



**SVHC General Membership
MEETING MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

Attendees:

Sharon Blackwell, Chesapeake Regional Medical Center
Mary Riley, City of Chesapeake
Vantoria Clay, Independence Center Inc.
Juanita Dowdy, ForKids Inc
Olivia Smithberger, H.E.R. Shelter
Kim Lombart, Norfolk DHS
Megan Franco, Salvation Army
Julie Dixon, The Planning Council
Amanda Brandenburg, The Planning Council
Shantelle Haggins, The Planning Council
Charnitta Waters, The STOP Inc.
Marti Chick-Ebey, VA Medical Center

Barbara Wagner, Virginia Supportive Housing
Kristen Pine, YWCA
Kim Lucas, Chesapeake IBH
Elizabeth Elliott, VBCDC
Yatia Graves, VBCDC
Vivian Washington, City of Chesapeake
Sentoria Harrold, Survivor Ventures
Olivia Reposa, Survivor Ventures
Tiffany McGee, Survivor Ventures
Marsha Browington, Survivor Ventures
Kim Lombart, City of Norfolk
Nanette Awanna, Chesapeake IBH

Welcome- Sharon Waters called the meeting of the Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition (SVHC) to order and leads introductions and introduces presenters.

Approval of Minutes

Program Spotlights

- **Survivor Ventures:** Presenters Sentoria Harold and Tiffany McGee informed the group that they have received a large grant for the S2E (Survivor to Entrepreneurs) program. The organization focuses on providing survivors of Human Trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation with the resources and support that they need to achieve economic empowerment. Survivor Ventures works to assist clients with building relationships with community partners to achieve their goals. By connecting with different businesses, they can build community and feel comfortable and connected in a new area. The Crisis shelter is used for individuals who do not have a safe place to stay. Survivor Ventures rental assistance program provides clients with the tools needed to become self-sufficient.

Individuals that have been trafficked are constantly in imminent danger. They are looking to employ survivors with local nonprofits to ensure that they are making a livable wage. They are paid by Survivor Ventures for the first 9 months of employment. They are able to take male survivors of human trafficking, however they have not had any men to enter the program.

- **Blueprint for Youth:** Presented by Jessica Bunting with The Planning Council. Blueprint for Youth is a program funded by United Way. The intention of the program is to create supports for 16-24 yr. disconnected and homeless youth. The Multi Systems Approach is the method of organizing and delivering services for youth. In order to provide competent serviced to the youth, Trauma Informed Care techniques will be used with youth involved in the program. The program is still in the build-up phase and a steering committee is needed to represent different parts of the COC. The Working Group is needed to align and connect different organizations, to ultimately create programming and supports for the youth in Hampton Roads. They will be connecting the youth to the diverse life supports within their community. Youth Collaboration is pertinent for the group. The desire is to have the youth served and the demographic of the youth served to be accurately and effectively represented. The next Blueprint for Youth Coalition Meeting will be held on February 27, 2020 from 3:00-4:30 at the Town Bank Building in Portsmouth. The Point In Time Count Youth Survey results will be shared via email.

Governing Board Report – VSHP funding information has been released. The peer review process of COC is approaching on Feb 27, we are currently waiting for the board members to approve the dates for approving/denying applications, in order to move forward. Concerns regarding Coordinates entry have been mentioned. The fact that clients must have a case manager to be presented is a barrier. Criminal History and Substance Abuse have been an issue. The lack of affordable housing in the area makes it difficult to house clients.

City of Chesapeake received Youth RRH Project. YWCA expansion of RRH Funds. ForKids RRH Housing Parenting Youth Seven million dollars was made available and Governor Northam is working to increase the funds warded for Housing Trust Fund. Sentara is inputting 50 million dollars' worth of investment into their programs and changing their structure.

RoundTable Updates

- Chesapeake has opened their resource center and they are bringing in 40-50 people a night. Buses are picking up clients and bringing them into the shelter. They have housed 23 individuals, with resources. Now, they are looking to house families who do not have resources. They have had an influx in families and the space is not a conducive space for families. The Resource center will take in families that are outside of Chesapeake, however there is a limitation. Women and children get on the bus first. The Resource Center is located at 1468 South Military Hwy. Suite 100.
- ForKids is hoping that their building will be open by this time next year (February).

Next Meeting – Next Meeting in April 8th, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.
Greenbrier Library, 1214 Volvo Parkways, Chesapeake VA.