North Brevard Coalition Of Human Services

"Providing a hand up, not just a handout"

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416 Pine Street, Titusville, FL 32796

January 20, 2016

I. **Meeting called to order:** Trey Gordon, Chair.

II. **Invocation:** provided by Don Lenox.

III. **Introductions/Welcome:** Trey Gordon.

IV. **Minutes:** there were no minutes for December 2015—Project E.A.T. was in full swing.

V. **Finance Report:** $2677.24 with full reconciliation of outstanding expenses for Project E.A.T. still to be made.

VI. **Project E.A.T:** WOW! We served 617 families with 2414 individuals in 2015! We were not prepared, but what an amazing outpouring of food/turkey's and financial aid we received when we discovered that we needed help for 317 families! We are still settling all the finances. Some of the recommendations made by the Executive Committee can be found on the attachment.

VII. **Topic:** Review of status of 4 Task Forces formed during 2015

- **Foster Care**: Chair-Jennifer Taylor: Goal-to raise awareness of the need for Foster Homes in the North Brevard County area. A 1 and 3 minute video speak to the positive and difficult challenges that foster care entails. The statistics of children needing to be placed in foster homes are staggering. For instance there has been a 29% increase in placements and only a 2% increase in the number of foster homes. Children are usually removed from the home after multiple incidences of exposure to substance abuse and violence and where there is no resolution. When children are removed from their home in No. Brevard they are being placed in homes in Central or South Brevard County, away from all familiar family, school and supports. The Task Force is working toward communicating the need to faith communities to increase awareness. We are partnering with Brevard Family Partnership and with Baptist Children's Home.
- **Summer Employment for Youth**: Chair-Nancy Oliver: last summer they were able to find summer jobs through the City of Titusville for 11 youths. In September 2015 they offered a well-attended Job Fair at the Harry T. Moore Center and some individuals were connected with employment.
- **Emergency Shelter**: Chair-Trey Gordon: It has been identified that there is a great need for emergency shelters for the homeless when temperatures fall. The 3 current emergency shelters are in the Central and South Brevard County. Explored the Harry T. Moore facility as a

possible location for cold weather shelter. Trey will also discussion about a shelter at the Gibson Youth Center.

- Family Shelter discussion ensued: Salvation Army and 40 Days of Generosity partnered together and raised $36,000 toward the needed $84,000 to renovate an existing building to be used as a family shelter.
- Family Promise continues to seek faith partners for the No. Brevard County area
- Homelessness- The City of Titusville along with Brevard Homeless Coalition have adopted "Housing First" initiative that triage's the homeless and gets them set up in a housing according to very specific guidelines.

- **Harry T. Moore Service Center**: Chair-Trey or Ibis were able to work with The City of Titusville to fill their offices with a $0 cost for space rental.

VIII. What and where do we go in 2016:

- 3 additional areas of need identified in 2015 include: Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Legal Services. Current plans include having panel discussions on these topics and proceed with committees/task forces, if identified need.

IX. Congratulations offered to the Coalition for their work with Project E.A.T. and with the Task Forces!

X. Agency Announcements: (Please be sure to provide flyers)

- Sally Shinn is seeking prom dresses, tuxes, and accessories for prom season
- Brevard Family Partnership and Baptist Children's Home are looking for faith communities to visit with and seeking foster homes.
- DCF Central Community Outreach will occur at the Harry T. Moore Social Service Center, 725 S. Deleon Avenue, Titusville from 10-2 on Friday January 29, 2016. See attached flyer.

XI. Pass the Hat: $39

XII. Motion to adjourn: moved and seconded.

XIII. Next Meeting:

- **Officers** –1st Friday, February 5th, at Sunrise Bakery, 8:30am.

General- 3rd Wednesday, February 17th, 10am, Harry T. Moore Social Service Center, Titusville.