

**IAB MEETING MINUTES**  
**Date: 9/19/19**  
**Location: Wycliffe Presbyterian Church**  
**10:00 AM -12:00 noon**

**Present:** Teresa Alfes, Katherine Ashford, Kay Bess, Tandra Bowden, Ruth Brogan, Aline Carr, Jessica Estey, Barbara Ford, Nathaniel Ford, Jessica Gipson, Ryan Jones, Susan Lambert, Paula Levy, Ryan Lynch, Jackie Malbon, Renee McCarthy, Diane Mclean, Jennifer McGowan, Patrick McKenna, Suzanne Phelps, Michael Shackelford, Teresa Stanley, Chuck Steenburgh, Georgia Steffen, Carmen Thorpe, Ninah Pearson, Amber Rach, Donice Schumm, Dustin Schwandt, Michelle Streuli, Alice Testerman, , Jennifer Vaughan, Ben Watterton, John Werner, Patty Werner, Larry Williams, Sam Williams, Dr. Theron Williams, Joanie Wood, Anita Wyche

In the absence of Debra Grant, Teresa Stanley called the meeting to order and Pastor Garrett Bugg led in prayer. Both he and Teresa thanked the Wycliffe members for their hospitality and generous provision of refreshments.

**Advocacy Report, - Teresa Stanley:**

Teresa opened with a reminder of the work being done by the Capacity and Leadership Team to bring more structure to the IAB. The lead person for each of the ten initiatives serves on the Leadership and Capacity Building Committee. The strength of the IAB rests on partnerships and networking - doing together what we cannot do alone. Each month we hope to have a presentation from a partnership that supports our work.

The first-year anniversary of the HRC was acknowledged with recognition that the faith community worked for more than 30 years to address homelessness. During the first year of HRC's operation, 501 housing placements were made.

The group was reminded that Samaritan House had requested breakfast items and blankets. Kay Bess will deliver. Kay continues to manage the closet at Memorial United Methodist Church, an initiative of IAB in partnership with BEACH.

The focus now has shifted to affordable housing with a lot of work being done in Norfolk's St Paul's quadrant. Teresa stressed the importance of working as a region and staying engaged, citing Bank On as an example of how localities can work together.

Social Justice University will be meeting on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalist Church on Military Highway. 6 groups will be formed, and legislative issues will be prioritized. Renee McCarthy encouraged participation as a chance to speak with your legislators.

Discussion then focused on the upcoming forum. This is IAB's second forum - the first one focused on housing and the opening of the HRC. This year, on October 17<sup>th</sup>, at First Lynnhaven Baptist Church, Charity Tracker will be the focus. IAB members were encouraged to come and bring a person from a nonparticipating congregation. The goal is to highlight the benefits and increase membership: \$75.00 per year provides access to bulletin board and lets you know client has been vetted. Georgia Steffen and her team of volunteers worked from a list of over

300 churches and asked for the group's help in reaching out to others. The forum is open to all congregations. James Carriker suggested routing the invitations through the governing board of various congregations.

### **Presentation: United Way – Judi Morgan**

Each year the City of Virginia Beach sponsors a corporate campaign and city employees contribute approximately \$250,000. This money stays in the community. VBCPS runs a separate campaign. Ms. Morgan reiterated the need for partnerships and collaboration. The following key program areas were highlighted:

- [United for Children](#)
  - Pre-K – High School
  - Services are wrapped around at-risk children in Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Suffolk and are now meeting with Chesapeake.
    - SOL scores are improving
    - Bringing students up to grade level
    - Not experiencing summer learning loss
    - Trauma informed care for children in these areas
    - In the St Paul's quadrant, United for Children is coming around the entire family as they transition out – support services will go with them.
- [Mission United](#)
  - Provides support to military members and family, whether currently active or retired
  - People often don't know how to get help
  - HIPPA compliant data base
  - Connects them to resources, United Way goes with them
- [United for ALICE](#) – Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed
  - Focused on self- sufficiency, not a band aid
- Urgent and Essential funds (Samaritan house, Children's Hospital, etc.)

### **Initiative Updates: (listed alphabetically , not necessarily in order of report)**

**Faith in Action Office (Charity Tracker)** – Susan Anders reported there are now 31 active users. \$430,000 worth of assistance has been provided serving 41,000 people. They are in process of upgrading and adding resources. Jennifer Vaughan has added a list of food pantries.

**Fathers in Training:** Ben Watterton reported that FIT has been up and running since July with approximately 25 participants meeting weekly. He has re-established relationship with VA Child Support Enforcement and VB Community Corrections Re-entry Pod and anticipates increasing to around 40. He is currently looking for a host site for December graduation and anticipates 80 – 100 people. This event is a time when the families come to celebrate with the graduating fathers. The host does not necessarily have to provide food Date will be either 12/9 or 12/16

It was noted that Enoch Baptist Church is starting to work with the re-entry population.

**Financial Empowerment/Matched Savings** – Anita Wyche reported there are two workshops coming up: Retirement Security and Home Buying Seminar on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Teresa reviewed the Matched Savings Program and the Financial Empowerment Team which meets monthly. A

representative of the team goes to each new Bank On class to talk about Matched Savings. So far, the team has been able to honor all requests from qualifying participants. Congregations can help by donating to this fund and by providing additional representation on the team.

**Foster Care** - Ryan Jones announced there will be an information session for prospective foster parents on 10/23 and asked the group to help spread the word. Currently have 200 children in foster care with only 60 approved homes.

**Furniture Ministry: No Report**

**Leadership and Capacity Building – Georgia Steffen/Dustin Schwandt –**

**Move – in Kits** – Kay Bess identified an emergency need for 50 lightweight blankets. She is also collecting microwavable breakfast items for Samaritan house.

**Open Table** – Teresa Alfes and Teresa Stanley reported that 40 plus volunteers have been trained. Currently awaiting a referral. The goal is to have four tables launched this fall.

**Mental Health Awareness**

The Blessing Box (instituted by the Leadership and Capacity Initiative) was passed. Monies will be used to offset costs of cards, service recognition gifts, etc.

**Open Agenda/Announcements:**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alice Testerman, Volunteer Services and Community Programs Coordinator, Human Services Department (757-385-3538) or [atesterm@vbgov.com](mailto:atesterm@vbgov.com)

**Next Meeting**

ATTACHMENTS