SIDE OF REGIONALISM”

A Human Services Update of the Northeast Florida Regional Council and its affiliates

The Healthy Start Coalition quarterly meeting recognized significant contributions

Healthy Start's quarterly Coalition meeting took place on April 19, 2007 in the Board Room of the Council. During the meeting, a memorial presentation was held for a baby who died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in Baker County in 2006. Bryce Taylor Finley, a 3 ½-month-old baby, unexpectedly died in his sleep due to SIDS.

Kathy Mankinen, past president of the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, who was personally acquainted with the family organized the memorial and was able to successfully arrange a monetary donation to be given to the area to start the process of a meaningful effort in Baker County through *Hold Out the Lifeline's Project Moses*. *Project Moses* is an initiative of the AME Ministerial Alliance, which creates beautiful basinet that are given to families in need. They will be distributed through the Healthy Start Program of the Baker County Health Department. The basinet were crafted by Marion Circuit AME Church in Jasper, Florida.



Kathy Mankinen presents a Project Moses basinet to Health Department representatives from Baker County.



Carol Brady is recognized by Coalition Chair, George Lewis, for 10 years of service to maternal and child healthcare with Healthy Start.

The meeting also celebrated the 10 year anniversary of Healthy Start's Executive Director, Carol Brady. She was honored for her dedication to maternal and child health. During the presentation, members of the board spoke about her devotion to the countless efforts she has made to positively impact the health and well-being of babies and mothers in Northeast Florida.

Please contact Sarah Holdstein for more information at 904-279-0885 X 129.

Healthy Start participates in the national SIDS and Infant Death Project IMPACT

The National SIDS and Infant Death Project IMPACT, the coordinating body for the national SIDS and Infant Death projects of the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau, convened on April 19, 2007 in McLean, Virginia to discuss various safe sleep risk reduction campaigns.

Among the small group of national organizations was the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, which was recognized for their Safe Sleep Partnership. This Partnership was created last year due to the high rate of sleep-related deaths in our region.

This meeting was held for a select group of federal, national and state partners in order to review and refine strategies for coordination, collaboration and implementation of effective infant death programs.

Northeast Florida's Safe Sleep partnership is in the process of developing an advertising campaign to increase awareness about how parents can properly position their infants, and the importance of breastfeeding, the impact of secondhand smoke and more. The campaign targets expectant and new parents, healthcare providers, child care centers and community agencies serving families and the general public. For more information, please contact Katie Wehr at 279.0885 x. 128.



Northeast Florida's Emergency Preparedness staff assist in execution of RDSTF Exercise

The Emergency Preparedness staff participated as Controllers and Evaluators in a full-scale exercise of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) in Panama City, Florida on April 25, 2007. The objective of the exercise was to allow participants to continue to refine coordination and improve response of domestic security assets. During this exercise, the participants responded to mock incidents through a combination of role play exercises and simulated response.



The exercise involved the simulated explosion of a radiological device at the Port of Panama City, which contaminated the area and wounded many people. Law Enforcement and Fire/Rescue agencies were charged with the initial response and containment of this area.

Additionally, SWAT Teams participated in a live-fire tactical assault on the terrorists' "bomb factory" at the Bay County Fairgrounds using simulated ammunition. Following this assault, the Bomb Squad and Crime Scene Investigators exercised their procedures in neutralizing an explosive device and processing the crime scene.

Two local hospitals also participated in this exercise by setting up and operating their decontamination system. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission also participated in a maritime tactical assault on a terrorist vessel as part of the exercise.

For more information, please contact Joe Garcia at 904-279-0885 X 133.