

**SVHC General Membership
MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 11, 2023

Attendees:

Jessica Milloy, ForKids

Nathan Ruckman, Virginia Supportive Housing

John Guglielmino, NCSB

Ike Bingham, St. Columba

Fatima Tomlin, Senior Services

Kim Wasserberg, VVFS

Elizabeth Elliot, VBCDC

Cheryl Griffin, Beacon of Hope Western Tidewater

Lizna Odhwani, Social Security Administration

Natalie Jackson, The Planning Council

Amanda Brandenburg, The Planning Council

Welcome- Natalie Jackson called the meeting of the Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition (SVHC) to order at 12:35pm.

Approval of Minutes: John Guglielmino made a motion to approve the minutes with no noted corrections. Elizabeth Elliot seconded the motion. Minutes were approved for the November 09, 2022, General Membership meeting.

Social Security Administration Update

Lizna Odhwani announced that individuals who receive monthly Social Security and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will see an 8.7% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2023. The COLA takes effect with SSI payments paid on December 30, 2022, and Social Security benefits paid in January 2023. Many beneficiaries may want to find out exactly what their new benefit amount will be. The fastest way is through their My Social Security account. Also, premiums for Medicare Part B will decrease in 2023. For beneficiaries who choose to deduct their Medicare premium from their monthly Social Security benefit, they will also see the new amount reflected in their January payment.

The SOAR (Social Security Outreach Access and Recovery) effort in Virginia is an initiative designed to increase access to SSI/SSDI for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. The state team lead for Virginia is Georgi Fisher with Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

2022 Year in Review

Natalie Jackson presented the 2022 Year in Review for the Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition CoC. The CoC saw a total of 738 persons included in the 2022 Point in Time Count. Of that total, it was determined that 658 persons were sheltered, and 80 persons were unsheltered across the CoC during the count. A review of the 2022 Housing Inventory count was provided where the majority of CoC programs reported occupancy of above 90%. The transitional housing utilization rate was 63%, however that was due to a reduction in units available due to COVID19 pandemic. Lastly, an overview of the CoC's System

Performance Measures, funding, and CoC Accomplishments were presented to help the community gauge their progress within the past year.

RoundTable Updates

- The 2023 Point in Time Count will take place on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 (Sheltered Count) through Thursday, January 26, 2023 (Unsheltered Count). The CoC is seeking volunteers to assist with the Unsheltered Count. Volunteers must attend training prior to participation. The next upcoming training date is Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 1PM.
- Freemason Street Baptist will be hosting Winter Shelter (formerly NEST) the week of January 15th and ending the morning of the 22nd for those experiencing homelessness. This involves providing shelter and meals for up to 75 individuals each evening. Freemason Street Baptist is seeking volunteers to assist with this effort.

Next Meeting – March 8th, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. Virtual