

IAB MEETING MINUTES

Date: 12/5/2019

Location: St Gregory the Great Catholic Church
10:00 AM -12:00 noon

Present: Admon Alexander, Susan Anders, Dohan Bell, Donna Brehm, Susan Bucher, Aline Carr, Tommie Cubine, Barbara Ellis, Jessica Estey, Barbara Ford, Michelle Foster, Eddie Howard, Eric Johnston, Ryan Jones, Jackie Malbon, Andrea Maurice, Sandy May, Mary McConathy, Jennifer McGowan, Suzanne Phelps, Joyce Re-David, Dustin Schwandt, Michael Shackelford, Teresa Stanley, Georgia Steffen, Alice Testerman, Jennifer Vaughan, Ken Veasey, Kristen Ward, Ben Watterton, Nancy Will, Joanie Wood, Anita Wyche, Yvette Yates

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.

Teresa Stanley opened the meeting, thanked Sue Bucher for hosting and led round robin introductions. She acknowledged the efforts this year of IAB to build community and capacity and recognized the Faith in Action Office and Leadership Development and Capacity Building Committee for the work they did in hosting a very successful Charity Tracker Forum in October.

Advocacy Report, - Teresa Stanley:

- **Legislative Agenda:** Twenty five like- minded groups, IAB is one of them, have reached consensus on 6 issues for the South Hampton Roads community:
 - Restorative Justice: School to Prison Pipeline
 - Nondiscrimination and ERA Ratification
 - Public Transit Funding for HRT
 - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative/Virginia Coastal Protection Act
 - Redistricting and Voter Access
 - Health: Step-VAInterested individuals will travel by bus to Richmond on 1/22/20 for Day of All People. Early Bird rate is \$30.00 - scholarships available. Sign- up sheet passed for those interested in receiving a link for registration.
- **Interspiritual Empowerment Calendar** – Highlighted the Leadership Development and Capacity Building Meeting and invited participation.

Presentation: Susan Anders and Georgia Steffen gave an abbreviated version of the Charity Tracker presentation that was given at the October forum. Dustin Schwandt, Nancy Will and Jennifer Vaughan identified benefits of participating in Charity Tracker including ability to: link individual to services and good stewardship of money. The lists of Food Pantries is updated and goes out monthly even if there are no changes, changes are highlighted in the newsletter.

The cost is \$75.00 yr. and you can have as many agents as you like. Through the bulletin feature, notifications come to your in box. You do not have to be logged on. Through Potters House, able to help individuals get IDs. Sue Bucher reported that 197 people got their documentation last year.

Training will be provided. Next date is 12/6 at St Gregory's.

Advocacy Report cont. Teresa added that 64 users are needed to break even and challenges all members to bring one more member to Charity Tracker. There are 31 active participants now. The Faith in Action Office led that first advocacy initiative.

The second initiative IAB supported was **JCOC**. IAB provided a letter of support. Kristen Ward reviewed the plans to rebuild JCOC. Support is now needed at the Planning Commission Hearing on 12/11 at noon.

VBSTRONG Center – Teresa introduced Yvette Yates, the wellness coordinator at the VBStrong Center. Located at Landstown Commons. The center is funded for 3 years through a federal grant as a place of hope, healing and capacity building. Different programs will be offered at no cost and those directly impacted by 5/31st will receive assistance navigating resources. Evening of Family Connectedness will be held on 12/17 at 6 pm – family, fun, games.

Debra Grant reported that she receives calls from people who want to come and share information. Brian Hawkins wants to return on a regular basis. He is currently focused on a group home for men with intellectual disabilities and a supervised visitation program connected to children in foster care Together Lives Change.

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

Faith in Action Office (Charity Tracker) – included in presentation

Fathers in Training: Ben Watterton reported that the next FIT graduation is on 12/9/19 and extended a big thank you to Jackie Malbon and First Lynnhaven Baptist Church for hosting the ceremony. Ben introduced Eddie Howard from M.E.N.T.-Men Empowering Neighbors Together. This is a program designed for men coming out of Fathers in Training to become part of a support system that gives back to community.

Financial Empowerment/Matched Savings – Anita Wyche reminded the group of the 10 month financial literacy program available at no cost to participants. Classes start in January, April, and September. There is a graduation ceremony tonight with approximately 20 graduates participating. All are invited to attend. Flyers for the January classes were made available. The Matched Savings Program provides a match of \$150.00 to establish emergency savings for qualifying graduates who meet all the requirements. Teresa Stanley stressed the need for donations and encouraged congregations to participate.

Food Security – Michelle Foster reported that current focus has been on helping families secure food for the holidays. A fire at Twin Canal displaced 6 families and they helped them get food and clothing. Karen Bailey is still doing wonderful things with her program and has recently expanded into restaurant business of some sort. Nancy Will added that Karen does a wonderful presentation if any congregations are interested.

Foster Care - Ryan Jones reported that a foster parent training class is in session now. Still trying to increase awareness and continuing to look for venues to educate the public about the need for foster homes. The full schedule of information sessions is posted on vbgov/dhs.

Furniture Ministry: No Report

Leadership and Capacity Building – Georgia Steffen/Dustin Schwandt – Included in the Presentation and Advocacy report.

Move – in Kits – In Kay's absence, Susan Anders reported that the Closet is pretty well stocked with supplies but can always use brooms and mops.

Open Table – Teresa Stanley reported that 4 tables have been formed and two have begun receiving referrals. It is still in process but going well.

Mental Health Awareness - Tommie Cubine announced the Community conversation series, Human Rights and Mental Health to be held on Human Rights Day, Dec 10th at MOCA. Focus will be on protecting the rights of individuals with mental health conditions.

Funding for mental health is being addressed as part of legislative agenda: full funding for STEP-VA. (See handout). On Sunday at 5:30 p.m. a documentary will air on Channel 13, Finding Happiness and Mental Health Challenges.

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:

Joanie Wood/NAMI- Family to Family class meets 1/13/2020
Tonight at 5:30 World Chocolates at Town Center will highlight MH.

Eddie Howard – Minute Men will meet on 12/12 from 6-9 pm – FIT alumni focused on empowering men.

Michael Eggleston: Wheels 2 Work, a transportation assistance program for local veterans in need of transportation. 11/15/19-12/31/19
Eggleston Angel Tree 11/15/19-12/13/19

Adam Alexander, Family Community Engagement VBCPS- focused on preparing students for success, would like to do a presentation

Suzanne Phelps – Accepting proposals for programs that will work with youth after school. Summer Youth Employment -ages 16-21, city positions and private companies pay salary. Will begin accepting applications 1/13. Last year 120 youth were employed.

Jackie Malbon thanked Teresa and IAB for supporting Wallace Green's effort to increase awareness of kidney disease among African American males.

Ryan Jones thanked Ken Veasey and Lynnhaven Colony for hosting quarterly meetings of foster parents.

Alice Testerman, on behalf of Michelle Streuli, thanked all those who participated as Holiday Project sponsors. Approximately 1000 families received food baskets at Thanksgiving. Anyone interested in sponsoring or assisting with gifts for Christmas please contact Michelle at 385-3452.

Georgia Steffen announced that bills from the October forum of \$172.00 were paid through the Blessing Box monies leaving a balance of \$74.00. The three poinsettias given out today were donated by Sue Bucher.

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

Next Meeting:

January 16,201

Lynnhaven Colony Congregational Church

2217 West Great Neck Rd

Virginia Beach, VA 23451