North Brevard Coalition of Human Services
"Providing a hand up, not just a handout"
Website: www.nbbd.com/npr/nbchs
Email: thenbcoalition94@gmail.com

May 20, 2015 MINUTES

Please bring your own copy to the meeting.

I. **Meeting was called to order and opened with prayer.**
II. **Finances were reported to be $2741.09**
III. **Introductions were made around the room.**
IV. **Nancy Oliver spoke about Jail outreach ministry. She is tied in through the local jail for Bible studies. She is also part of the re-entry task force.**
V. **Paul then spoke about Bridges of America. He is also part of the re-entry task force. He has worked for the Department of Corrections for 26 years.**
   a. **Bridges of America started in a three bedroom home is Sanford. It has been going strong for 35 years. Florida is currently the only state that is doing work release from prison.**
   b. **They are working on a re-entry portal for Brevard County. They want it to be located at the old prison right across the street from the county jail. The county jail is located in Sharpes off of Camp Rd. When an inmate is released they have to walk down Camp Rd to US 1 to the closest bus stop. This walk is known as the walk of shame. The portal would be almost a one stop "shop" for those being released. They could assist in getting driver licenses, social security cards, birth certificates, clothing ect. They would like a substance abuse counselor on site as well.**
   c. **Bridges of America currently work with 39 employers to assist those who need jobs while in the program. The inmates are drug tested.**
   d. **The sheriff is on board with the re-entry portal. They would like to see social services there and volunteers will be needed as well. They would like for an assessment to be completed before inmate is released so that they have a plan upon exit.**
   e. **Bridges of America has an 80% success rate. Paul stated that there will be success but to keep in mind that there will be failures also. Bridges of America is a 501©3. They charge the inmates for 55% of what they make for room and board. 10% go to court cost**

and if need be 10% will go to child support. There is no follow up once an inmate is released from them. But while in the program they do have family days as well as back to school back packs and Christmas for kids of inmates.

f. First Wednesday of every month the re-entry task force meets at Suntree towers at 2 pm. Any one is welcome to attend.

g. This is worth the investment because re-entry will to jail will decrease.

VI. Agency Announcements

a. Salvation Army spoke about the opening of their new soup kitchen. They plan to build a family shelter. This is only a vision at this point. They need to find the money to make it happen. They would be able to take about 3 or 4 families once this happens. It will be in the house where the social services were.

b. February 2016 there will be a conference at the school board. They will be covering Edline.

c. Interagency Council IAC is looking for employers to do on the job training. They will go with them and train them.

VII. Task Forces

a. There is no meeting for Employment task force.

VIII. Reverend Dames spoke about growing violence in Titusville. He played a voice mail from a mother seeking help finding her child. He stated that there have been 8 life flights since November 2014. He talked about the funeral of a 17 year old that was killed recently. He spoke on the spike of juvenile crime especially over the summer. They are offering summer jobs for 14-18 years and at the end of the program they will get a stipend.

IX. Summer camp flyers are out and you can pick them up at Gibson Youth Center. It's for children from 1st to 6th grade.

X. 40 days of Generosity. They have a website lovingnorthbrevard.org

a. 40 Days to serve your community. The website is a portal that can be used year round. Agencies can post their projects and organizations can participate. They are working towards a splash park for people. N

b. There are three days in June that they will be meeting and would like everyone to attend that can. Please RSVP at the website listed above.

XI. Pass the hat; $64.00 was collected.

XII. We closed in prayer.