

2019



**Anti-Poverty Committee Agenda  
Thursday – May 16, 2019  
YMCA**

**Introductions  
Ice-Breaker  
A Review of the Last Meeting.**

**Old Business:**

**Poverty Simulation**

**Date .....August 22, 2019**

**Place.....Train Station**

**Time.....6:00 p m**

**New Business:**

**Poverty Simulation**

**Agree on a flyer – examples to choose from**

**Advertising:**

**When to start, who will take the lead on this? We must get this message out to the radio and all of the churches. We need an advertising committee for this.**

**Select New Officers:**

**President – Presides over all meetings. Speaks on behalf of the group.**

**Vice President – Fills in for the President when needed.**

**Secretary – Keeps accurate minutes and distributes to all members.**

**Brainstorming Time : Each Member may say something as it relates to the commission.**

**Adjournment**

**Next Meeting  
June 13, 2019  
Petersburg Transit Center  
6:00 – 8:00**



## Notes from the Commission meeting on May 16, 2019:

- Officers:
  - M. Shannon nominated M. Edwards for Chair, for continuity, it was seconded by Linwood Christian.
  - Florence Rhue (?) nominated R. Roy for Vice chair and it was seconded by D. Todd
  - D. Todd nominated Linwood Christian for Secretary and it was seconded by G. Frank.
- An Advertising Committee was established:
  - Pastor M. Shannon
  - Linwood Christian
  - Gloria Frank
  - They will establish ways to advertise for the upcoming Poverty Simulation and report back to us on 6/13/19
- Round Robin Discussion:
  - Pastor Shannon –
    - Look at each of our categories and sub divide ourselves like we previously did.
    - Look at how to utilize structured plan
- Michael Edwards;
  - We need more exposure, people don't know us.
  - Need to be on city website – put power points on web sites (Request went in today – 6/6/19)
  - Create Awareness
- D. Todd:
  - Visibility and Credibility
  - Bringing all groups together
  - Synchronization, coordination, collaboration, visibility and creditability.



➤ R. Roy:

- Back up some, review resolution and power points.
- New members need to know and see what we can do.
- Major strategy – Collaboration

➤ L. Christian:

- Agree with Todd and Roy
- Concerned about bullying, health issues , homeless

➤ Ian Davis:

- – Have a mission statement. Establish a goal, have different ways – no one size fits all.

➤ C. Riggins:

- Agree with Dr. Roy- and Todd, Look back.
- Look at the areas we had in the beginning

➤ F. Rhue:

- Time for an Action Plan that will impact Petersburg. Time to present council with an action plan
- Hold us accountable, give ourselves a time frame

➤ D. Buford:

- Glad to be here.



Tasks agreed upon:

➤ Advertising committee will meet:

- Committee will develop and have ready to present to group a flyer and advertising plan

➤ Treska:

- Contact person from 4H to come to meeting. (**Did so, e-mail enclosed**) Her name is Ms. Kirby.
- Put information on web site (**Requested**)
- Secure the power points(**done**) and send to M. Edwards (**done**) who will make copies for the new people



## PETERSBURG ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

### MEETING INFORMATION

**Date:** [06/13/2019]

**Time:** 06:00 PM

**Place:** Petersburg Station  
100 W Washington Street

#### Commissioners:

**Michael Edwards- Chairman**  
**Rosezelia Roy- Vice-Chairwoman**  
**Linwood Christian-Secretary**  
**Cheryl Riggins- Commissioner**  
**Florence Rhue- Commissioner**  
**Daniel Todd- Commissioner**  
**Michael Shannon-Commissioner**  
**Gloria Frank- Commissioner**  
**Deborah Buford- Commissioner**  
**Janell Sinclair- Commissioner**  
**David Tolbert- Commissioner**

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. *Prayer*
2. *Determination of the presence of a Quorum*
3. *Approval of the May 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes*

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Presentation/Overview of the Anti-Poverty Simulation**  
Mrs. Katrina Kirby, M. Ed  
City of Petersburg  
Unit Extension Office
2. **Discussion on previous years work (see previous presentations that were presented to city council)**

### BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONERS

1. **Advertising Committee Report**

### FOLLOW-UP ON PREVIOUS REQUEST / UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. **Place the Anti-Poverty Commission on the city website for public exposure.**

The Anti-Poverty Commission is now located on the city website under boards and commissions. The two previous presentations to city council are also available to the public.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Our next three (3) meetings will be held at the Petersburg Public Library  
**Meeting Time: 6:00 PM – 7:45 PM**

**July 11, 2019**  
**August 8, 2019**  
**August 15, 2019**



## Petersburg

### Anti-Poverty Commission Minutes

June 13, 2019

#### In Attendance:

M. Edwards (Chair)	Dr. R. Roy, (Vice Chair)	Pastor __Tolbert
E. Batiste	B. Hoosier	B. Buford
Council Person T. Wilson-Smith (Advisor)		

Guest: Katrina Kirby, M.Ed., Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences  
Virginia Cooperative Extension – City of Petersburg

The meeting was opened at 6:00 pm by the chair. Prayer was rendered by Pastor Tolbert. The agenda and the minutes were accepted with a motion by Dr. Roy and seconded by Council Person Treska Wilson-Smith.

The group made introductions for the sake of our guest and new members.

Ms. Katrina Kirby, explained to us the role of each of us in the upcoming Poverty Simulation. She explained that we needed to get volunteers to assist in this endeavor and walked the group through a time line of when to have things (tasks) completed. Ms. Kirby stated that the proposed Simulation takes from 3 – 4 hours. We need a total of 40 people minimum, to include 20 volunteers, who will be the people receiving the benefits. The program is as follows:

- We will need someone to do a welcome. Either the mayor or a person from the Anti-Poverty Commission.
- Someone to speak on the state of poverty in the city, preferably someone from Social Services or whomever can tell the statistics in Petersburg.
- We need a community viability person
- Then the Simulation
- Conversation after the simulation
- Closing

The time line is to:

- Establish a facilitator in July
- Determine our target audience
- Advertise, use the Progress-Index, radio, television, word of mouth. NOTE: The extension agency has a flyer already which they will send to me and we can feel free to use and change what we would like.
- Secure local agencies to assist.
- Recruit refreshments for volunteers.

On the day of:

2:00 Set Up

4:30 – 5:00 – Volunteer Orientation

6:00 pm- Simulation begins

There will be evaluations after the simulation.

After Ms. Kirby's presentation, we discussed among ourselves:

- ❖ Status as to where we are with the division of our groups.
- ❖ Final report to council
- ❖ Inviting Dr. Hart and Public Safety to speak.

We agreed on the following format for the remainder of the year:

- We will meet on July, 11, Aug. 8 and Aug. 15 to concentrate and prepare for the Poverty Simulation. Each of us are to name 3 – 5 volunteers to assist in this effort.
- We will meet to hear from Public Safety for one meeting and from Dr. Hart at another meeting after the simulation project.
- We will repeat the simulation around the spring of the year.
- We will compile a report for council for June 2020.

Mr. Edwards read the report from Pastor Shannon in reference to advertising.

The report indicated that some of the committee needed more time to review the power-point documents.

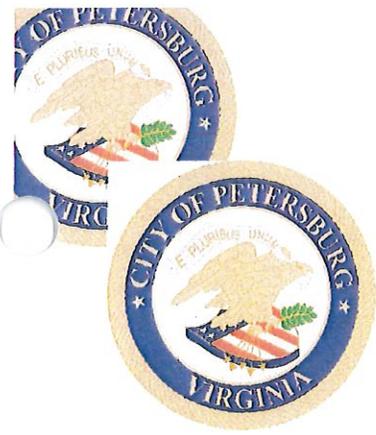
Things left to do: (Remaining Tasks:)

- ❖ Council Person Wilson-Smith needs to ensure that council members and the administration are invited.
- ❖ Council Person Wilson-Smith will follow-up on making sure **information** is on the web page.
- ❖ We will all try to recruit 3-5 people and bring in their names **to** the next meeting. These individuals are to assist with the simulation.

Respectfully **submitted**, (in excused absence of Secretary)

Treska **(Council Person Treska Wilson-Smith)**





**City of Petersburg  
Virginia**

[www.petersburgva.gov](http://www.petersburgva.gov)

**Anti-Poverty Commission**

**Agenda**

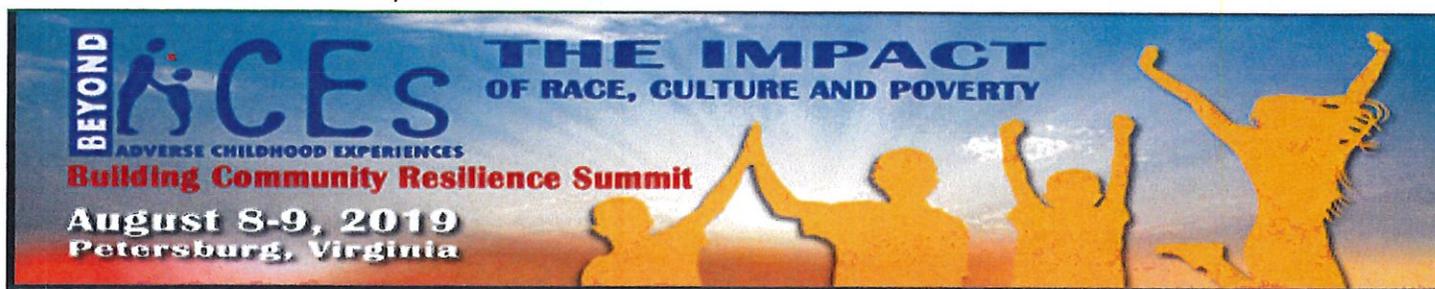
**July, 11 2019  
Petersburg Public Library  
201 W Washington Street  
6:00 PM**

**Anti-Poverty Commissioners**

Michael Edwards – Chairman  
Rosezelia Roy – Vice Chairman  
Linwood Christian – Secretary  
Cheryl Riggins – Commissioner  
Florence Rhue – Commissioner  
Daniel Todd – Commissioner  
Michael Shannon – Commissioner  
Gloria Frank – Commissioner  
Deborah Buford – Commissioner  
Jonathan Tolbert – Commissioner  
Monika Huddleston-Elrod – Commissioner  
Barbara Hoosier – Commissioner  
Eugene B. Batiste - Commissioner

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Determine A Presence Of A Quorum**
- 3. Approval Of Meeting Minutes**
  - (A) Minutes From The June 13, 2019 Meeting**
- 4. New Business**
  - (A) Discussion On The Poverty Simulation**
  - (B) Approval On Publication For Advertisement**
- 5. Business Or Reports From Commissioners**
  - (A) Advertising Committee Report**
- 6. Old Business**
- 7. Adjournment**





Summit Agenda

Thursday, August 8

- 7:45 a.m.      Registration
- 8:45 a.m.      Community Arts Showcase
- 9:00 a.m.      Welcome (Auditorium)  
                     Dr. Alton Hart, Jr., Director, Crater Health District, VDH  
                     The Honorable Samuel Parham, Mayor, City of Petersburg  
                     Dr. Norman Oliver, State Health Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health
- 9:15 a.m.      Keynote: Dr. Camara Jones -“Naming, Measuring & Addressing the Impacts of Racism on Health”  
 (Auditorium)
- 10:30 a.m.     Keynote: Reverend Jonathan Wilson Hartgrove- “Healing the Wounds of Slaveholder  
 Religion”(Auditorium)
- 12:00 p.m.     Lunch, Arts Showcase & Presentation “Having the Courageous, Yet Clumsy Conversations on  
 Race” Martha Rollins & Danita Rountree Green (Cafeteria)
- 1:15 p.m.      Keynote: Helga Luest – “Climate Change and Environmental Justice” (Auditorium)  
                     *\*Community panel discussion to follow\**
- 2:45 p.m.      Break
- 3:00 p.m.      Concurrent Sessions
- Father Willis Foster - “Building Resilience through Asset-Based Community Development”  
 (ABCD) (Room E106)
- Mr. Bob Nichols - “De-Escalation with Children through a Trauma-Informed Lens” (Room E112)
- Mr. Robert “Keith” Cartwright – “An Addiction to Drugs: Getting to the Root of the Matter”  
 (Room E105)
- Dr. Paula Parker – “What Makes You So Strong? Identifying Historical Trauma and Resilience  
 through Family Genograms” (Room E109)
- Mr. Duron Chavis - “There is No Culture without Agriculture: Engaging the Community  
 for a Brighter Future” (Room E110)
- Dr. Ray Tademy- Do this First, BOND! Generating Life-Long Learners and Stimulating Academic  
 Achievement & Self-Efficacy (Room E111)
- Ms. Theresa Caldwell, Dr. Candice Benn, Andrew Napoli, MSW – “Moving Through Trauma”  
 (Upper Auditorium)
- 4:45 p.m.      Dinner & Youth Arts Presentation

— 5:15 p.m. An Evening with Dr. Joy DeGruy – “Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome and Community Healing”  
(Cafeteria)

Friday, August 9

7:00 a.m.

Morning Yoga – *optional* (Gym)

8:00 a.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m.

Community Arts Showcase (Auditorium)

Thank you to our Sponsors and Supporters!



# FINALE

## Building Community Resilience: The Impact of Race, Culture & Poverty

### REVISED SUMMIT SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, August 8

- 7:45 a.m. Registration
- 8:45 a.m. Community Arts Showcase
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome,  
Dr. Alton Hart, Jr., Director, Crater Health District, VDH  
The Honorable Samuel Parham, Mayor, City of Petersburg  
Dr. Norman Oliver, Health Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health
- 9:15 a.m. Keynote: Reverend Jonathan Wilson Hartgrove – “Healing the Wounds of Slaveholder Religion”
- 10:30 a.m. Keynote: Dr. Camara Jones – “Naming, Measuring & Addressing the Impacts of Racism on Health”
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch, Arts Showcase & Presentation “Having the Courageous, Yet Clumsy Conversations on Race” Martha Rollins & Danita Rountree Green  
Join these two women as they explore the challenges of reaching across racial, political and societal lines together.
- 1:45 p.m. Keynote: Helga Luest – “Climate Change and Environmental Justice”  
*\*Community panel discussion to follow\**
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- ✓ Father Willis Foster - “Building Resilience through Asset-Based Community Development” (ABCD)  
“How to Mobilize a Community through Relationships” Every community has gifts to discover. Participants will learn practices and principles for moving local communities into action with residents at the center of the efforts. The workshop will help participants ID assets, begin to map, and explore the possibilities of community healing.
- Mr. Bob Nichols - “De-Escalation with Children through a Trauma-Informed Lens”  
Everyone seems to want to know how to de-escalate volatile situations. The bad news? Volatile situations are those in which we have the least influence and the least number of options. The good news? Practicing proven de-escalation techniques helps individuals recognize and respond to rising tensions before an interaction spins out of control. This workshop will provide participants with tools to enhance their awareness, sense of control, and mental flexibility in crises as well as in situations of rising tension. Participants will also receive contextual

information about how trauma-informed approaches can benefit all children, regardless of their histories or ACE scores.

**Mr. Robert “Keith” Cartwright – “An Addiction to Drugs: Getting to the Root of the Matter”**

Before drugs, there is usually trauma, hurt and pain. For years, the most common substance prevention strategy has been education. The thought has been, if we help people know better, they will make better choices. However, this strategy has ignored the reality that substance misuse often has a much deeper story. ACEs plays a major part in future decisions that adults make and if people can begin to uncover root causes, then maybe, the addiction to drugs would be less. Participants will learn how the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences helps explain how those deeper stories connect to substance misuse and addiction.

**Dr. Paula Parker – “What Makes You So Strong? Identifying Historical Trauma and Resilience through Family Genograms”**

Have you ever wondered why some things happen in your family? The workshop will illustrate how the genogram, an annotated family tree, can discover both traumatic and resilient patterns of relationships, behaviors and events in family history. Once identified, intentional and compassionate choices can be made to mourn the trauma and related loss and celebrate the resilience within families. Participants will engage in story-telling activities and learn how they relate to resilience.

**Mr. Duron Chavis - “There is No Culture without Agriculture: Engaging the Community for a Brighter Future”**

“Black people growing food on a farm is too much like slavery.” – Anonymous  
Unfortunately, some African Americans have said this or perhaps they thought it and did not say it; either way the results are the same. Why do people need urban agriculture? Is it relevant? Is it practical? Why should people of color be immensely involved in the current growing trend of urban agriculture throughout America? This region has built an environment that bears the scars of racial inequality inherent in slavery, Jim Crow discrimination and economic marginalization. We see the ripple effects in many areas. Learn how agriculture has served as a medium of resistance, resilience & collective agency across centuries. The difference between food access and food justice, and how community control of land and public space can serve as hubs for community healing, wholeness and transformation of the built environment. Also, learn steps to using urban agriculture to achieve racial equity in addition to practical regenerative place-making processes for transformation of community spaces.

**Dr. Ray Tademey**

**Do this First, BOND! Generating Life-Long Learners and Stimulating Academic Achievement & Self-Efficacy**

Learn how traumatically affected juvenile and adult incarcerated populations have endured negative school experiences (NCE’s). Students who “act out” often receive extreme disciplinary actions and are labeled as learning disabled or having “behavioral disorders.” These “labels” compound the effects of ACE’s on their already compromised development. Learn how a viable relationship with a non-parental adult who students feel are patient and understanding, can hold them accountable to a standard of behavior. “It’s not fast and it’s not easy”, but you can learn the principles of how to meet the needs of learning and help others.

**Ms. Theresa Caldwell, Dr. Candice Benn, Andrew Napoli, MSW – “Moving Through Trauma”**

“We have learned that trauma is not just an event that took place sometime in the past; it is also the imprint left by that experience on mind, brain, and body. This imprint has ongoing consequences for how the human organism manages to survive in the present.” Bessel Van Der Kolk, M.D., *The Body Keeps The Score*. This interactive workshop explores ways of dealing with trauma where it lives: in the body. Experience new ways of using practices you may already have, or have heard of - like yoga, working out, and communication - to move through trauma and reduce stress.

5:00 p.m. **Dinner & Youth Arts Presentation**

5:30 p.m. **An Evening with Dr. Joy DeGruy –  
“Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome and Community Healing”**

**Friday, August 9**

7:00 a.m. **Morning Yoga – optional**

8:00 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. **Community Arts Showcase**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome**

**Mr. Bob Hicks, Deputy Commissioner for Community Health Services,  
Virginia Department of Health**

**Dr. Hughes Melton, Commissioner of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and  
Developmental Services**

9:15 a.m. **Keynote Speaker: Mr. Ivan Juzang -- “Moving Boys & Men Beyond Survival Mode”\***  
***\*Community panel discussion to follow\****

11:45 a.m. **Lunch, Community Arts Showcase & Keynote Speaker:  
Dr. Marleen Wong – “Developing a Trauma-Responsive School”\***  
***\*Community panel discussion to follow\****

2:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

✓ **Dr. Ram Bhagat - “Trust Building: An Honest Conversation on Race, Reconciliation, &  
Responsibility”**

Unhealed trauma leads to recurring violence against self and others. Violence in schools, communities, and society produces trauma. However, individuals and communities can take a different route and learn essential skills for addressing trauma, healing relationships, and building resilience to improve the well-being of all. How can we build trust and respect for all people in this nation and throughout the world? By acknowledging that everyone has a birthright to human dignity, and through creating healing spaces where people can share their stories and

express their voice. In this workshop, you will learn the principles of STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) and HROC (Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities) and explore the universal responses to trauma and the innate resilience to transform trauma through self-care, restorative practices, and performing arts.

**Dr. Nancy Welch & Co-Facilitator (TBD) – “Healing Emotional Wounds of Children and Families: Finding Approaches that Work “**

As a potential foster parent, we want to provide an awesome family-oriented experience for everyone within our care, but oftentimes we forget that a child’s memory and the potential traumatic experiences still play heavily in their minds. Knowing when and how to show up may make a big difference in a little person’s life. Join in the discussion as we explore ways to heal children and hear about a life journey one parent took to build resilience.

✓ **Ted Lewis, Reverend Lacette Cross & Kyle Mason – “The Intersections of Trauma: Understanding the Experiences of Black LGBTQ+ Youth”**

Join Side by Side as we share important new data on the experiences of Black LGBTQ+ youth as well as how trauma impacts this marginalized community. Learn how to affirm youth and how to make a positive impact in our community.

**Dr. Ellis Henderson – “The Sound/Mind Technique”**

SoundMind is a trauma informed, ontological, cognitive behavior strategy created to deconstruct Adverse Childhood Experiences. SoundMind empowers participants to create a plan of action utilizing 4 quadrants of Intelligence: the SQ-Spiritual Intelligence, IQ-Intellectual Intelligence, EQ-Emotional Intelligence and PQ-Physical Intelligence. SoundMind deconstructs the residual (ancestral) spirits of slavery (SQ) and its nefarious impact on the mind (IQ), emotions (EQ) and behavior (PQ) of individuals. SoundMind is designed to equip participants on how to develop a plan of action to overcome trauma. It serves as an ontological method of creating a spiritual environment in which the mind is stabilized and able to control one emotions to act offensively against the onslaught of their traumatic experience. SoundMind trains the mind (IQ) to be stronger than the emotions (EQ) to control our behavior (PQ). This trains the mind to speak life to the atmosphere as a resilient mechanism to conquer trauma.

**Dr. Laurant Lee – “The Hope of our History and the Resilience that Lies Beneath.”**

From African roots to American slavery, African Americans have endured levels of trauma that have shaped our individual and communal experiences. Much of the trauma is rooted in our history. What can our past and this place, Petersburg, tell us about who we were, who we are, and what we can be. Take a walk back in time and learn of the rich history and culture within the Petersburg region. Take a journey into the future to imagine creative, yet practical ways to move toward a more resilient community.

**Chloe Edwards & Allison Gilbreath - “Equalizing the Playing Field: Advocating Policies for Change”**

Learn about Voices for Virginia's Children's multi-issue policy solutions for youth. Voices specializes in foster care, early care, education, family economic security, mental health, health, and leads the Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia. Voices is home to the Commonwealth's KIDS COUNT data center. Gain insight on how to connect trauma-informed and equity-oriented policy and practice across disciplines and systems. Voices will guide attendees through the process of analyzing children's issues in order to identify opportunities to advocate for policies that

promote change. Learn effective communication methods and how to advocate to help shape policies that positively shape the lives of all children in the future.

### **Community Leaders & Educator's Masterclass**

#### **Mr. Ivan Juzang – “Trauma-Informed Health Communications and School/Community Outreach Targeting Communities of Color with the Highest Health Disparities”**

Training and technical assistance sessions provide the transfer of MEE's community-engagement and health-communications skills that participants can use immediately in their work with hard-to-reach audiences. MEE's cost-effective strategies, tactics and discuss toolkits in a way that makes them applicable for a broad cross-section of health and wellness initiatives — whether addressing opioid abuse, violence prevention, mental health, infant mortality or promoting sexual reproductive health. The master class will build capacity and cultural competence so that schools and organizations are equipped for socially responsible, trauma-informed and effective community engagement and mobilization.

**3:30 p.m. Break**

**3:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions**

#### **✓ Dr. Faye Belgrave – “Practicing Cultural Humility in Trauma-Informed Care”**

Cultural humility differs from cultural competence as it is a lifelong process that one engages in to understand the experiences and culture of others rather than a product that one achieves through education or training as in being culturally competent. Learn how to practice humility when dealing with inclusive communities.

#### **Phillip “Muzi” Branch, and Ms. Georgi Anne Ginder – “Healing Trauma through Art”**

Artists have used art to self-regulate and heal as a form of therapy for years. Music lends itself to vibrations that resonate melodiously throughout the body and releases hormones. Color speaks volumes without ever saying a word. Movement helps to bridge left and right brain functions. These expressions of art and creation help us cope with everyday life and the trauma that shows up unexpectedly. Join us for a discussion and demonstrations of how people heal through art and how MCV Hospital is incorporating these principles. Walk away with tools that you can use for self-care, and help heal others.

#### **TBD – “Teenage Suicide and Working through Its Effects”**

Suicide statistics are on the rise and now that social media can play a role in streaming these horrific actions, it calls into concern what our youth might be dealing with and how they are seeking attention in all the wrong ways to say “help”. Join us in a discussion about this dark subject and learn some of the signs that might show up.

#### **Jane Clayborne – “Human Trafficking & Youth”**

Human trafficking is a \$32 billion per year business. Vulnerable children are being lured and manipulated by traffickers who see them only as a commodity to be bought and sold. In this workshop, we will view the film, “Chosen” followed by a group discussion. This eye-opening film tells the story of two girls tricked into trafficking. Brianna, 18, was a star student, cheerleader, and waiter. Lacy, 13, enjoyed church and volunteering in her community. Both persons manipulated, and both persons exploited. They were “chosen”.

#### **Dr. Lauren Powell - “The Intersection and Racial Inequity & Trauma”**

Why are our health outcomes different when we look at our findings through the lens of race, class and economic status? Who is noticing and how do we set the stage for equality? Learn what the Virginia Department of Health is doing to address health equity across the state and understand your roll in becoming a change agent for better health.

**Dr. Shakiera Causey – “When being Black feels blue: Dating violence and race-based stress in African American adolescent relationships”**

The purpose of the workshop is to examine the role of race-based stress in the prevalence of intimate partner violence among African American adolescent relationships. We will identify the role systemic racism has played in disrupting family functioning and individual health. We will also discuss how inability to cope with race-based stress leads to externalized behavior like intimate partner violence, which is oftentimes intergenerational.

**Educator's Masterclass,**

**Dr. Marleen Wong – “Preventing Secondary Traumatic Stress in Educators”**

**5:15 p.m.**

**HOPE FEST – (*Healing Our People Every day*) *Free and open to the public***

Come, relax and enjoy a community meal (free) and engage in conversation. The evening celebration marks the end of the Beyond ACEs Summit. Activities throughout the evening include a Choral Response, Drum Circle with Dr. Ram Bhagat, a faith-based bake-off, the marketplace, and field day activities.

PETERSBURG

ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

"Not a Hand Out but a Hand Up"

**COMMUNITY ACTION POVERTY SIMULATION**

AUGUST 22, 2019

6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

INVITE AS A PARTICIPATE

The Community Action Poverty Simulation is a workshop that affords participants the opportunity to experience first hand the struggles that people in our community face.

Purpose: This powerful and unique learning experience creates insights into the state of the chronic crisis of poverty.

Agree to Participate:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell and Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

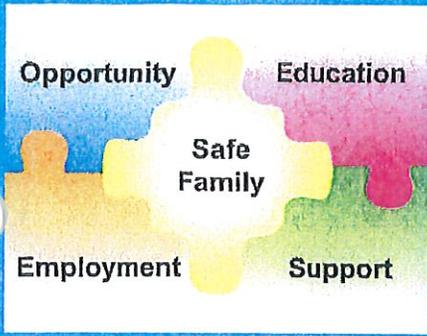
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your cooperation in this effort is a component in helping to reduce poverty in our great city.

This effort is in collaboration with the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), City of Petersburg.

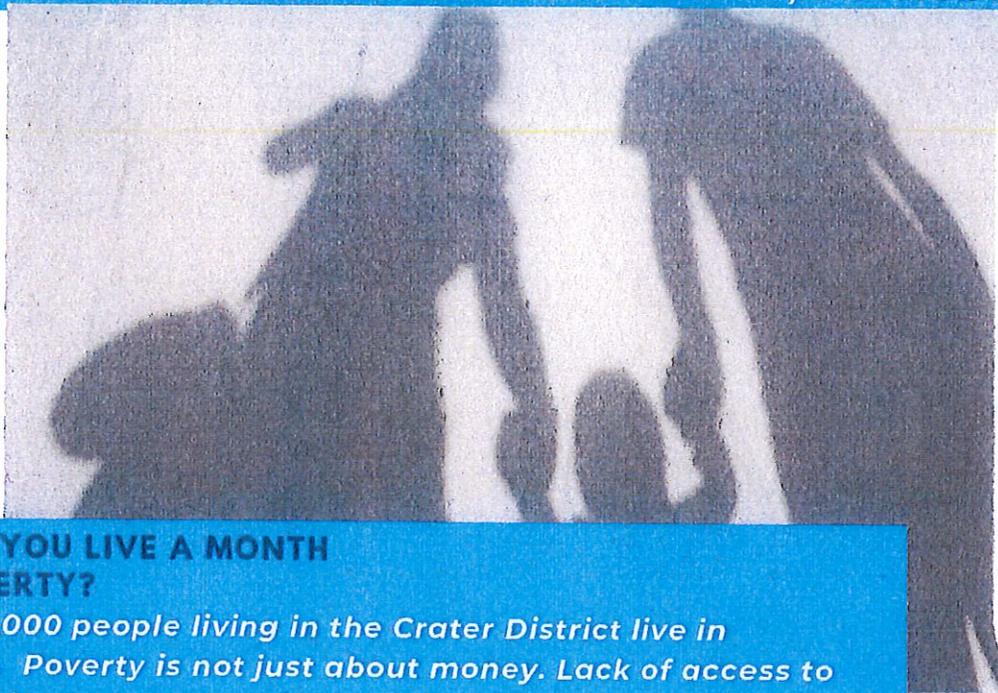
Excerpts noted from VCE brochure





# POVERTY SIMULATION

.....  
 August 22, 2019, 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
 Union Train Station  
 103 River Street, Petersburg, Virginia



*The Community Action Poverty Simulation is a workshop that will allow participants to experience first-hand the struggles that people in our community face.*



**COULD YOU LIVE A MONTH IN POVERTY?**  
 Over 22,000 people living in the Crater District live in poverty. Poverty is not just about money. Lack of access to essential resources goes beyond financial hardship to affect health, education, and security. This simulation is sponsored by the Anti-Poverty Commission and Virginia Cooperative Extension of Petersburg.

## HOW DO WE GET OUR LEADERS AND OUR COMMUNITY TO SEE HOW POVERTY FEEDS INTO CYCLES OF TEEN PREGNANCY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE, VIOLENCE AND INCARCERATION?

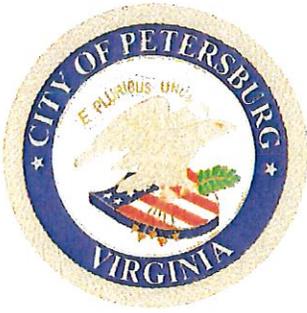
*The power of this unique learning resource is that it creates insight into the state of chronic crisis that consumes so many working poor families. Participants experience one month of poverty compressed into the real time of the simulation.*

**To Participate, please RSVP:**  
 Katrina Kirby, M.Ed (Kirby2@vt.edu) or  
 Alma DeLeon (almady@vt.edu) or by  
 calling (804) 733-1880



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# CITY OF PETERSBURG

## ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

135 NORTH UNION STREET, PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA 23803  
(804) 733-2323

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### Greetings Pastor :

You are cordially invited to attend a Poverty Simulation workshop, sponsored by the Petersburg Anti-Poverty Commission; in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension. The event will be held on August 22, 2019, 6:00pm – 8:00pm at the Union Train Station, 103 River Street, Petersburg, Va.

The event's purpose is to bring clergy, the community, and policy makers together to understand the day-to-day reality of poverty and to experience firsthand the struggles that people in our city face.

We would be honored to have you and members of your congregation, join us as a participant in the simulation. Participants assume the roles of different families and individuals facing poverty. Afterward, in the debriefing, there will be a discussion of the information and insights gained during the simulation.

It is our sincerest wish that you would please, make copies of the enclosed flyer and share this information with your congregation on the first and third Sunday of the month of August. Of course, our greatest desire is that you will grace us with your presence at the event.

For more information you can contact the chairman of the Anti-Poverty Commission, Mr. Michael Edwards at 804-720-0314, or the Petersburg City Councilor/liaison, Treska Wilson-Smith at 804-720-9520.

Sincerely,

Michael Edwards, Chairperson,  
Petersburg Anti-Poverty Commission



# Community Action Poverty Simulation

The United Nations estimates that there are approximately 1.2 billion people around the world that live on less than a dollar a day, while almost 850 million go hungry every night. The U.S. Census Bureau found that in 2007 over 37 million people in the United States, including 18 million children under the age of 18, and over **22,000 of people living in the Crater District** live in poverty. Poverty is not just about money: lack of access to essential resources goes beyond financial hardship to affect people's health, education, security and opportunities for political participation.

*"I have no job and my bills are due." "I have to get to work, what am I going to do with the baby?" "Where do I go, what do I do?"*

*"I'm so hungry and dad hasn't gone to the store."*

*"If I'm late again, I'll be fired." "I have no money for gas." "My grandson needs his medication and we are out of money."*

*"I wonder what the Pawn Shop will give me for this."  
"What is this note stuck on my door?"*

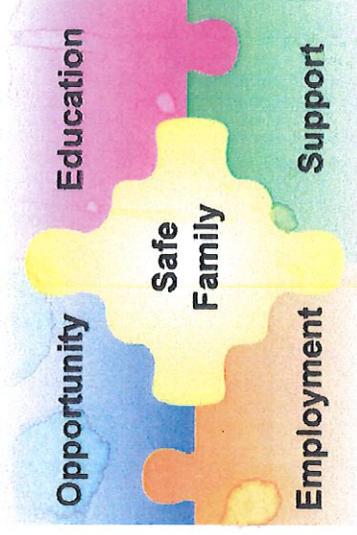
*"I wonder what the minimum amount is that I can pay to keep my utilities on." "The house needs so many repairs."*



The Community Action Poverty Simulation is a workshop that will afford participants the opportunity to experience first hand the struggles that people in our community face.

**HOW DO WE GET OUR NEIGHBORS, OUR LEADERS, AND OUR COMMUNITY TO SEE HOW *POVERTY* FEEDS INTO CYCLES OF TEEN PREGNANCY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE, VIOLENCE AND INCARCERATION?**

The power of this unique learning resource is that it creates insight into the state of chronic crisis that consumes so many working poor families. Participants experience one month of poverty compressed into the real time of the simulation. Afterwards, in the debriefing, they share insights of extraordinary vividness and intensity. As a result, bankers and ministers, teachers and clerks, and ordinary people from all walks of life, can share a very special kind of awakening.





# COULD YOU LIVE A MONTH *in poverty.*

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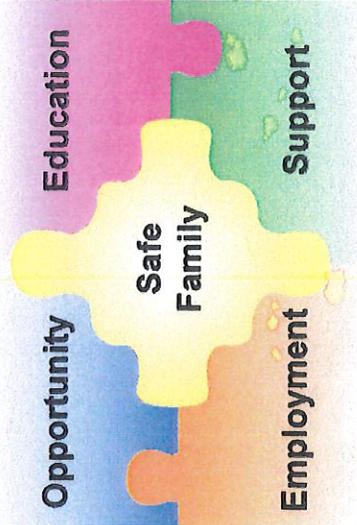
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**September 22, 2016**

- Registration and Refreshments
- Introduction
- Month in Poverty Simulation
- Debriefing

**Facilitators**

- Katrina Kirby, FCS Extension Agent-City of Petersburg
- Sharon Mallory, 4H-Extension Agent-City of Petersburg
- Kimberly Edmonds, FCS-Extension Agent-Henrico County



# Default Report

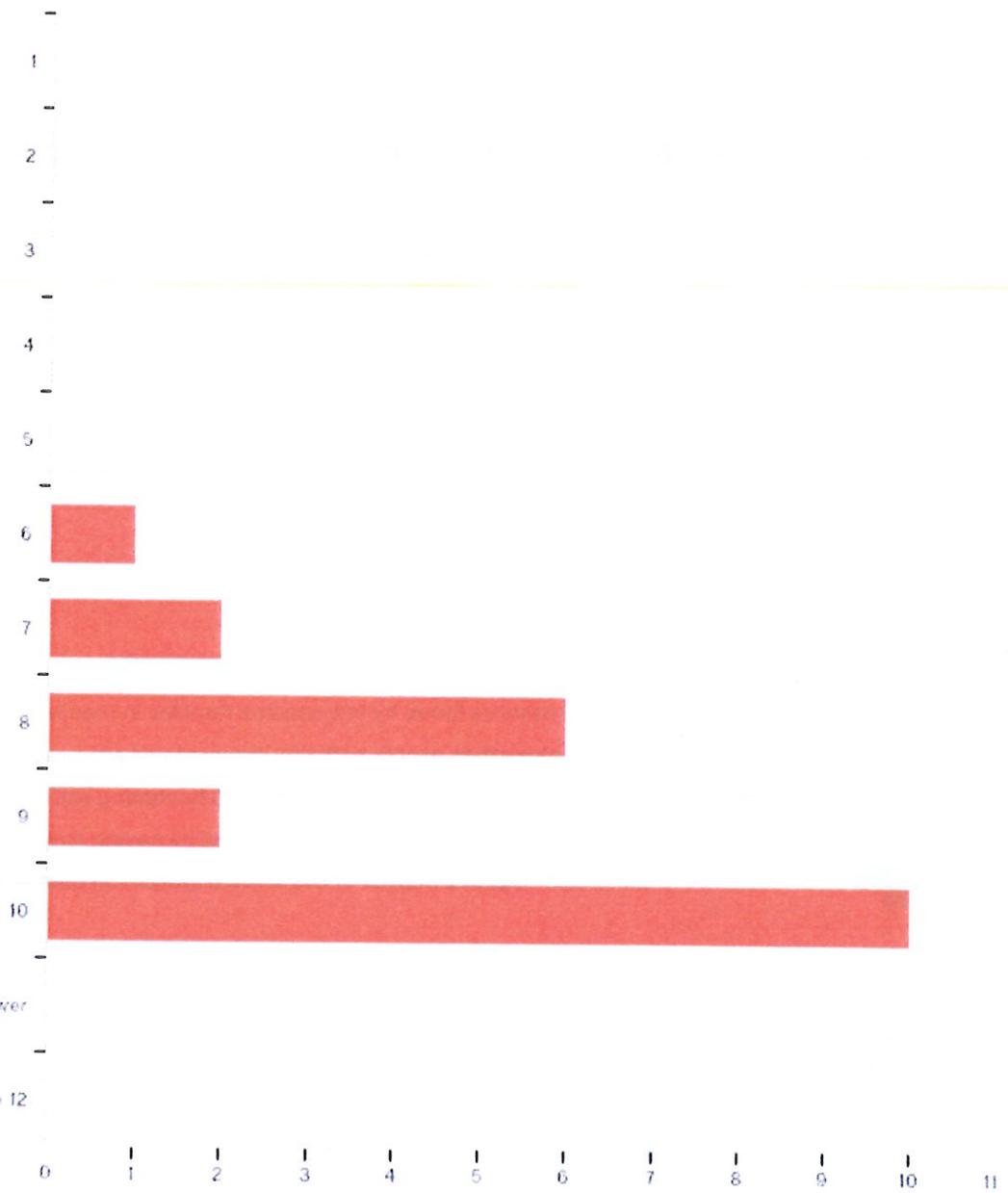
Petersburg - August 22, 2019

September 2nd 2019, 10:11 am EDT

Q4 - How would you describe your increase in understanding of the following ideas?



Q5 - On a scale of 1-10 (1 is low, 10 is high), what overall rating would you give this simulation?



Improper Answer

Click to write Choice 12

## Q6 - What do you think was the most education part of the simulation?

What do you think was the most education part of the simulation?

Getting to feel what people as they navigate systems that are supposed to serve them as clients or consumers.

The written scenario helped understand the complexity limited resourced persons have to deal with.

The process of gaining resources to meet the needs of caring for a family.

Taking care of family emotional and health needs.

Having the experience reminded me of the struggles.

The stress level that increased beyond reality and the lack of time to meet my children needs while trying to be the breadwinner.

The setting reflected real life situations. Families being stressed and put in different situation when a parent is absent from the home and grandparents must provide care for the children. Grandparents and seniors live on a limited income and are not financially prepared for the added expense of raising grandchildren.

It provides a real look at the trails families really face.

Resources

The struggle is real and poverty leads to criminal illegal activities and then to jail for AA males.

Working as a family, transportation issues standing in line and office closed before you could pay.

**Q7 - What is the most significant thing learned today that you will use as you work in your community/organization?**

What is the most significant thing learned today that you will use as you work in your community/organization?

What it feels like especially the frustration with the system when struggling to do the right thing to just make it, forget get ahead.

Helping those in need to find resources

I will be more empathetic in my regular interaction with people.

Child care and Social Services.

The importance of kindness and adults being willing to help a child in need.

Compassion

Be more aware of others circumstances and show compassion for those less fortunate

A overall concern and care for individuals who have hardships

Poverty is real

See things from a different perspective

Find organization that help

More understanding of the difficulties of getting bills paid

## Q8 - General Comments:

### General Comments:

This was awesome

Great Job! Great event, the notebooks had wonderful materials to simulate life situations. The scenarios were quite realistic.

The acoustics were horrible so another location would work more effectively. Great experience.

Raised awareness to a problem that few give second thought too.

Legal aid should have represented.

Simulation was very well put together

Partition needed to divide the areas

We need more active like this one and more people need to get involved. We needed more time.

Thank you for this amazing event



## The Progress-Index

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### Looking through poverty's eyes

By Sean Jones, Progress-Index Staff

Posted Aug 24, 2019 at 12:29 PM

Updated Aug 24, 2019 at 1:29 PM

#### Petersburg group simulates impoverished lives to boost issue awareness

PETERSBURG – Many people living in the Cockade City are affected by poverty, straining to have food for their families while keeping the lights from being shut off.

The city's Poverty Xommission – a City Council-appointed board – set up a simulation Thursday night at Union Station, aimed at showing the day-to-day difficulties for real people living in poverty.

“If you happen to be one of those persons who are not impoverished, it is indeed a good thing to know about folks who are,” said Ward 1 Councilor Treaka Wilson-Smith. “How do they act, how to they get there, what can we do, how can we look at each other, am I my brother's keeper, what can I do to help my fellow man?”

Petersburg's Department of Social Services gave an update at the onset of the ceremony. Even though Petersburg's poverty rate decreased 6% between 2015 and 2017, more than one in four city residents live in poverty. That number is about double the state average.

Additionally, the city's Department of Social Services gives aid to about 18,000 total residents, with SNAP, TANF, Medicaid and a variety of other resources.

Petersburg's total population is about 31,000.

#### The Poverty Simulation



About 60 people registered to take part in the simulation. They were each split into variously sized “families” with different situations. The simulation took place over an hour-long “month”, split into four 15-minute “weeks.”

Families sat in groups of chairs facing each other. The outside of the room was lined with tables functioning as real-life community resources like the grocery store, work, a pawn shop, department of social services and school.

The Chen family – played by five Petersburg residents in the scenario – had an income of \$1,324. Father, Charles, was laid off as a computer programmer he had been employed at for 20 years. After four months, his unemployment benefits of \$350 a week ran out.

Mother, Cindy, works 40 hours a week as a receptionist at the hospital and makes the family’s only income of \$1,324 a month. The Chens have three kids, Chad, 8, Carl, 10, and Connie, 16, due to have a baby in two months.

Their total bills for mortgage, utilities, food, credit card payments, and come out to \$1,545, meaning the family was almost \$200 short for the month.

Charles – played by Petersburg resident and poverty commission Vice Chairman Dr. Rozelia Roy – set out at the start of the first week to try and make up the money. She goes to the pawn shop to try and sell her stereo system, marked to be worth \$100. Roy (Charles) decided against going to the pay day loan store, saying, “I’m already in the hole, so how am I going to pay that back?”

Charles: “Let me sell my stereo system.”

Pawn Shop: “I’ll take it from you for \$30.”

Charles: “It says this is worth \$100.”

Pawn Shop: “Yeah but I can only go for \$30, take it or leave it.”

Charles took the \$30 in paper money with a look of disgust.

Then Charles went to the table titled “work,” to try and get a job to help out with the family’s cash.

Charles: “Can I get a job?”



Work: "I can give you an application."

With only \$30 and an application to work, Charles went to Social Services to try and make up the rest of the missing cash. Social Services needed Charles to fill out another application and sit behind seven others in the "waiting room" to get helped by the two social worker staff tasked with helping people get benefits.

After waiting to get in front of a social worker and finally reaching their office, the alarm sounded for the weekend.

Social Services: "Sorry that means it's the weekend. You have to go home, we're closed."

Charles went home for the three-minute weekend to tally everything up with Mother, Cindy, who got \$331 for working that week.

Both utilities and mortgage came to collect first thing Monday morning. The mortgage loan gave a warning that the \$600 payment was in arrears, while the utility company accepted half of the required payment for the month.

Charles immediately went to Social Services to try and make up the rest of the rent. After another waiting process, Social Services told Charles that because his unemployment had already run out, he was only eligible for \$200 total for the family.

Charles took what he could.

All things tallied, the Chens were able to scrape together just enough money between social services, selling the stereo and Cindy's wages to pay the bills, with \$9 left over at the end of the month.

They went to "work" to collect Cindy's paycheck, and sent the kids to school.

While everyone was away, they got "evicted" from their home. The mortgage collector came and overturned the five chairs that used to make up their house. Even with enough money in paper fake dollar bills and laminated paychecks, they had to go through the court system to get their house back.

The fourth and final week of the simulation ended before the Chens could attempt to get their house back.



## Wrap up and reflection

More families than not were evicted throughout the course of the simulation. The Chen's were just one example of circumstances faced by the other families. Several houses were robbed throughout the course of the simulation, while other family structures had a completely different set of issues.

One household had a three-year old being taken care of by a 13-year-old because the parents were out trying to get money, and the 21-year-old didn't bother to help with the family.

"This was the most dysfunctional family I've seen," the participant playing the three-year-old said. "I should have been picked up by child protective services but no one came."

In one household, the child had ADHD and was being raised by grandparents. One grandparent also had a disability and the other worked minimum wage for 40 hours per week.

"So now you have one kid watching another kid who has a disability, but you have another grandparent who has a disability and the other grandparent is trying to maintain the whole household," a participant from that family said.

Virginia Cooperative Extension helped set up, plan, implement, and reflect on the events. They said that most of the adults in the simulation were employed.

"As you saw, each scenario had a family, a living situation, a monthly budget and expenses," said Michael Edwards, chairman of the Poverty Commission. "It gave people the task of choosing when to pay, what to pay, and how much to pay. Ultimately, sometimes it leads to an eviction, sometimes it leads to lights being cut off and it's something that the citizens not only in Petersburg face, but across the nation face every single day."

Along with helping the Virginia Cooperative Extension set up the event, the Poverty Commission reports to city council about the state of poverty in the city.

"One of the recommendations of the group was to charge City Council with the task that we have a serious poverty problem in the city," Edwards said. "And we're asking them to get committed to working with the commission and



finding a way to put a dent in this thing. People struggle.”

The Poverty Commission also used the simulation as a means for feedback for their next report to City Council about the levels and manners of poverty in Petersburg.

*Sean Jones can be reached at [sjones@progress-index.com](mailto:sjones@progress-index.com) or 804-722-5172.*





## Agenda for Anti-Poverty Commission and Minutes in Red

October 10, 2019

In attendance: Roselia Roy, Vice Chair

Beverly McLaughlin (Guest)

Barbara Hoosier

Patrick Washington (Guest)

Florence Rhue

Monika Huddleston

Barbara Buford

Keitoya Taylor (Guest)

Pastor Tolbert (came but had to leave)

The meeting was opened at approximately 6:08 pm by the Vice Chair Roselia Roy

Opening Prayer was rendered by Treska Wilson-Smith

Reading and Acceptance of Minutes Minutes were unavailable

Passing out of books from the Cameron Foundation Books were given to Barbara Hoosier, Barbara Buford, Florence Rhue, Monika Huddleston and Rosezelia Roy

Old Minutes:

- Review/Overview of Poverty Simulation (Each person will tell what was good about the event and what was not so good about the event) Each commissioner gave their views of the poverty simulation and for the most part was all positive. We had agreed earlier and continue to agree that we must do this again and we want to incorporate those issues we discussed to make the next event



even better. Those items include, something which identifies our purpose and our mission. A shorter speech by the Department of Social Services,

- Reports from meetings attended (CACH, Housing meetings?) Dr. Roy had information to pass out in reference to events she had attended on behalf of the Anti-Poverty Commission. Those events include, CACH, information on Evictions from Legal Aide, CCHASM, Catholic Charities.
- Defining ALL face book posts This was deferred due to the absence of the President at his request.

#### New Business:

- Establishing our committees (Education, Houses, Employment, etc.) Dr. Roy elaborated on the fact that we each had agreed to be a part of a sub-committee and those committees were and remain the following: (Report

- Job Creation
- Workforce Development/Education – Florence Rhue and Monika Huddleston, Dr. Roy *know*
- ~~Housing~~ – B. Hoosier and Treska, *know*
- Policy and Legislative Component - Treska, *Washington*
- Healthy Communities – ~~Barbara~~ Buford, *Hoosier*
- Research Evaluations *Sebach* – *Research*
- Transportation- M. Huddleston

Persons who agreed to serve on the various committees are listed beside the committee and those of you who are not listed, please let us know at the next meeting.?

A reminder would be sent out to request their interest with a status report of their initial findings being given at the next meeting. (Bringing forth proven best practices utilized in other cities/areas to reduce/eliminate poverty).

*Crutch*



➤ Developing our next event

- Name and purpose of the event-An event designed to bring information to help people who are impoverished. The name of the event is not yet reached, maybe a Benefit Fair, or a Hands Up Event...name to be determined.
  - Date, time and place of the event We agreed on a March date for the Benefit Fair and June for another Poverty Simulation
  - Committee to work on the event – Committee not yet chosen.
-

