



Building a Community that Supports the Success of Children

THE ROUNDTABLE REVIEW

December 2014 Issue

A Message From The Director:

I am always astonished at how quickly the end of the year sneaks up on me. Before I know it, St. Lucie West Boulevard is festive with holiday lights, stores are stocking their shelves with holiday goodies, and my three year old is cross-examining me about the exact nature of Santa Claus. While we clearly have blessings to count, it is important to remember the many St. Lucie County residents, especially children, who are less fortunate than us. In that spirit, we are co-hosting a Holiday Toy Giveaway on December 20th with the Viola G. Smith Foundation for Underprivileged Kids, which historically distributes 500 to 1000 gifts to children in Fort Pierce. We are grateful to the sponsors of this event, the City of Fort Pierce and the SLC Sheriff's Office (donating 20 bikes for big kids). To find out more about how your organization can help share the blessings of the season at this event, please see page 2.

Speaking of sharing blessings, I want to share a few things I am thankful for relating to the Roundtable:

- Our Staff: This fall has been chock full of activities, trainings, and events, all made possible by the hard work of Kim Thomas, Denise Sirmons, Melissa Hamblin and Esperanza Morales. Thank you for all that you do;
- Our Officers, Networks & Volunteers: Every day, our executive board, coordinators, networks and committees work tirelessly to keep the Roundtable moving forward on a myriad of initiatives that benefit our community;
- Our Members: Without your attendance, support and resources, our organization would crumble; and
- ♦ The Opportunity to Serve You: Thank you for hiring me, and for your unwavering commitment to the children and youth of St. Lucie County.

I hope you and yours have a safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season, and I look forward to an exciting 2015.

Sincerely,

Shaniek Maynard



The Roundtable of St. Lucie County is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization comprised of agencies working together with partners and stakeholders throughout the community to address the issues our children face at the root level. Its members are leaders of all aspects of society who come together to build a community of opportunity where every child succeeds.

The Roundtable operates through networks, each of which focuses on key aspects that affects the lives of our children.

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF KIDS AT HOPE

In November, Denise Sirmons and Melissa Hamblin trained over 70 staff and faculty in Kids at Hope at Southport School. Melissa Hamblin is also planning to train all bus drivers, and is bringing on two new Kids at Hope schools in January. On November 20th, Denise Sirmons gave a presentation on Kids at Hope to CA Moore's School Advisory Committee, and on November 24, she was the keynote speaker for over 400 teens at Fort Pierce Central's Senior Pinning Ceremony. The topic of her speech was "What's in Your Hopes and Dreams for the Future?"



We had a fabulous Tunnel of Hope at Dale Cassens on November $25^{\rm th}$. Participation from the community was outstanding, with over 40 community members attending. The response from the law enforcement community was especially strong. Thank you to everyone who came to support our students at Dale Cassens. We wish them every success this school year!

On December 20th, Denise Sirmons is coordinating our Holiday Toy Give-Away, sponsored by the Viola Smith Foundation and the Roundtable of St. Lucie County. We are especially thankful to the City of Fort Pierce for donating use of the Percy Peek Gymnasium and to the Sheriff's Office for donating 20 bikes for teens! We are still looking for volunteers to come out and help us conduct Kids at Hope activities, and give away cake, juice, bicycles and gifts to up to 1000 children in Fort Pierce (Volunteers are needed from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm). We are also looking for an agency to sponsor a visit from Santa Claus. If your agency would like to send a volunteer team, or can pay for Santa to come by and say "Ho, Ho, Ho," please contact Denise Sirmons.



ACADEMIC SUCCESS NETWORK:

Experiencing success in school lifts selfesteem, inspires academic commitment and instills a positive view of school. This "experience of success" is the mission of the Roundtable's Academic Success Network. We work with the community to promote higher graduation rates, increase proficiency in reading and math and keep our children in school until they graduate.



KAH Trainings:

12/3 – KAH School Training District Office, 8:30-10:30am or 1-3pm

12/9 – KAH Community Training Riverwalk Comm. Ctr, Ft. Pierce, 10-12pm or 6-8pm

Future Kids At Hope Schools:

Savannah Ridge Elementary

(October 2014)

Southport Middle School

(November 2014)

West Gate K-8

(January 2015)

Port St. Lucie High School

(January 2015)

TREASURE HUNTER PLEDGE

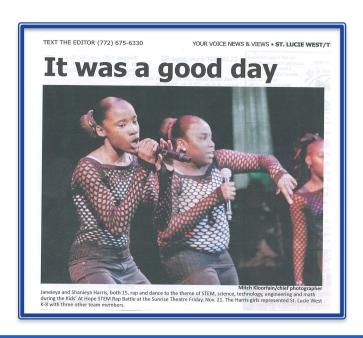
As an adult and Treasure Hunter, I am committed to search for all the talents, skills and intelligence that exist in all children and youth. I believe all children are capable of success. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Rick Miller Visits in January!

We are proud to announce the Community Leaders Kids at Hope Forum scheduled for January 20th and 21st, 2015! The "Hope Forum" will feature Rick Miller (Founder of Kids at Hope), site visits to witness the transformative power of the KAH belief and practice, and key leader panels to develop strategies for continuing to empower and restore the St. Lucie County village. The forum is free to Roundtable members and key community leaders.

Please RSVP now to Kim Thomas at KThomas@RoundtableSLC.org







Youth Leadership Council

Classes started October 21st and will go through April 2015. Currently there are 24 students enrolled representing Centennial, Central, LPA, Treasure Coast, and Westwood High Schools. The Guest Speakers in November were Shaniek Maynard, Exec. Director of the Roundtable, and Deputy Chief Brian Blizzard with the Fire District. The December speaker will be Marty Baum, the Indian River Keeper. Thank you to Roundtable members who have offered to speak with the students throughout the year. Please do not miss this opportunity to speak into the lives of our leaders of tomorrow.

The Youth Leadership Council is a chance for area teens to have a voice in St. Lucie County. The program, held at IRSC, is designed to give students an opportunity to earn college credits while learning about various aspects of our community. It includes career options leadership roles, governmental and law enforcement operations, environmental issues, and how to be heard by elected officials when dealing with important issues. They make decisions with community leaders that impact change and improvement in the community. Many individuals and agencies have come before the Council requesting their input.

BRIDGES TO PROSPERITY, ST. LUCIE

Economic Sufficiency Network of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County



Congratulations Graduates!

Saundra Bassett, Candice Bedford, Corrie Alison Ebbitt, Felicia Sweeting-Harris, Jean Robert Ladouceur, Mary Martin, Rosemita Pierre, Anthony Williams

"GETTING AHEAD"

"We are so very proud of our "Getting Ahead" graduates. This dedicated group spent 63 hours together investigating their resources & building a plan to move to greater prosperity. Thanks to our Getting Ahead partners including United Way of St. Lucie County, Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Bridges to Prosperity, St. Lucie, ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start, St. Vincent de Paul, and our past "Getting Ahead" graduates." – Parent Academy St. Lucie County

Save The Date! The 2015 Poverty Forum has been scheduled for April 8th, 2015 from 8:30-12pm at the Kight Center on IRSC's Main Campus. National Bridges Speaker and Author, Jodi Pfarr, as well as 3 major sponsors (Sheriff's Office., Ft. Pierce Police Dept., and Port St. Lucie Police Dept.) have been confirmed.

Other sponsors include The United Way of St. Lucie County and Indian River State College.

The next Bridges Out of Poverty training is Friday, Dec. 5th in Room R132 at the IRSC Main Campus. Call the Roundtable office for

reservations.

On Nov. 13th, eight more people graduated from the "Getting Ahead" class. Plans are being finalized for the next session, which is scheduled to begin after the first of the year.

Al Rivett has been hired to fill the vacant position of Bridges Out of Poverty Coordinator.

Rivett served as the Chairman for the Economic Sufficiency Network, which is now being filled by Wydee'a Wilson. Rivett will be calling on the members of the Roundtable to seek their individual and agency support for the advancement of St. Lucie County's Bridges initiative.



Bridges Out of Poverty is an approach that helps employers, community organizations, social service agencies, and individuals address poverty in a comprehensive way. Participants learn ideas, structures, and concrete tools a community needs to prevent, alleviate, and reduce poverty. The goal of the program is to help employers and directors to improve job retention rates, build resources, improve outcomes, and support those who are moving out of poverty.

CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH NETWORK



The Child & Adolescent Health Network believes that every St. Lucie County child deserves a healthy start, access to health care, the knowledge and skills to stay healthy, and a healthy life plan that reduces risky behavior. We have created an annual Report Card that tracks 12 measures of health including rates of: prenatal care, health insurance, immunizations, obesity, injury, tobacco, and teen pregnancy. We will be presenting our 2014 update after the first of the year.

After tracking these measures for three years we have identified injury prevention and healthy weight as priorities. The Injury Prevention Sub-Committee has applied to SafeKids International to establish a Coalition in the county and secured funding for a SafeKids Coordinator in 2015. To reduce childhood obesity, the 5-2-1-0 Sub-Committee is developing ways to promote 5 fruits & vegetables, 2 hours or less of screen time, 1 hour or more of physical activity, and 0 sugary drinks among pre-school and school age children.



Eat FIVE servings of fruits and vegetables.

Spend no more than TWO hours watching TV, playing video games or surfing the net.

Get at least ONE hour of active play each day.

Drink ZERO sugar-sweetened beverages.



St. Lucie Medical Center (SLMC) requested the 5210 team to submit a proposal for a 5210 Program Coordinator for St. Lucie County. The team submitted a one-page proposal to SLMC detailing the goals, objectives, and budget needed to launch the 5210 program in our community. The team worked with Ashley Mock of Children's Services Council to develop a 5210 marketing strategy. At this current time, the 5210 team will continue to seek further assistance and funding.

SAFE KIDS COALITION

In April 2013, we started with the intention of becoming a Safe Kids Coalition of St Lucie County. To date, two agencies have been identified as the co-lead agencies. They are the FL Dept. of Health in St Lucie County and The Healthy Start Coalition SLC/Kids Connected By Design. The two co-lead agencies have signed an agreement with Safe Kids World Wide and are now waiting to hear back from the Safe Kids office in Washington D.C. on our official designation as a Safe Kids Coalition.

"The solution to adult problems tomorrow depends on large measure upon how our children grow up today."

- Margaret Mead

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS NETWORK

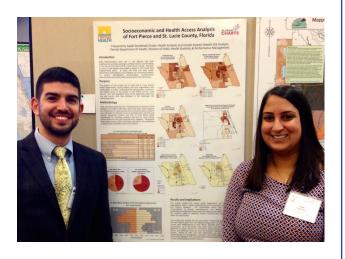
In August 2014, the Safe Neighborhood Network was tasked by the Roundtable to take the lead in implementing the Restoring the Village Youth Initiative, an anti-violence strategy for reaching St. Lucie County youth who are involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, street violence. The Youth Initiative is based on the federal comprehensive gang model developed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and supported by the National Gang Center. The national model is a multi-strategy, multidisciplinary approach to youth violence that has proven to be effective in reducing gang activity.

In December, the job opening for a Project Coordinator for the Youth Initiative will be posted on the City of Fort Pierce's Employment website, www.cityoffortpierce.com. The Coordinator will be hired by the City of Fort Pierce under the grant provided by OJJDP, and will report directly to the Roundtable. Please spread the word to qualified candidates. We are hoping to select a coordinator before the end of this year.

Safe Neighborhoods and its community mobilization subcommittee, the Lincoln Park Advisory Committee (LPAC), are continuing the community wide assessment on gangs and street violence in Fort Pierce. Trainings, surveys, forums, focus groups, and individual interviews have taken place over the last few months and are continuing in an effort to collect data required for completion of an Assessment Report, slated to be produced in January/February 2015. In November, LPAC conducted focus groups with approximately seventy teenagers from Boys & Girls Club (Garden Terrace Unit & Infinity Unit) and Frontline for Kids. In December, LPAC will be conducting focus groups with adults living in the Lincoln Park community. LPAC will also provide community input to aid in the hiring of a project coordinator.







BIG NEWS!!

- Staff from the Florida Dept. of Health that assisted the Roundtable in developing data on socioeconomic and health disparities in Ft. Pierce presented their work at the 2014 SHRUG GIS Conference in Tallahassee. They took FIRST PLACE out of the 27 posters that were presented! Congratulations to these FDOH staff members and Clint Sperber for all his work on this Initiative!
- The Fall 2014 National Gang Center Newsletter featured a cover story about Ft. Pierce's efforts to reduce violence and an interview with the Roundtable's very own Chief Sean Baldwin, FPPD. The newsletter is available at

www.NationalGangCenter.gov/newsletter.

The more well-adjusted children are, the more likely they are to make good choices in life – to stay in school, not to use alcohol or drugs, to delay sexual activity, and to reject a life of crime. Our goal is to keep children on the right path to becoming successful adults.

The Safe Neighborhoods Network seeks to help children make good choices in life, such as stay in school and not committing crimes. Our analysis to support the development of well-adjusted children who in turn, become well-adjusted adults.

Substance Abuse Network





This fall, Project Coordinator Kim Thomas conducted a scan of 20 convenience stores to evaluate how these stores were promoting alcohol and tobacco products through signage and sales practices. Regarding signage that promotes alcohol and tobacco use, there were 148 signs outside the convenience stores –almost 61% alcohol related and almost 40% tobacco related. On the inside of the stores, there were 429 total signs – almost 54% alcohol related and 23% tobacco related. Youth see gas stations and convenience stores plastered with signs promoting alcohol and tobacco just while driving by the stores, and even more so when they enter the stores. Regarding age restriction signs, 33% of the stores had signs (We ID, you must be 21 to purchase alcohol) for alcohol and almost 89% for tobacco (We ID, you must be 18 to purchase tobacco). On the inside, almost 56% had warning signs for alcohol and 83% for tobacco. This signage is important to portray a unified message to youth. When people do not see this signage, it promotes an environment where underage use is acceptable.

The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office conducted an undercover operation that showed a 12% non-compliance rate by stores in refusing to sell alcohol to minors. IRSC criminal justice students visited 50 stores throughout the county trying to buy alcohol. Only six of them were able to purchase it. The stores were charged with a criminal violation and given a notice to appear requiring them to go to court. It should be noted that in July the non-compliance rate was 60%, so efforts by law enforcement and community partners such as the Health Department's Tobacco Free Partnership of St. Lucie County on this issue are clearly proving successful. The Sheriff's Office is planning a vendor training next month and the Substance Abuse Coalition is giving them "No ID? No Sale." signs to provide to the convenience stores.

The Roundtable's Substance Abuse Prevention efforts are funded by the Community Coalition Alliance of Southeast Florida.



The Substance Abuse Coalition is focused on bringing awareness to parents and caregivers in St. Lucie County about the national underage drinking prevention campaign "Talk. They Hear You." This campaign, developed by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), "helps parents and caregivers start talking to their children early-as early as 9 years old-about the dangers of alcohol." The campaign and its website (www.samhsa.gov/underage-drinking) provides tools and literature about the negative consequences of underage drinking. The website also includes an interactive video game that helps parents to "learn the do's and don'ts of talking to kids about underage drinking." Through collaboration between the St. Lucie County School District, New Horizons of the Treasure Coast, Inc. and DATA, all 5th grade students and numerous high school students in the county will be receiving literature on two separate occasions to take home to their parents/caregivers about the "Talk. They Hear You." campaign.





The Roundtable's Substance Abuse Prevention Network focuses on preventing underage drinking and substance abuse through education, awareness, community-wide initiatives and changing social norms.



COMMUNITIES THAT CARES ASSESSMENT - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Since May 2014, the Roundtable's Steering Committee has been working on developing a new 10-year strategic plan using the Communities that Cares (CTC) framework. Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions that we hope will shed light on the CTC process in St. Lucie County.

WHY COMMUNITIES THAT CARES?

The Roundtable has a long and successful history with CTC. In 1995, five Chief Executive Officers from the Fort Pierce Police Department, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families, Children's Services Council and the City of Port St. Lucie came together to develop a comprehensive plan to better the lives of children in St. Lucie County. The board secured a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, one of six sites in the State of Florida. The grant was to use the CTC framework to develop a comprehensive ten year prevention plan to address five problem behaviors in St. Lucie County youth: Substance Use, Delinquency, Teen Pregnancy, School Drop Out and Violence. From 1996 to 1999, over thirty agencies gathered data, prioritized risk factors and developed outcomes using CTC. Out of this process, the St. Lucie County Hand in Hand Comprehensive Strategy Plan was established. For the past fourteen years, St. Lucie County Hand in Hand has served as the foundation of all planning efforts of the Roundtable. The Roundtable has seen great success in reducing risk factors leading to problem behaviors, resulting in better outcomes for St. Lucie County youth.

WHAT IS COMMUNITIES THAT CARES?

CTC is a strategic prevention planning system that brings community leaders together to promote positive development of children and prevent problem behaviors. CTC is centered on a "risk-focused" prevention model that addresses 20 known risk factors that research shows can reliably predict whether children will engage in Substance Use, Delinquency, Teen Pregnancy, School Drop Out and Violence. These risk factors are based on a review of over 30 years of research across a variety of disciplines and are subject to the most rigorous research criteria. Risk factors must have been shown in multiple longitudinal studies to be reliable predictors of one of the five adolescent problem behaviors.

WHAT ARE RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS?

Risk factors are conditions that increase the likelihood that children will become involved in problem behaviors in adolescence and young adulthood. Risk factors are buffered by protective factors. Enhancing protective factors helps communities promote positive youth development even in the face of risk. Risk and protective factors exist in all areas of children's lives. Both risk and protective factors should be addressed in prevention efforts.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITIES THAT CARES ASSESSMENT?

The CTC community assessment system provides tools for measuring levels of risk factors, selecting priority risk factors on which to focus a strategic plan, and tracking progress toward desired changes in those risk factors.

WHAT STAGE IS THE ROUNDTABLE IN WITH DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITIES THAT CARES ASSESSMENT?

We are in the process of developing a community profile for St. Lucie County. The profile will be based in part on the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey results, which will measure the prevalence of risk factors, protective factors and problem behaviors in SLC. Data from the FYSAS is expected to be released this month. The profile will also be based on archival data from agencies throughout the community. Currently, a work group of the Steering Committee is collecting and evaluating data on indicators such as alcohol and tobacco sales, unemployment, drop-out rates, single parent family households, domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse related crimes, violence, teen pregnancy, and numerous other indicators set out by Communities that Cares. Our research partner, the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute (VGTI-Florida), has committed to analyzing the data, which is voluminous, free of charge as a partner in this strategic process.

WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY'S COMMUNITIES THAT CARES PROCESS?

Once the data is analyzed, the next step will be to bring the working groups, networks, practitioners, service providers, and Steering Committee members together to evaluate and discuss the data, and recommend priority risk and protective factors on which to focus our community's efforts and resources over the next ten years. The recommendations will be presented to the Roundtable, which will then create an Action Plan, that is, determine the priority factors, identify and assess community resources that currently address these priority risk and protective factors, and identify any gaps to be filled in existing resources.

UPCOMING EVENTS:







MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Dec. 5th Roundtable Meeting 8:30am
- Dec. 17th Executive Committee Meeting @ 3pm
- Dec. 20th Toy Giveaway, Percy Peek Gym
- Jan. 9th First Roundtable Meeting of 2015
- Jan. 20th & 21st Kids At Hope Community Leaders Forum
- Jan. 22nd & 23rd KAH Train the Trainer
- April 8th 2015 Poverty Forum

SPECIAL ATTENTION NEEDED:

Probably the most important need for the Safe Neighborhoods Network at this time is the need for a research partner to help us analyze the overwhelming amount of data we have, and write the assessment report. Currently, Nancy Brown of Parent Academy, and Andrea Kochanowski and Nancy Johnson of the Housing Authority, have put in an overwhelming number of hours analyzing surveys and inputting essential data, but it is impossible for them to do it alone. If you have individuals from your agency that you could donate for a few days to help with the data, that would be very helpful. In addition, if you know researchers, students or academics with a background in criminology, sociology, or other related interests who might be willing to help, please contact us.



Executive Committee

Chair: Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council **Vice Chair: Chief John Bolduc**, PSL Police Dept.

Immediate Past Chair: Chief Ron Parrish, SLC Fire Dept.

Secretary: Karen Knapp, United Way SLC

Treasurer: Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition SLC **At-Large Member: Larry Lee**, SLC Dept. of Health

Steering Committee Chair: Clint Sperber, SLC Dept. of Health

Contact us at:

Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

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Visit Our Website: www.RoundtableSLC.org

Email:

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Kim Thomas, Project Coordinator KThomas@roundtableslc.org

Esperanza Morales, Accounting Esperanza.Morales@UnitedWaySLC.org

Newsletter Submission Deadlines:

Submission	Monthly
Deadline	Meeting
12/19/2015	1/9/2015
1/23/2015	2/6/2015
2/20/2015	3/6/2015
TBD	TBD
4/17/2015	5/1/2015
5/22/2014	6/5/2015

The Roundtable Review is published monthly. Please feel free to submit articles, photos, news, or other information. We hope to include information covering a variety of topics related to all of our Networks. We are open to and appreciate all feedback!

Send your submissions or feedback to Dana Stonelake -StonelakeDM@gmail.com

See deadline chart for submission dates

OUR SPONSORS:









Our Members

- **St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce**, Terissa Aronson
- **❖ Fort Pierce Police Department,** Sean Baldwin
- ❖ Lincoln Park Council of Ministers, Eldrew Baldwin
- ❖ City of Port St. Lucie, Linda Bartz
- **Port St. Lucie Police Department**, *John Bolduc*
- **Children's Services Council,** Sean Boyle
- ❖ 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida, Bruce Colton
- * Devereux CBC, Carol Deloach
- **Sourd of County Commissioners,** Chris Dzadovsky
- City of Fort Pierce, Linda Hudson
- * Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Andrew Hunt
- **United Way of St. Lucie County,** *Karen Knapp*
- **❖ Housing Authority of Fort Pierce**, *Andrea Kochanowski*
- **St. Lucie County Department of Health,** Larry Lee

- **State Representative**, *Larry Lee*, *Jr*.
- **❖ Indian River State College,** Mary Locke
- **Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County**, *Tony Loupe*
- **St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office,** Ken Mascara
- **❖ Department of Children & Families,** Robert McPartlan
- **Guardian ad Litem,** Vern Melvin
- **St. Lucie County Fire District,** Ron Parrish
- ❖ St. Lucie County Department of Health, Clint Sperber
- **❖ Career Source Research Coast**, Richard Stetson
- **Economic Development Council**, Peter Tesch
- * Kids Connected by Design, Lisa von Seelen
- **❖ Department of Juvenile Justice**, Wydee'a Wilson
- **St. Lucie County School District,** Genelle Yost

Our Networks & Sub-Committees

Academic Success

Chair - Position Currently Open

Economic Sufficiency "Bridges to Prosperity"

Wydee'a Wilson, Chair Wydee'a.Wilson@djj.state.fl.us

Child & Adolescent Health

Donna Harris, Chair Donna.Harris@FLHealth.gov "5210 Let's Go!"

Tricia Goulet, Chair Tricia.Goulet@FLHealth.gov

"Injury Prevention/Safe Kids Coalition"

Sonya Gabriel, Chair Sonya.Gabriel@FLHealth.gov

Kids At Hope School Coordinator

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Kids At Hope Community Coordinator

Denise Sirmons
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Substance Abuse Prevention

John Poli, Chair JPoli@nhtcinc.org

Safe Neighborhoods

Daniela Dreizehnter, Chair DDreizehnter@fppd.org

"Lincoln Park Advisory Committee"

Marjorie Harrell, Chair Gharr89247@yahoo.com