



Committee Meeting #1 Summary

February 8, 2024

The TSWDG project team facilitated the first advisory committee meeting on Thursday, February 8 at 5:30 PM. The meeting was held at the Orange County Community Foundation with 13 people in attendance. Meeting participants included:

- Sherry Taylor
- Danny Hickman
- Barry Laird
- Roy Trinkle
- Mary Brown
- Donna Dillard
- Priscilla Woodman
- Jamie Walker
- Leah Terrell
- Brandy Terrell
- Cox Burris
- Ron Taylor – TSWDG
- Hailey Roark – TSWDG

1. Facility Tour

Before the committee meeting, the committee visited the site of the proposed community facility location. The site is located just south of Paoli Community Park along W Main Street. The existing site includes a large steel building that sits on an 11-acre site. Currently, the building is used for personal storage by the owner and would require significant efforts to clean out.

2. Project Overview

Ron Taylor kicked off the meeting by asking the committee to share their elevator speech about how this project came about.



Key conclusions from the discussion included:

- Three years ago, IU School of Public Health received funding to collect qualitative and quantitative data to figure out why Orange County had a high rate of teen pregnancies. This study identified five key conclusions, one of which was that teenagers had nowhere to go after school. This study identified the need for a community facility that would address this challenge. Also, Orange County THRIVE was born out of this.
- Orange County has a much higher (30%) of people dealing with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The national average is 15%. ACEs can be anything from addiction, teen pregnancy, poverty, etc.
- In previous years, IU wrote a grant for \$5M to construct a multi-plex community facility but it wasn't awarded.
- Doctor Yoder has been leading the charge.

3. Summary of Discussion

The project team discussed the importance of educating and raising awareness of ACEs as part of the public engagement process. The overall consensus from the committee was that there is a lack of knowledge around these issues and that some people just simply don't care. The committee recognized that they needed to be present, vocal, and engaged at the public meetings.

- The objective of this study is to identify how the county can best use the facility to meet the needs and wants of its residents.
- The committee wants to provide kids with the same opportunity as kids have elsewhere.
- The committee wants to understand:
 - What are other schools or communities' offerings?
 - What do your friends have that you don't?
 - What cool things do you want to be able to do or see?
 - What would incentivize parents to take their children to this facility?
 - How do we reconcile the lack of transportation/connectivity options to this site?



- Ideas for the facility included:
 - Something to generate revenue – Office space, emergency readiness program, rental rooms, health clinic, etc.
 - Safe room for emergencies and natural disasters
 - Gym
 - Early learning component
 - Age-appropriate spaces
- Communication and Engagement:
 - Educating the public on the impact of ACEs – if you have ACEs then you are more likely to have negative outcomes as an adult.
 - Need for a teen-specific survey – 6th grade – 12th
 - Youth Services Council can help us with social media
 - Need to invite people from each of the towns to participate
 - There will be a mid-report to the commissioners in July
 - Letter to church leaders and parents through the school system
- Branding ideas –
 - Use of the word “love”
 - This group being a servant of leadership.
 - All about creating opportunities for our kids.
 - “A better tomorrow”
 - Opportunities to THRIVE

4. Next Steps

The project team outlined a series of next steps for the committee which included securing dates and locations for each of the three public meetings, sending an invite for the second committee meeting, and developing the public engagement materials. The committee was responsible for coordinating the proposed facilities for each public meeting and working to create a logo for the study.