

# *Chesapeake Coalition for the Homeless*

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2011

## **Attendees:**

Alisa Winston - Chesapeake, Office of Housing  
Alecia Gregg – Our House Families  
Annie White-Guertin-PARC  
Antoine Hines-Chesp. Libraries  
Debbie Williams- The Planning Council  
Denise Bryant- H.O.P.E. Village  
Karen Jackson – Dept. of Social Services  
Amy Stephan – Chesapeake CSB  
Diane Weymouth- United Way  
Debbie Rippard – NEST  
David Wall - VA Medical Center  
Domingo Gonzalez – Calvary Revival Church  
Gina Kelly - ForKids

Debra Goode – Office of Housing Intern  
Angela Taylor – St. Paul UMC  
Shea Stacy – H.O.P.E. Village  
Sharon Wallace – The Resurrected Church  
Norine Stuck – VEC  
Tracy Clark – Virginia Supportive Housing  
Kathy Hodges – Oak Grove United Methodist  
Christopher Washington – VA Kids Eat Free  
Shanika Hawkins – VA Kids Eat Free  
Lynanne Gornto – SHR Regional Task Force  
Helena Dodson – Chesapeake NAACP  
Ruth Hill – Samaritan House  
Donyata Washington – VA Kids Eat Free

- I. **Welcome-** Amy Stephan began the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.
- II. **Minutes-** Members reviewed the January minutes. Diane Weymouth motioned that the minutes be approved. David Wall seconded the motion and all voted to approve the amended minutes.
- III. **SRO Update-** Alisa Winston gave a handout of frequently asked questions about the SRO project to CCH members. The project goes before the Planning Commission on tonight at 7:00pm. The project will go before City Council next week, February 15, at 6:30pm. Anyone who wishes to speak on behalf of the project should arrive early.

There has been some opposition from the South Norfolk Civic League regarding the location of the project. However, a property was needed that was near a bus route, near amenities, big enough for a 40,000 square foot building for 60 apartments and an owner willing to take a 12-18 month option on the property. The property on military highway was the only one Virginia Supportive Housing looked at that met all the requirements.

Veterans will be given a priority in the Chesapeake SRO.

- IV. **Treasurer's Report -** Debbie Rippard reported that there are no nine members of the CCH who have paid their dues. A report was sent via email with the account balances.
- V. **Virginia Kids Eat Free-** Chris Washington from Kids Eat Free gave a presentation on the program. The goal of Virginia Kids Eat Free is to end childhood hunger. They are working with afterschool, summer programs and childcare centers to provide free meals through a USDA reimbursable grant.
- VI. **H.O.P.E Village** – Shea Stacy gave a presentation about the Salvation Army program. There are three beds for Chesapeake single adult women. Agencies must submit a referral on behalf of a client when there is an opening in the program. Because clients can stay for up to two years, H.O.P.E.

Village does not keep a waiting list. The admission process includes a phone screening, personal intake and a meeting with the program director.

The first Chesapeake client will graduate in July. The program plans to begin screenings for new clients at Project Homeless Connect.

- VII. **PIT Committee Report-** Debbie Williams reported that final numbers are still being compiled from the surveys in HMIS. There will be a formal release once those numbers have been tabulated. However, a preliminary report demonstrates that 52 people were counted on January 26-27 as homeless in Chesapeake. This includes people who are in shelter or who are sleeping in places not meant for human habitation. It does not include people staying in motels or with family or friends.
- VIII. **Project Homeless Connect-** Alisa Winston thanked Debra Goode and Antoine Hines for agreeing to co-chair the committee this year. Debra Goode reported that the committee met this morning before the CCH meeting. Vendor letters and sponsor letters will be sent out next week.

The committee will meet again on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am.

Project Homeless Connect will take place **April 19, 2011** at River Oak Church.

- IX. **Announcements-** Debbie Williams announced that there is a forum regarding the merger into a regional CoC on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Virginia Wesleyan.

Virginia Kids Eat Free will hold a summer blast festival on May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Kids will be fed for free at certain times during the event.

Alecia Gregg announced that Our House Families is completing renovations during February so they will not be accepting any new clients into the Emergency Shelter. She asked people to Save the Date for the Cinco de Mayo fundraiser.

- X. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be March 9, 2011.