

Chesapeake Coalition for the Homeless

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 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
Vikki Henderson- ForKids, Inc

Diane Weymouth- United Way
Debbie Rippard – NEST
David Wall- VA Medical Center
Tim Thompson – Chesapeake Public Schools
Thomas Woodhouse – Philippians Church
Mary Woodhouse – Philippians Church
Debra Goode – Office of Housing Intern

- I. **Welcome-** Diane Weymouth began the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.
- II. **Minutes-** Members reviewed the December minutes, and recommended that several typos be changed. Annie White-Guertin motioned that the amended minutes be approved. Karen Jackson seconded the motion and all voted to approve the amended minutes.
- III. **Homeless Vigil-** Alecia Gregg reported that ten people, five CCH members and five community members, attended the Vigil. She and co-chair, Marianne Chalk, still believe that the Vigil was a success and would like to see more marketing and CCH involvement next year. Cliff Hayes and Channel 48 both attended the event at South Norfolk Baptist Church. The discussion moved to the challenge of tracking homeless individuals who have passed away without a central location to report the information. Alisa Winston agreed that the Office of Housing could keep that information.

Alecia Gregg made a motion that any homeless deaths be reported to the Office of Housing. Annie White-Guertin seconded the motion and all members voted that deaths of homeless persons should be reported to the Office of Housing.

- IV. **Treasurer's Report -** Debbie Rippard reported that there are no changes to the CCH accounts since December. Only seven members have paid their dues. The Office of Housing will go through the attendance list to check on the interest of agencies that have not participated in CCH activities recently.
- V. **SRO Update-** Alisa Winston is preparing to take the location site to the Planning Commission and City Council for zoning approval. There were some last minute complications regarding the required acreage, but she believes those have been resolved and the approval should move forward. Alisa Winston asked CCH members to attend the Planning Commission and City Council meetings to show their support for the SRO.

There is a community meeting scheduled for January 27th and Alisa asked that CCH members attend this meeting as well. She is not expecting any opposition but would like CCH members to attend and show their support for the project.

The grand opening for South Bay is scheduled for February 2nd at 10:30am.

- VI. **PIT Committee Report-** Alisa Winston met with churches that are providing meals to the homeless during the count. Churches across all the boroughs are participating in the Count. The churches will have volunteers filling out the surveys. There will be a flyer available for distribution that will have the information of all the churches providing a meal. There will also be a survey of the hotels/motels even though the numbers are not included in the HUD count.

There will be two vans, ForKids and a Sheriff Van, for the street count. Volunteers will meet at South Norfolk Baptist Church at 7:00pm.

Alisa announced that the Committee is in need of donations of hats and gloves for the homeless participating in the street count. Any donations can be sent to the Office of Housing.

The Committee will meet again next Wednesday, January 19th, the time and location of the meeting will be announced when Alisa secures space.

- VII. **Project Homeless Connect-** Najwa Wynn has taken a job with the City of Virginia Beach, and is unable to serve as chair for the Project Homeless Connect Committee. Alecia Gregg volunteered to be co-chair, but there is still a need for someone to serve with her.

The location needs to be determined as soon as possible. There are three possible locations that CCH members are following up on. Alisa Winston will reserve the Cuffee Center for April 21st as Amy Stephen checks with River Oak Church, and Tammy Loper tries to negotiate the cost with the Chesapeake Conference Center. They are to notify Alisa Winston of progress by January 21st.

A signup sheet for the committee was distributed among CCH members. The Committee will meet before the February 9th CCH meeting.

Alisa can store donated items at the old firehouse.

- VIII. **Announcements-** Debbie Rippard announced that NEST is at her church this week. She is still looking for an overnight volunteer. The week of the PIT Count NEST will be at St. Stephen's church.

Alecia Gregg announced that Our House Families is not accepting referrals for the financial assistance program because there are no funds available. Also, they are going to bed doing some 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.

Alisa Winston announced that applications are being accepted for HPRP funds.

- IX. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be February 9, 2011.