

Month of Reported Progress:

February

PACE EH Coordinator/Contact Name:

Herman Hale, RN

CHD Name:

Marion County Health Department

EH Manager/ Administrator:

Dan Dooley (Acting)

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

Yes

Is your PACE EH survey complete?:

Yes

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

N/A

Concisely summarize this month's activities.:

The Marion County Health Department's PACE-EH team focused its efforts for the month in the community of Poinciana Heights. In an effort to address the concerns of the Poinciana Heights Homeowners Taskforce, the PACE coordinator began collecting data related to the traffic patterns around the communities magnet school, Dr. N. H. Jones Elementary. In its monthly meetings, the group continues to share that there is a problem with parents arriving hours before the end of the school day, in an attempt to obtain a prime parking spot from which to pick up their children. Their concerns are related to the fact that these parents are parking on side streets around the school, often times blocking driveways and creating access difficulties for the neighborhood residents.

On January 29, 2009, the PACE coordinator (Herman Hale, RN) began the process of collecting data, by conducting an on-site evaluation of the problem. Arriving at the school at 12:30 pm, it was noted that cars had already begun to assemble in two different locations around the school (on the east and west sides) and according to the principle (who is an active participant of the Taskforce meetings) school is not dismissed until 2:05 pm. Hale noted that the school offered two locations for the parents to pick up their children and in addition, noted there were seven school buses that were also transporting students. With the ability to monitor only one pick up location, Hale chose to monitor the front of the school and he noted 93 vehicles accessed the pick up area starting at 2:05pm. It took twenty minutes for all the students at this location to be picked up. Of the 93 vehicles observed, the PACE coordinator noted that no vehicle picked up more than two children. While the process was efficient and orderly, it did take a total of two hours for the traffic to clear the neighborhood (from the earliest arrivals at 12:30 until the last student was picked up at 2:25).

Hale also spoke to the school's crossing guard and received some practical insight as to the traffic concerns. The guard shared that the traffic was not as much of a concern, as was the

speed in which some of the vehicles traveled. On multiple occasions, Hale noted vehicles traveling well over the posted 30 MPH speed limit. There were also access issues for students that walked to the school, as evidenced by the lack of sidewalks on primary as well as cross streets. In an attempt to assess the feasibility of having children off load at a Police department's sub-station and walk to the school via a "Walking School Bus" , Hale noted that the walk would take 15 minutes and that children would have minimal access to sidewalks, which would force them to walk in the street.

The PACE-EH team presented its initial data gathering process to the Taskforce on February 2, 2009. It was determined that Hale would conduct a second assessment, compile the data, and report back to the Taskforce at its April meeting.