

10-YEAR PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS
Blue Ribbon Task Force Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2008 ▪ 8:30 a.m. ▪ Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church

The Reverend Albert Shuler welcomed BRTF members and reviewed the agenda and meeting outcomes.

Meeting minutes from the January 10 BRTF meeting were approved.

Updates

Ruth Peebles reviewed the focus group summary identifying recurring themes and stated that the *detailed* summaries for the three focus groups held will be posted on 10-Year Plan website.

Focus groups with veterans and members of the Latino/Hispanic community will be held by mid-March.

The public forums will be held on April 1, 8, 22 and 29 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The forum topics are as follows: Housing, Job Training and Employment, Mental and Physical Health, Veterans, Immigrants, Refugees and Youth (special populations).

It was suggested that transportation, money management, the image of homelessness and issues around incarceration and discharge planning be discussed during public forums.

Public forums will feature local speakers and experts from North Carolina communities that are in the implementation phase of the 10-Year Plan.

Public forum dates, locations and speakers will be finalized by March 7.

The BRTF will be asked to help publicize public forums.

Subcommittee Reports & Issues to Be Addressed

The Prevention and Crisis Stabilization Subcommittee and Service and Support Subcommittee have become one subcommittee due to overlap in focus areas. Omar Skinner and Cecil Hardy have agreed to co-chair the subcommittee.

Public Information and Awareness – PI & A (Ruth Peebles)

The PI and A subcommittee created a public forum publicity plan. The plan includes finalizing the publicity distribution list, submitting public forum announcements to community calendars, sending a save-the-date e-blast to various distribution lists as well as reminders. Press releases and media advisories will also be distributed.

The 10-Year Plan website will be enhanced with video clips and quotes. Public access channels will feature footage from the BRTF Kick-off Event. A DVD will be available for distribution among various organizations and used to enhance presentations made by MAT and community representatives.

Prevention and Crisis Stabilization/Services and Support *(Cecil Hardy)*

The subcommittee has discussed issues related to the following: handicap access, transportation vouchers, cab issues with the police department, law enforcement, and homeless military. The need for agencies to have a network and an information source was discussed.

Permanent Housing *(Michael Best)*

The subcommittee has reviewed the best practices and resources and is now formulating goals.

Transition to Independence *(Sandy Lee)*

The subcommittee focused its discussion on the meaning of homelessness – what it is and what it means to people. The need for life skills training and the image that goes along with homelessness (victim mentality) was discussed. The committee is compiling a resource list to determine gaps. Strategies to get the business community to the table and how to let the community know about available resources are topics that will be addressed.

Guest Speaker – Martha Are

Bob Thompson introduced the guest speaker, Martha Are, Homeless Policy Specialist, NCDHHS – Office of Housing and Homelessness

Martha did an outstanding job providing information about the current delivery system of services, research related to chronic homelessness and solutions including the following best practices:

- SOAR
- Family Reunification
- Project Homelessness Connect
- Housing Support Teams
- Transition in Place
- Housing First/Housing Plus
- SIPS
- Street to Home Initiative
- TBI Identification

Ms. Are also presented information regarding the cost of chronic homelessness and programs that have saved dollars or have redirected dollars effectively. Ms. Are recommended that public education must be targeted to particular audiences.

BRTF members were interested in knowing the funding structure for strategies presented. The goal of the 10-Year Plan is to invest new funds in the new structure. Investing in the alternative structure will result in successful implementation of the 10-Year Plan.

Martha Are is available as a resource to subcommittees and can be reached at 919-733-4534 or martha.are@ncmail.net.

Next Steps for Subcommittees

Subcommittees have been asked to continue to review best practice and resources and to begin formulating goals and outcomes.

Subcommittees will present goals and outcomes at the March 20 BRTF meeting.

Other Business

Serial Inebriate Program Training (SIP) will be held on Tuesday, March 11 at the RDU Center Meeting Room in Raleigh. The Eastern North Carolina Poverty Committee will pay for the registration fee for BRTF attendees.

Action Steps:

1. All BRTF members have been asked to email potential names and contact information to Ruth Peebles at rpeebles@theinsgroup.com by 5 p.m. on Wednesday February 27.
2. Subcommittee co-chairs will present the goals and outcomes at the March 20th BRTF meeting.

**Next BRTF meeting: Thursday, March 20, 2008 at Jarvis Memorial Methodist Church
from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

BRTF Meeting Participants
 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Pitt County
 February 21, 2008
 Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church

Name	Organization/Group
Lee Maril	ECU
Scott Elliott	Pitt County Manager
James Rhodes	Pitt County Planning - MAT
Paulette White	Pitt County Planning - MAT
Stephen Smith	Pitt County Planning - MAT
Sharon McLaughlin	Greenville Community Shelter
Bob Thompson	Co-Chair
Cassandra L. Campbell	Pitt County Schools
Albert Schuler	Co-Chair
Gerald Whitney	Grimesland
Amy Modlin	ECBH
Velma Harper	Town of Winterville
Pam Kesegi	Greenville Community Shelter
Van Madray	Pitt Community College
Theresa Edmondson	WBJ- ADATC
Jerry Cox	Ayden Housing Authority
Frank Dawkins	Care Net Counseling East
Karen Gilkey	Greenville City Community Development - MAT
Sandy Lee	Legal Aid of NC
Gary Leonhardt	WBJ- ADATC
Barbara O Davis	Operation Sunshine, Inc
Robert Cobb	Community Christian
Dean Corbett	Farmville Housing Authority
Cheryl Walters	United Way
Ann Bonner Stewart	St Paul's Episcopal Church
Lessie Bass	ECU (Intergeneration Center)
Ernis Lee	PCC
Lynne James	Greenville Community Shelter - MAT
Kenny Flowers	ECU -Development
James Corbett	Greenville Community Christian Church
Capt Cecily Hardy	Greenville Police Dept (Retired)
Laurie Nelson	PCMH
Marilyn Williams	United Way of Pitt County - MAT
Martha Are	NC Homeless Policy Specialist - Guest Speaker
Ruth Peebles	Project Manager – 10-Year Plan