



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Communications/SCGTV Office

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 301
Viera, Florida 32940

Inter-Office Memo

TO: Frank B. Abbate, County Manager

FROM: Don Walker, Communications/SCGTV Director 

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2024032

DATE: 04/01/2024

CEER #2024032 was received by the County from Kristin Lortie that described the following Problem and Recommendation.

Citizen Statement:

According to Florida Health Charts, as of 2020-22, Brevard residents have an anticipated longevity of 75.8 years. This put Brevard County approximately 30th of the 67 counties in Florida, and lower than the Florida 2020 average of 77.5 and the average US life expectancy of 77.28 years.

Brevard County currently has no county-wide wellness plan for its residents. Here is a link to the Florida Dept. of Health few wellness pages: <https://brevard.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/index.html>

Of the (6) noted pages, (4) of them have not been updates to the hyperlinked websites since 2018 or prior.

The 2022 Brevard County Community Needs Health Assessment determined at least (13) areas of opportunity: [https://brevard.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/community-health-planning-and-statistics/community-health-improvement/ documents/brevard-county-community-health-assessment-2022.pdf](https://brevard.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/community-health-planning-and-statistics/community-health-improvement/documents/brevard-county-community-health-assessment-2022.pdf)

Citizen Recommendation:

Brevard County needs a wellness plan, program and model that is available to all residents. There is a longevity community-focused model that is being implemented elsewhere in Florida called Blue Zone Certification. This effort is evidence based on behaviors of areas of the world that have clusters of centenarians that have lived past 100 years old. The US Blue Zone communities are engaged in a community-wide initiative to improve the health and well-being of all residents. Currently, (8) communities in Southern Florida have achieved certification, and the city of Jacksonville has just

launched their journey in June of 2023. If Jacksonville and Southwest Florida can do this, why can't we here in Brevard County?

Suggest that the Brevard County Commissioners write a letter of support for the Blue Zones administration to deliver a presentation in Brevard County to be attended by the community and community stakeholders. This letter should be extended to the area's largest healthcare providers and stakeholders, as they will be enlisted as sponsors to bring the effort to Brevard County. This includes Space Coast Foundation Health, Healthfirst, United Way of Brevard, and others. A presentation was given at Florida Today in 2017, with no traction afterward to move the initiative forward. Current Brevard leadership has the opportunity to change the trajectory of Brevard wellness to establish Brevard as a county and destination for wellbeing!

Blue Zones website: <https://www.bluezones.com/community/>

Jacksonville website: <https://bluezonesprojectjacksonville.com/>

Jacksonville article:

<https://www.jacksonville.com/story/opinion/columns/guest/2023/06/11/accessible-healthy-choices-for-all-is-key-to-rebranding-jacksonville/70290361007/>

Southwest Florida website: <https://southwestflorida.bluezonesproject.com/>

Anyone can send an email to cocoacarescitizens@gmail.com to express local interest in this exciting and innovative initiative!

Staff Analysis:

Blue Zones is a trademark initiative from the private sector. It is within the purview of the Brevard County Health Department, a state agency, to promote, protect, maintain and improve the health and safety of all citizens and visitors of Brevard County. Brevard County Board of County Commissioners and County staff support our Health Department in this mission. Staff has shared this recommendation with the Health Department and we stand ready to continue supporting their community health program initiatives.

Staff Recommended Action:

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2024032, as it is properly within the purview of the State of Florida Department of Health community health program.

Recommendation Details

Contact Information

Full Name: Kristin Lortie **Email Address:** kristin.lortie@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 5524 Brilliance Circle
Cocoa fl 32926 **Alt Email Address:**

Phone Number 720-935-8780

Group/Organization

N/A

Recommendation Information

Recommendation Title: Brevard Needs a Community Wellness Planning for Longevity and Good Health

Areas Affected:

Health and Longevity of Brevard Residents

Department:

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According to Florida Health Charts, as of 2020-22, Brevard residents have an anticipated longevity of 75.8 years. This put Brevard County approximately 30th of the 67 counties in Florida, and lower than the Florida 2020 average of 77.5 and the average US life expectancy of 77.28 years.

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Problem Description:

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Recommendation Description

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Attachments

There are no attachments for this recommendation.

Administrative Action

Evaluation

Recommendation Timeline

User	Status	Date	Remarks
CEER WebUser	Citizen Submitted	Dec 29, 2023	
Karen Conde	Department Assigned	Jan 5, 2024	SCGTV/COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE Assigned
Karen Conde	Department Assigned	Jan 5, 2024	SCGTV/COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE Assigned

Awaiting action from department director

2024032 - Links Contained Within Citizen CEER Submission

<https://brevard.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/index.html>

https://brevard.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/community-health-planning-and-statistics/community-health-improvement/_documents/brevard-county-community-health-assessment-2022.pdf

<https://www.bluezones.com/community/>

<https://bluezonesprojectjacksonville.com/>

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