

FSU MED STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT RURAL HEALTH NEEDS

Posted by Sandi Beare in News
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Over thirty of Florida State University's first-year medical students visited Havana Friday afternoon to hear local residents talk about rural health issues.

Havana Police Chief Tracy Smith praised the students for getting into medical school, and told them a bit about Havana.

"We (as law enforcement officers) struggle with issues like poverty, single mothers without help trying to raise kids. We try to work on prevention and training (with them)," Smith said.

"Transportation is a huge issue (to get to work, healthcare centers and doctors)," he added.

The doctors-to-be broke into small groups to learn more about small community health needs, and with at least one local resident joining the conversation.

Gadsden County school board chairperson Audrey Lewis spoke about Havana's educational needs and future plans. She told the students about having earlier in the day been part of the ribbon-cutting at the newly-combined Havana Elementary and Havana Middle Schools, now open as Havana Magnet School.

"This is a state-of-the-art school with a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) focus," said Lewis.

Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair of the Gadsden County Commission who represents District 1 and Havana, sat in to hear some of the discussions.

Some of the Havana issues that the students learned about were needs for dental care in the community, as well as a specialist in elder healthcare issues and psychiatric care.

Before the get-together led by longtime resident Nell Cunningham at the library, the medical students had an opportunity to go through several downtown shops. The most common phrase: "We will be back!"



Havana resident Sam Cunningham (l) talks to a group of Florida State University medical students who visited Havana Friday to learn about small town health issues.