North Brevard Coalition Of Human Services
"Providing a hand up, not just a handout"
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February 18, 2015 MINUTES

Please bring your own copy to the meeting.

I. **Meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Nancy Oliver.**
II. **Finances were reported by Mary K to be $3176.09**
III. **Introductions were made around the room.**
IV. **Rob Cramp with Housing for Homeless made a presentation.**
   a. **The organization formally known as WIN (when in need), as well as the Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless. Rob stated that they changed the name because they do not feed people, only house them. The organization has been around for 26 years. Their main office is located in Rockledge, and they have an additional office in Titusville off of Rockpit Rd.**
   b. **In Titusville they have 29 and a number of civilians housed in the program there. Titusville has the program located at Victory Village, which is permanent housing for veterans. They have 12 homes located there.**
   c. **Throughout the whole county, HfH has 130 homes. They serve about 300 clients, with serving over 700 homeless clients. There only focus is in housing, and deal with the homeless population. The clients either contact them directly, or through 211 Brevard.**
   d. **They receives HUD/VA funding. If a person is disabled, that client can stay in their permanent program. If a client is not disabled, then the program is no longer than 2 years. The ultimate goal is for the client to regain stability, and move on to permanent housing. It does not have to be 2 years, they can exit the program before then. The client must have enough income to pay utilities.**
   e. **HfH has about a 70% success rate. They have 2 case workers located in the Rockledge office. Each case worker has about 4 cases each. HfH is very well equipped, but not enough time to give intensive case management.**
   f. **The intake person is very knowledgeable in what resources are out there. If the client does not qualify for HfH, she will refer out to the more appropriate organization.**

g. **HUD took the lead on the Coordinated Assessment process. HUD stated that if you want HUD funding you will introduce coordinated assessment. A homeless client will contact any agency, and the VI-SPDAT will be done. They will then be put on a priority list, and get matched with the organization that will best help with their needs. The coordinated assessment team- trained social workers- will then pass the client on to the correct team, or take client on themselves. Making it easy for the client. The client makes only one phone, and then is able to get help.**
h. **Every agency might not buy into the coordinated assessment. The more agencies that use this tool, the more effective the tool will be.**
i. **Is the county required to use?**
    i. **The county is handing over responsibility to Brevard Homeless Coalition. This is a formalized group of non-profits. All funding will come through BHC.**

j. **HfH has to turn hundreds of people away. The biggest challenge is the barriers. HfH has to disqualify a lot of people. Their program is not suited for the chronically homeless. A chronically homeless person is defined as someone who has been homeless for more than a year, or more than 4 times in 3 years.**
k. **VA set a goal to end veteran homeless by 2015. The VOA has received a 3 million dollar grant to help. HUD has now stated that they want to end homeless as well by 2016. In order to do that, we need to do housing first. Michelle will be using this approach to house veterans. They will set aside 10 properties for the housing first program. No matter what issues the client may be having, they will take them and house them.**
l. **Is HUD forcing agencies to do this/**
    i. **YES- but how do we prove that?**
m. **There are insecurities with the coordinated assessment process. This is part of an overall plan.**
    i. **The VI-SPDAT gives a score based upon information given by the client. One that is assessed gets put into a county wide database. There are weekly staffing meetings to match clients with appropriate agencies. Matching SPDAT scores to housing providers.**

Trey then closed the discussion. "Do we care more about our agencies, or the people we are here to help?"

EB

EB spoke about the Harry T. Moore. EB does social services work for the city. She works part-time, but will always get back with anyone who contacts her.

-Used to have agencies that worked out of the offices. The city fixed the roof. They have started marketing by bringing in non-profits. Can rent out an office there. Starting rate is $125 per month, but no more than $300 per month. The rent is paid to the city, and includes all utilities, lease is signed and valid for one year.

-EB is personally working with 6 homeless families. "We need to come together. Maybe getting the referral going again."

- The building currently has a bread program; 2 loaves per person per day. Weekly dinners, every Thursday from 4-5.

-They did get another volunteer who is there on Thursday from 9-1.

AGENCY ANNOUNCMENTS:

A. **Kim- North Brevard Charities has a lot of money to spend.**
B. **Hailey Martinez- Early Head Start; Opened a center in Titusville, they are currently taking children that may qualify. Children must be under 3, and they are located in the college.**
C. **Florida Today is having an introduction for a new hire,**
D. **Salvation Army- The shelter will not be open as of March 1st. They are in transition of fixing the family shelter. They are demolishing the old shelter and doing all new construction. They are also redoing the soup kitchen. They city said they have to demolish all of it. They don't know how long it will be closed. But the soup kitchen will still be functioning during this time.**
E. **Jennifer Taylor- Christian Women Business Organization. First meeting was last Wednesday. They will be meeting the 2nd Thursday of every month at Beef O'Brady's. Contact is CWBOgoup.com. It is a networking group for professional women.**
F. **Thank you for donation on community feeding. They fed 145 people in January. They will be having feedings on February 26th, and March 19th. Looking for younger volunteers, starting time about 3:30 pm.**
G. **Summer Resource Guide- Need to get the ads out there. Filled with information for free activities for families. Collecting data now, but need to sell $4000 worth of ads! $250 is the least expensive ad space available.**

We then spoke about breaking into groups for our subcommittees.

A. **Goal here is to be more action oriented. We have agreed to three different task forces.**

a. **Homeless/Emergency Shelters Group lead by Trey Gordon**
b. **Foster Care Group lead by Jennifer Taylor**
c. **Job Creation/Employment Group lead by Nancy Oliver**

B. **The goal of meeting today will be to determine when you will meet. And what direction do you see for your group.**

We then passed the hat. Mary reported a total of $68.15 for that.
Trey then closed us in prayer.