

Virginia Beach Acts on Poverty  
Saturday, September 19, 2009  
Advance Technology Center  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

## NOTES

The PowerPoint presentation was shared and can be found on <http://www.VBGov.com/HS>.

### **What does poverty in VB mean to you?**

- Lack of health care for the aging
- Lack of public transportation
- Access to education due to no funding
- Access affordable acceptable housing
- Generational poverty
- Lack of resources to meet basic needs
- Lack of dental care
- Affordable day care
- Latchkey or unsupervised children – increased crime
- No structured time for older kids who age out of programs
- Living wages too low
- Financial literacy
- Domestic violence increase
- Depression and the inability to receive MH services (w/o Medicaid)
- Children raising children – lack of parenting/life skills
- Lack of future vision – hopelessness to move up in skills, education & wages
- Single parents working two jobs to meet ends meet – leaving kids unsupervised
- Lack of support systems – internal/external
- Gang involvement
- New families asking for services that have never had to ask before and are not eligible due to high income / those not eligible have a low frustration tolerance
- Evictions
- Lack of nutrition in the home – before going to school – not having the proper skills to purchase proper nutrition
- Poor health conditions not being treated
- Mindset – primitive vs. inclusive/supportive – playing the blaming game

### **What are the barriers to offering services?**

- Lack of prevention training
- Too much red tape – bureaucracy
- No control over non-discretionary costs (food, clothing, housing, etc.)
- Access to services
- The eligibility income levels need to change
- Generational barriers – this is the way my parents did it

- Trying to understand each generations B, X, Y, & techies
- Generational standards in bureaucracy
- Can lead a horse to water, but cannot make them drink
- Let's look at realistic numbers instead of hypothetical slide numbers
- Look at tier services – referrals to IAB when DHS cannot provide the services
- PRIDE
- Living wage – not defensible
- Perception on eligibility levels
- Change perception on “looks” – person could have just lost job, borrowed clothes, bartered, etc.
- Credit is a barrier – bad or the lack thereof
- For Church, a group that helped those living in hotels - Died on the vine
- Stop gap – look for other resources before they become evicted
- IAB – putting together a list of assistance provided by faith-based organizations
- Need to be able to work with a functioning person – have some sense of understanding of what we are working with (person could be borrowing clothing, shoes, cars, etc.-try not to pre-judge)

#### Poverty Simulation – Virginia Cooperative Extension

- See PowerPoint from Karen Munden
- Designed to help participants understand poverty by walking in their shoes
- Dates are pre-set to choose from – call VCE
- Have SSAB, CSB, FYO and others attend a simulation together

#### Recommendations

- Realistic living wages (Bill Doré-H&NP, Shaun Scott-STOP Org, Chris Bishop-DHS)
  - Bring in some experts
  - Bankers (private partners)
  - Utilities (private partners)
  - Poverty experts
- The Beach Community Partnerships – faith based organizations meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Catholic Charities. (Ruthie Hill)