



Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement
In-Person Meeting Agenda
December 12th, 2023 (11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.)
11210 N. 53rd St. Temple Terrace, FL, 33617

The regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement (TBACE) hosted by the City of Temple Terrace. The following active members were present and signed in:

Volker Reiss	City of Bradenton	Joseph Spann	City of Pinellas Park
Michael Maginness	City of Bradenton	Richard Karo	Pasco County
Craig Lyman	City of Bradenton		
Doug Jones	City of Bradenton	Blaire Green	City of Tampa
Lisa Byington	City of Clearwater	Ashley Alvarez	City of Tampa
Christine Zien-McCombs	Hillsborough County	Nicole Sequeira	City of Tampa
Ben Dornon	Manatee County	Carmen Marcano	City of Tampa
Alex Kogel	Manatee County	Kiyonne Goodman	City of Tampa
David Hramika	Pasco County	Angela Johnson	City of Tampa
Georgia Crofoot	Pasco County	Paul Rawald	Pasco County
Michael Frestick	Pasco County	Jewel Tomow	Pasco County
Sean Haley	Pasco County	Jose Silva	City of Temple Terrace
Damion Cooper	Pasco County	Laurie Smith	City of Temple Terrace
Ismael Gonzalez	City of Tampa	Florentino Rodriguez	City of Tampa
Nick Scheidegger	Pasco County	Doug Allen	City of Temple Terrace
Heather Hersh	Pasco County	Wallace McMillan	City of Largo
Bruce Burton	Pasco County	Greg Silliman	City of Oldsmar
Nicholas Brems	Pasco County	James Wagner	City of Oldsmar
Sergio Grillo	City of Pinellas Park	Beth Hughes	Pinellas County
Diane Devol	Pinellas County	Barbara Riley	City of Tampa
Chris Freeman	City of Tampa	Mauricio Casanova	Pasco County
Tom Borroni	City of Temple Terrace	John Carrion	City of Tampa

CALL TO ORDER: 11:31 AM

Doug Allen called the meeting to order at 11:31AM. Talked about the website, and the memberships. Doug Allen also reminded everyone about host jurisdictions.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:

Introduction:

Christine Zien-McCombs took stage and introduced Ivonne and announced that TBACE is getting lapel pins for members. Guest Speaker Ivonne introduced herself and her background at 11:50 AM. Ivonne asked the audience what their thoughts were on APS.

Topics:

1. *Possible indicators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.*

What, how, who? Statutory authority CP. 415 Vulnerable adults any 18 year old “impaired” due to mental, emotional sensory, long-term physical, developmental disability. Ivonne said that they do not have the authority to investigate if criterion is not met such as, age. If not impaired and able body, Ivonne said that APS cannot investigate.

2. *Maltreatments*

Ivonne stated that they only look at certain “maltreatments” such as, burns, self-neglect, and abuse. Maltreatment means someone else is causing them harm. Neglect means they themselves are causing the harm. Exploitation is always second party. Self-neglect is 33% of maltreatments. 13% is exploitation sometimes by the nearest family member. Abuse means, “any willful act by someone who causes impairment to the vulnerable by physical, mental, or emotional harm and it includes omissions.” Neglect is “failure or omission by someone to provide care, supervision and services necessary to maintain physical and mental health.” Exploitation means “knowingly by deception or intimidation obtaining or attempting to obtain adults funds, assets with intent to deprive the adult of use. Ivonne shared an example about a church collecting social security checks and not taking care of the adults. Concerns of exploitations will “Dig into the finances.” “We have guidelines.” Abuse is the “willful, threatened act by relative, caregiver, household member whom causes impairment to vulnerable adults physical, mental, or emotional health. She said that you have to find the goals that are causing these behaviors. She shared that she has gone to places over and over again, 16 times with 16 reports. She said she gets a lot of reports from code enforcement that allege exploitation. She said she cannot investigate on something they have agreed to do. Persons’ “lacking capacity” determined with questions such as, “what’s your name, who is your doctor? Etc.” if the person lacks capacity to consent or make decisions, APS has an obligation to investigate and act, such as baker act. Ivonne said that when she observes an “Altered state of mind,” she calls EMTs. Medical conditions can alter state of mind such as “UTI,” or “dementia.”

3. *Investigative process*

Ivonne said that everyone is a “mandated reporter” (Code Enforcement). She said to call the hotline, they will ask information, address, name, etc. Once reported or allegation is made, report is assigned to investigator. Ivonne mentioned that research is then done on property such as, assault, battery, dogs, anything dangerous. If there is violence identified, APS will perform a site visit with Police. APS will ask questions such as “what are your prescriptions,” Etc. Ivonne talked about hoarding and how it is a big cause of concerns. Ivonne described hoarders “surfing the walls.” APS looks at the environment determine whether there is a domestic violence situation?

4. *Partnerships*

Ivonne said that Code enforcement is a big partner, and also said that Law enforcement is also. Ivonne said that AHCA looks at nursing homes, by inspecting their policies, staffing, building, etc. Agency for Persons with Disabilities is for group homes and they have to follow agency’s guidelines. Ivonne said that Law enforcement looks at criminal side. Each agency has their own criteria. Ivonne said that the Only thing DCF can do is ensure the safety of the victim. Self-neglect is the highest of maltreatments and next is inadequate supervision which is the biggest for institutional investigation. Ivonne then described who are the typical perpetrators such as a Son/Daughter or Adult children. She then said that a spouse is next and that other relatives are next after that. Perpetrators in institution are institution employees. Ivonne said that APS has to respect constitutional rights by ensuring consistency with due process and talked about community partnerships. Ivonne then shared that “Meals on wheels” is a good resource. She talked about how

some persons who have experienced a medical episode are sent home now and discover that “things have changed.” Senior connections in Hillsborough County are working with the elderly and provide adaptive equipment that they need. APS has a limited number of money. COVID gave the APS money. They replaced roofs, etc. and as money diminished, less services were provided. APS assists with transportation but they themselves do not provide transportation, they partner with PSTA, HART, etc. APS provides “home care for disabled adults.”

5. *Mandatory Reporting*

People who don't report are subject to a misdemeanor and Ivonne said that they find a lot of those cases with churches. Ivonne said that APS investigators are trained in behavior in psychology. She said that they receive many complaints and showed pictures where they collected Christmas gifts.

Question: Is there any way to check results of an APS investigation?

Answer: No, by law. Not for private person, only on official capacity such as Officer.

Questions: What is your recommendation? Report by phone? Or Website?

Answer: Website response is immediate.

Presentation Start: 11:50 hours.

Presentation END: 12:59 hours.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Doug Allen reminded the audience that scholarships are now active. Doug Allen also mentioned that the online payment feature is still not available. Doug Allen reminded everyone that TBACE is now in new fiscal year and that membership renewals are due.

Secretary: None

Treasurer: Reported that the current balance on the treasury is \$6,467.72

Vice president: None

President: Thanked everyone for coming and thanked the City of Tampa for hosting the October meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

John Carrion

Secretary,

Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement

January 2nd, 2023