

BACKGROUND:

A discussion during the Youth Committee meeting on October 18, 2012 regarding the various organizations in Pasco and Hernando counties that provide assistance of difference types to youth led to the decision to hold a separate meeting with interested Committee members to discuss the feasibility of gathering all youth service providers at a summit type meeting to enhance communication, coordination and cooperation among the providers.

MEETING SUMMARY:

On November 27, 2012 the first meeting was held and was referred to as the Youth Committee Think Tank Summit. Those in attendance included:

Claire Walker	Bethany Hamm	Brenda Gause
Dave Franklin	Sondra Cranford	Dave Hamilton
Garry Burlingame	Tracy Echols	Heather Harter

Rob Aguis, Patty Wisman, Donnie Singer and Melissa Fuller were invited but unable to attend.

The group discussed the various issues that face youth such as successfully completing high school, pursuing an education beyond high school, obtaining employment, etc. The group discussed factors that may hinder a youth in any or all of these areas.

Tracy Echols shared information on Hernando Youth Initiative (HYI) and how their program focuses on education, workforce development, as well as overall wellbeing of youth and their families.

The group discussed how background checks can prevent a youth with a troubled past from finishing high school, attending college and even obtaining employment.

The group also discussed various training programs, career academies, etc., offered at schools throughout Pasco and Hernando counties and the need for coordination among these organizations.

Circling back to the idea of holding a summit, it was suggested that a first step would be to identify the agencies in Pasco County who provide services to youth. The list of organizations from Tracy in Hernando County who are involved in HYI was lengthy and equivalents for these organizations in Pasco County need to be identified.

After the organizations are identified, the next step would be to invite them to a meeting to discuss the issues the organizations face as well as what each organization is doing to move youth to successful adulthood. Presuming there are as many organizations in Pasco as in Hernando, suitable space will need to be secured to hold a meeting.

The meeting concluded with the following tasks being assigned:

- Invitee list – Workforce
- Locate space for meeting – Garry

The group agreed to meet again on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. at Rasmussen’s Land O’Lakes Campus.