North Brevard Coalition of Human Services
"Providing a hand up, not just a handout"
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March 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 $2644.09**
III. **Introductions were made around the room.**
IV. **Barbara Hardbarger from Vocational Rehabilitation presented.**
   a. **Barbara spoke about how Vocational Rehabilitation works. Vocational Rehabilitation provides job to people with disabilities. It can either be a physical or mental disability, but doesn't have to be receiving disability benefits to qualify. The first step would be to go to their office on any Monday at 10 am. There is a 30-40 minute orientation.**
   b. **The client would be sent to have any evaluation completed. Vocational Rehabilitation will pay for all exams. There is also time limited help that a client can receive so that they can get to work such as help with medication.**
   c. **If an employer is one that works with people from Vocational Rehabilitation, they can help accommodate the clients. This is known as Supported employment. The client can receive extra help at the job site. This may require employers to use assistive technology and devices. Voc. Rehab can help pay for those devices, or adapt the ones that an employer may have. The client would be referred out to an employer, and the employer then reports back to Voc. Rehab. They offer job coaching and on the job training. They can also pay the salary for the client to work at the business or even reimburse the employer.**
   d. **They have three different categories that a client will be placed.**
      i. **Category 1- Serving the most severe cases**
      ii. **Category 2- Not severe, but moderate. This category has the least amount of money, so there is a waiting list.**
      iii. **Category 3- Serving those with the least amount of disabilities. The clients will be on hold for a while.**

- **This is all communicated with the client and once they are removed from the list, they will be called to come in.**

e. **BAC, Hope for North Brevard, Bridges, and Good Will are all placement service providers to name a few.**
    i. **Hope for North Brevard Thrift Store is actually a training site. Voc. Rehab does offer pre-employment training classes, but some clients learn better hands on.**

f. **If you need to find a Voc. Rehab site, you can research Vocational Rehabilitation in Brevard County. They have three locations. The one in Titusville is located at 815 S. Washington Ave.**

V. **Dawn Hamilton from the Next Gen program at Career Source presented.**

a. **The Next Gen program is funded by the Department of Labor. They currently serve 16-21 year olds. On July 1st, the cliental served will be extended to 24 year olds. They serve out of school young adults. Those young adults that are considered at risk. They teach them soft skills and give them work experience.**

b. **Eligibility is very complex for this program. If you have someone that is out of school, send them over. As long as it can be shown that they have at least one barrier in finding employment, they could be accepted. This program is income based, but don't think that someone may be ineligible.**

c. **This is a free program to participate in. It is not time based, but goal based. When the client completes their goals, they are released from the program.**

d. **Next Gen has many different ways of helping these at risk youths.**
    i. **On the job training- there is more money in this program.**
    ii. **Educational training- there is less money in this program.**
    iii. **They can help identify grants to pay for adult education programs and GED programs. They used to be able to pay for those, they no longer can.**
    iv. **Paid work experience- The employer will have to complete a work site agreement. This can be done with non-profits as well. They would like to be able to get higher level agreements signed. The pay is minimum wage, set up through the staffing agency. This is experience that a client can use on their resume. This program last 2-3 months, and is limited to 30 hours per week. While the client is under their program, it costs an employer nothing. The client also receives weekly performance evaluations.**

v. **On the job training- This program is full time employment at 32 hours per week, but must be in an in demand occupation. The Department of Labor releases a list of in demand jobs to the program. This list is also available on their website. The list changes once a year.**

e. **If someone is interested, they can go on Career Source Website and sign up. They hold information sessions about 2 times per month. If you can gather at least 5 young people, Next Gen can come to your location and present the information session. The client will be walked through the entire process. Once they complete the orientation, their file will be handed over to a specialist.**

f. **They offer rewards to clients. Every level gets a reward such as a Wal-Mart gift card. They also offer support services but are limited on those. The support services are usually bus passes, or gas cards.**

g. **They have an additional program. It's called Juniors to Jobs.**

VI. **Update from Subcommittees was given.**

a. **Employment task force-**
   i. **Robin is speaking with Good Will about grants.**
   ii. **They would like to make a flyer for a 10 week summer work program. They have a meeting scheduled with Parrish.**
   iii. **They are creating an application process.**
   iv. **They will be meeting before the North Brevard Coalition Meeting at 9 am.**

b. **Foster Care task force-**
   i. **This group will be meeting after the North Brevard Coalition Meeting at 11 am.**
   ii. **May might not be their dead line. They will re-evaluate.**
   iii. **Within Jennifer's church there is a family from Colorado that has adopted 9 children. Most of those children they fostered. They will meet with them. There is also a new admin at her church that have two children that they adopted. Jennifer hopes that it's not just her church that is participating in fostering and adopting, but others churches as well.**

c. **Emergency Shelter task force-**
   i. **This group will meet directly after the North Brevard Coalition meeting at 11 am.**

ii. They are looking into ways to be able support Family Promise in North Brevard.
iii. The next meeting will be a viewing of Family Promise.

VII. Agency Announcements-
a. Kim S. - World's Greatest Baby shower will be held on May 9th.
b. Jennifer Taylor- Pastor's prayer group participating in 40 Days of Generosity. This will be held in September. This is a huge shift in the community from give me, to what can I give.
c. Ashleigh from Catholic Charities- Brevard Interfaith Coalition is held every 4th Thursday of every month. The month of March will be held on the 26th and Pregnancy Resources will be there.
d. Crosswinds- Annual Duck Race will be held on April 12th at the Indian River Festival.
e. Joan from Shine- They are having open enrollment. They present on the differences between Medicare and the affordable care act. They want to mainly contact care givers. They have 3 people in the north end that can give presentations. All people that can give presentations have been back ground checked and finger printed.
f. Housing for Homeless- They will have a table at Fiesta Brevard. They are selling raffle tickets.
g. Hannah's Hero's- They held their first event last weekend. It was Out of the darkness walks. They focus on local teens and young people for suicide prevention. This weekend they are having their first teen informational meeting. The young people will sit with adults and have a discussion about suicide prevention.
h. Trey is looking for projects for May 17th. The work project should require 5-15 people.
i. Summer Resource Guide- $950 away from the goal. The guide goes out to at least 57,000 homes. It is a very helpful tool for families.
j. Hope for North Brevard Gala- see Trey for more information.

VIII. Pass the hat collected $47.61

IX. Jennifer Taylor closed us in prayer. Motion to adjourn was granted.