

**Norfolk Homeless Consortium**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2007**

**Attendees:**

Alisa Berry, Office to End Homelessness  
Peggy Crutchfield, NCSB  
Julie Dixon, The Planning Council  
Claudia Gooch, The Planning Council  
Vicki Henderson, ForKids  
Roxie Hoven, YWCA  
Katie Kitchin, Office to End Homelessness  
Ashley Mabrey, St. Columba Ministries  
Trish Manthey, The Dwelling Place  
Brian O'Dell, TACT  
Sylvia Powell, Eastside CDC  
Kathy Taylor-Gaubatz, VSV  
Pat Vedomske, The Planning Council  
Stacie Walls-Beegle, ACCESS  
Linda Williams, Park Place Medical

Martha Chick-Ebey, VA Medical Center  
George Davies, CAMG  
Sari Friedman-Rosner, HART  
Bill Groom, Sacred Heart  
Irma Hinkle, ACCESS  
Linda Jones, Union Mission  
Lindsey Roach, Barrett Haven  
Mary Mann, The Salvation Army  
Thaler McCormick, ForKids  
Angel Pimienta, Habitat for Humanity  
Clara Smith, Gosnold Apartments, VSH  
Cynthia Thompson, Second Chances  
David Wall, VA Medical Center  
Debbie Williams, The Planning Council

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Thaler McCormick called to order the regular meeting of the Norfolk Homeless Consortium at 12:35pm. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and give a brief description of the services their agency provides.

**II. Union Mission Program Update**

Linda Jones from Union Mission showed a three minute video about the new site. While the video is geared towards donors it is still a visual of what the new site will look like once completed.

The target date for services to move to the new site is December 2007 and it is located at the old Virginia Natural Gas building. The move will be phased. While the end goal is to have beds for all of the 250-275 men that stay at the Mission, in December they will begin to sleep approximately 180 men at the new site. Also, they will immediately have beds for 20 single women at the new site and once construction is complete there will be approximately 48 beds. There will also be a day center open as soon as they move to the new site. The service is beginning now even though at the current site the only location for the clients during the day is the cafeteria --- this, so that clients will be used to staying on campus once they move to the new location.

Currently, Union Mission is in the "silent" phase of their campaign and once a move date is finalized they will announce the campaign publicly. They are projecting that it will take approximately 2-3 years to build the new facility.

After the move, the Mission will use the fire station at Monticello & Virginia Beach Blvd as a processing center to help maintain visibility in the downtown area. While most clients will be

moved to the new site quickly, there will be approximately 20 beds at the fire station for clients who show up at night needing emergency shelter.

There will also be the opportunity for community partners to have rotating offices at the new facility. Agencies interested in providing services onsite should contact Linda Jones.

### **III. Eastside Community Development Corporation**

Sylvia Powell gave a presentation on the Healthy Marriage Grant received by the Eastside CDC. The Eastside CDC began in 1997 as a vision of Pastor Geoffrey Gunn from Second Calvary Baptist Church in Norfolk. They began working on small projects that deal with the following issues: job readiness, youth outreach and gang violence. About a year ago they began working on promoting healthy marriages and recently received a Healthy Marriage Grant to promote the benefits of choosing marriage.

The Eastside CDC will be holding a symposium at Virginia Wesleyan on April 21, 2007 - 8:30am-1:00pm to discuss the services that are available in the community and how to address the low percentage of married couples in Hampton Roads.

The goal of the Healthy Marriage Initiative is to promote healthy marriages through education on the benefits of healthy marriage and linking couples with services already in the community that work to build strong marriages.

The suggestion was made that in their materials Eastside CDC make clear that couples can still qualify for services and specifically what services are available for low-income married couples. Habitat for Humanity stated that many of their clients believe that if they get married they won't qualify for any services.

### **IV. Continuum of Care Committee Report**

The SuperNOFA was released last week and published on HUD's website Monday. There has not been a lot of time to read it yet, but the committee will have more updates next month. Right now we know that there is bonus money and the bonus is 15% of the pro-rata and must be spent on permanent housing for chronically homeless. Also, the biggest difference from last year's CoC application appears to be that there is a very tight tie-in to the 10-year plan.

Last year's CoC score was 91.75.

The Letter of Intent for new projects was emailed to the Consortium on Monday. There are several key pieces of information in the Letter such as meeting the attendance requirement as well as the requirement that 80% of the requested funds be spent on housing. The letters are due March 26<sup>th</sup> to Debbie Williams.

The next CoC meeting will be March 28<sup>th</sup> at Salvation Army (5525 Raby Rd). At this meeting the committee will discuss the new project letters that have been received and for the next full NHC meeting the committee will have a recommendation for projects or at least populations to be served based on the letters received.

At this point, nearly every CoC funded agency has been through their Standards of Care review. On Monday, Stacie sat down with the consultant who is completing the reviews, and The Planning Council to discuss the format of the final agency reports so that they will be easy to read and utilize. So far the feedback from both the agencies and the consultant has been very positive.

Julie Dixon stated that she and Debbie Williams were beginning to schedule site visits with all service providers to discuss services and the number of beds at each site in order to begin working on the 2007 CoC statement. Also, at the next CoC committee meeting there would be a timeline set and agreed upon for the 2007 statement.

## **V. HMIS Committee Report**

Irma Hinkle reported that the focus of the committee continues to be the ART reporting tool which was installed yesterday. The four users have received training and each agency will be receiving a bill from ForKids for the software. The committee has also been working on developing a release form that must be in place before the NHC can move to an open HMIS system.

Now that ART has been purchased and installed the Committee will begin to focus on data quality. At each meeting they will begin to review the reports that have been run for that month to look for data items that have been entered incorrectly. Also, Pat has set up new training. These trainings will be held regularly both for beginners and current users so that users can receive refresher training and agencies can train new staff more quickly.

Also, the committee is still working on the PKI security certificate that is required by HUD. They are looking for it to be purchased quickly so that it can be included in the 2007 Continuum of Care application.

## **VI. Central Intake Launch**

Katie Kitchin reported that central intake was launched on January 16<sup>th</sup> and the details of the public launch are still being worked out.

The next volunteer training is April 18<sup>th</sup> at ForKids from 6-8pm. More volunteers are desperately [especially daytime volunteers].

## **VII. Homeless Vigil/Statistics Collected**

Thaler McCormick thanked everyone who participated in the Homeless Vigil. There were approximately 160 people in attendance. Our goal was only 100 -- expectations were more than met. All local TV stations covered the event so the goal of raising awareness was definitely met. Thaler stated that the Homeless Vigil committee also deserved a big round of thanks for their hard work in planning the event.

A big thank you is also owed to all the agencies who reported their data and that included everyone in attendance at the meeting. While there is some duplication the data was still very interesting and the following numbers were released at the event:

1. 256,759 meals were served by NHC member agencies in 2006
2. 129,848 emergency shelter bed-nights in 2006
3. 739 households were placed into permanent housing during 2006.

### **VIII. Summer Point in Time Count**

Claudia Gooch told the NHC that it was suggested from the Regional Taskforce to End Homelessness that a Summer Point in Time Count be conducted. Chesapeake and Virginia Beach are committed to the idea because Virginia Beach's homeless population swells during the summer because individuals and families staying in hotels at the Oceanfront during the winter can no longer afford the rooms.

There was discussion about the NHC participating in the summer count with several different issues and concerns raised. Both ForKids and the YWCA said that the end of January is not their busiest time and that their numbers would be larger during the summer. Also, in January it is so cold, many times because it is so cold family and friends will let a homeless person stay with them rather than be on the streets.

Also, if we change the methodology and include those staying in hotels and with friends and family the numbers will be different and how can we compare this to the numbers collected in January. If the goal is to collect trend data wouldn't it be better to continue with only the January count and use the same methodology.

No consensus was reached regarding whether or not the NHC should participate. Claudia Gooch will take the questions raised by NHC members back to the Regional Taskforce and the NHC will discuss the PIT count at the next meeting.

### **IX. Treasurer's Report**

Debbie Williams reported that the NHC account has a balance of \$988.38. Thaler McCormick said that there are some receipts that still need to be processed from the Homeless Vigil that are not reflected in this balance.

### **X. Announcements**

- There is a public hearing for the Planning Commission. One of the items on the agenda is that \$1.9 million that has not been spent by NHRA is going to be reprogrammed from middle to low-income housing to industrial and commercial.
- Tomorrow at 2pm is also the Planning Commission public hearing on CDBG funding.
- March 1<sup>st</sup>, Mayor Fraim received an award from the USICH. The Associated Press came to Norfolk to do a story on the city's efforts to end homelessness. The story will appear in 500 newspapers early next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

The next meeting is **April 18<sup>th</sup>**.