

Volunteers Needed for the Neighborhood Accountability Boards of Lee County

Fort Myers, FL, Feb.8, 2016 — Training for Neighborhood Accountability Board volunteers will be 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at the Lee County Human Services Office, 2440 Thompson St., Fort Myers.

The Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) is a voluntary diversion program for youth who are charged with a crime. Volunteers represent the community by attending the NAB conference with the youth, youth's parent/guardian, victim, and other NAB volunteers to develop a case plan for the youth.

To become a NAB volunteer, you must attend a free training session.

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.

Volunteers are asked to complete an application, attend the one-day training session, 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 – any amount of time given to the program is appreciated. Volunteers sit on Boards with youth, youth's parent/guardian, victim, and other NAB volunteers to develop a case plan for the youth. Volunteers represent the community in this process; addressing the harm caused to the community and determining how to repair the harm. Applications and additional information can be found online at <http://www.leegov.com/dhs/neighborhood/youth>.

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