

Fort Myers, FL, July 9, 2015 — Neighborhood Accountability Board training for volunteers will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Lee County Human Services Office, 2440 Thompson St.

To reserve a spot for the training, or for more information, contact Nora Donato-Hitchcock at (239) 533-7947 or NDonato-Hitchcock@leegov.com. Participants in the training can bring their lunch or order from Oasis Restaurant at a cost of \$7 to \$12.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards are a community-based, decision-making process aimed at repairing the harm committed by youth against victims and neighborhoods. These programs are based on restorative justice, focusing the attention on what harm was done, and what needs to be done to repair the harm. Accountability Boards are funded by the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Lee County Board of County Commissioners.

Volunteers are asked to complete an application, attend the one-day training and observe two conferences. A background check is conducted on all potential volunteers. Volunteers are not required to commit to a set amount of hours. Volunteers sit on boards with youth, the youth's parent/guardian, victim and other volunteers to develop a case plan for the youth. Applications and additional details are available online at www.leegov.com/dhs/neighborhood/youth.

Conferences are scheduled in the community where the crime took place. Conferences can last up to two hours and are generally held at a library, neighborhood community center or United Way House. Volunteers are provided a schedule up to two weeks in advance, and carpooling is available.