



**SVHC General Membership
MEETING MINUTES**

OCTOBER 14, 2020

Attendees:

Amanda Brandenburg, The Planning Council
Shantelle Haggins, The Planning Council
Hemal Patel, Care2Link
Natalie Jackson, The Planning Council
Olivia Smithberger, HER
Mary Riley, City of Chesapeake
Alicia Mathews, St. Columba
Marti Chick-Ebey, Hampton VAMC
Evie Woods, Hampton VAMC
Dejion Stevens, YWCA
Alexsis Vazquez, YWCA

Christina Drake, Chesapeake
Darla Johnson, The Salvation Army
John Guglielmino, NCSB
Ashley Love, The Planning Council
Sharon Blackwell, Chesapeake
Julie Dixon, The Planning Council
Vantoria Clay, Endependence
Juanita Dowdy, ForKids Inc
Kim Lombart, HART

Welcome- Michael Coffman called the meeting of the Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition (SVHC) to order. Amanda Brandenburg leads introductions.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved for the August 12th General Membership meeting.

Program Spotlights

- **YWCA:** Presenter Dejion Stevens with the YWCA explains that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. During her presentation insight is given on domestic violence (DV) and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). DV and IPV are ways of obtaining power and control. Dejion explains the Cycle of Abuse and the long-lasting effects of abuse. DV is often a contributing cause of homelessness. Escaping an abusive environment means leaving the residence where the abuse is occurring, and sometime victims are unable to find shelter through friend and family. Statistics show that approximately 50% of all women who are homeless have reported that DV was the immediate cause of their homelessness. Under HUD's criteria for defining homelessness, Category 4 is defined as fleeing and attempting to flee DV. Dejion explains the importance of using Trauma Informed Care, however she explains that it is extremely important when dealing with victims of DV. Please reach out to the YWCA if you have questions or concerns about serviced DV clients/

Business

- **Covid-19 Funding:** Amanda Brandenburg provides an update on COVID-19 Funding. ForKids has received about 1.9 million from the rent mortgage relief program. They are close to being spent out on the funds and the state is looking to provide additional funding. CDC has a moratorium on evictions that are being used to assist household that are unable to afford rent right now. Households moving through eviction should be connected to Legal Aid and have them presented to the Housing Crisis Hotline. COC has requested additional information to promote shelter program from now until the end of December. CoC was granted an addition 1.2 million for emergency shelter and prevention, the grant cycle is from January 2020 to September 2022. Grant agreement for that funding is operating new Emergency shelter, RRH beds and prevention. In total, 3 million dollars have come into the CoC in the last 3 months. Winter shelter will be in hotel/motel. ForKids, LGBT Life Center and YWCA have ESG funds. DHCD fund will be limited to each community is Chesapeake. Currently, prioritizing people who are high risk of contracting COVID-19.
- John Guglielmino with NCSB informed the committee that the City Council voted and approved for 3 million to put toward a shelter building. Short term shelter will continue via hotel/motel through the winter. Spring and Summer shelter are pending.

Governing Board Report

- Knowledge advisory group will reach out to individuals to express their thoughts on the Planning Council's CoC and HMIS teams. Lead agency will review information at future meeting. Virginia Housing has additional strategic planning money. They will be bringing in a consultant to assist with strategic plan and to provide better, more expedited services. Vice Chair will be elected for Governing Board. Sharon Waters completed two years and has decided to step down.

RoundTable Updates

- The Planning Council introduced Ashley Love (HMIS Administrator) and Natalie Jackson (Portsmouth CoC Coordinator).
- Vantoria Clay with the Endependence Center stated that Suffolk Section 8 will be accepting application on 10/14 and 10/15

Next Meeting – Next Meeting on December 9th, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.

Virtual