

Month of Reported Progress:

April

PACE EH Coordinator/Contact Name:

Julianne Price

CHD Name:

Indian River

EH Manager/ Administrator:

Cheryl Dunn

Has EH Manager/Administrator reviewed and approved this report?:

No

Is your PACE EH survey complete?:

In process

If your PACE EH survey is complete, list your PACE EH community's top identified issues.:

So far, the top identified issues that the community has identified in the 135 surveys collected are crime and housing.

Concisely summarize this month's activities.:

"A critic is a man who knows the way but can't drive the car."- Kenneth Tynan

This month I was able to accomplish many things, but perhaps the most difficult was receiving the brunt of a few residents perception and disdain that I was culturally incompetent. Luckily, the community leaders defended me and the PACE EH process. The leaders were able to intercede to some extent to reassure the few residents that this would benefit their community. There is a high level of mistrust from the community that will have to be overcome and will require a great deal of bridge building and proof that solutions to the community issues can be produced.

This month I attended five community meetings: Pastor's Association, Gifford Civic Progressive League, NAACP, COPE, and Gifford Front Porch. At each meeting, I introduced myself and spoke about PACE EH. A lot of time was also spent going door to door and to local businesses and organizations to conduct the initial assessment and survey distributions. So far, 135 surveys have been collected. I attended a health fair at the Gifford Youth Activity Center and displayed a poster about PACE EH and was able to meet a lot of residents and collect surveys, too. Organizations like the Gifford Youth Activity Center and Our Father's Table Soup Kitchen are key organizations that exist in Gifford, along with over 17 churches present in the community.

On April 24th, Commissioner Solari and Sheriff Loar accompanied Detective Floyd and I on a tour of the community. There are two issues that almost every resident has identified on the surveys thus far: crime and housing. Det. Floyd and I showed the Commissioner and Sheriff the areas of crime and the actual abandoned homes. It appears that there is at least one abandoned home on EVERY street in central Gifford. The issues of crime and housing are directly connected as the abandoned

homes are safe havens for criminal activity such as drug dealing and prostitution. In some homes, transients are occupying them at night. The homes also pose a safety hazard for the large number of children in the community.

On April 28th, we conducted a multi-agency "sweep" of the community to root out the worst abandoned homes and areas that perhaps need to be initially targeted. Pictures of the sweep can be found here:

<http://def.sharepoint.doh.ad.state.fl.us/DEH/PACE%20EH%20Project%20Pictures/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FDEH%2FPACE%20EH%20Project%20Pictures%2FGifford%20PACE%20EH>

I submitted a formal letter to the Gifford Civic Progressive League requesting the use of their community center for our PACE EH meetings which will be held at 6pm every third Monday night of the month.