

2017

ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

Agenda 1/12/17

Call Meeting to Order

Moment of Silence

Review of Minutes

Correction to Minutes/Adoption of Minutes

Introduction of New Members

Summary Discussion of the purpose of the Anti-Poverty Commission

Establish permanent meeting date

Assignment of members to committee of choice/need

COMMITTEES

-Employment / Job Training/Skill Development

-Social Services

*Inclusion of Impoverished People

*Transportation

*Childcare

-Housing

-Education

*Children Programs

*Collaboration with PBS/School Board

-Education Adult Programs/Financial Literacy

-Health Care/ Nutritional Education/ Fitness

-Improve Outreach/ Increased Awareness/Education on available Programs

-Disconnected Youth Outreach

-Resources/Grants/ Research

Mission Statements to be derived from each committee

Discussion of agenda for 1/26/17: Guest Speaker will be Thaddeus Williams

City Councilwoman, Treska Wilson-Smith encourages everyone to attend the City Council meetings held on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Adjourn

**Anti-Poverty Commission
Petersburg Public Library
201 W Washington Street
Petersburg, VA 23803**

January 12, 2017
6:30 pm

Meeting called to order

Moment of silence

Public Forum

No public forum

Introduction of New Members

No new members

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the December 08, 2016
Motion/2nd
Approved

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Motion made to conduct permanent meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month.
2nd

Passed

The 1st meeting starts on March 9, 2017.

A member suggested that the sub-committees for the Anti-poverty commission come from the resolution: Workforce Development/Education; Policy/Legislation; Healthy Communities; Transportation; and Research/Evaluation.

The following members will spearhead the sub-committees:

- Workforce Development/Education – Roy, and Rawlinson
- Policy/Legislation – Sinclair, Tolbert
- Healthy Communities – Shannon, Houser, and Rawlinson
- Transportation – Rawlinson
- Research/Evaluation – Muse, Williams

Healthy conversation was needed to assist members of the committee when establishing its sub-committee.

There was a suggestion to allow each sub-committee to determine their own guidelines and terms within each committee.

The next meeting date is changed from January 19th to January 26th. Guest speaker (Thaddeus Williams) will attend the January 26th meeting.

Visit the Circles Ashland website. This website addresses poverty in Ashland and recently passed legislation.

Zion Baptist Church will have tutoring sessions on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 4 – 5:30 pm. Applications are located in the church office.

Closing of meeting

Motion to close

Second

Adjourned

Rules of the Anti-Poverty Commission

The Anti-Poverty Commission is made up of a undisclosed amount of members who believe that poverty is the root of a great number of the problems in our society and wish to develop plans and actions in order to decrease poverty in the city of Petersburg.

The members of the group are very serious about its mission and agree to follow the rules as agreed upon by the group. The members agree that this Commission is not to become a stepping stone for other future endeavors. The rules are as follows:

- Meetings will be held every second Thursday of every month with the exception of the month of August, when the group will break for the year.
- The meetings will be from 6:30pm – 8:00pm
- The year for the group will be from Sept. – July.
- No one person in the group will speak for the group without discussion with the group about the issue.
- No member shall miss any more than 4 meetings per year.
- The group shall have the following officers:
 - Chairperson
 - Vice Chair
 - Secretary
 - Assistant Secretary
 - Treasure
 - Chaplin

This group shall be known as the Executive Team of the Group and each member shall serve for 1 year before selecting new members.

All meetings are to be advertised and open to the public.

Copies of the minutes will be considered as property of the city and copies kept at city hall.

ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

Agenda 1/26/17

Call Meeting to Order

Period of Silence

Introduction of New Members

Introduction of Speaker, Thad Williamson

Review of Minutes

Correction to Minutes/Adoption of Minutes

Mission Statement

Review of Committees

Assignment of members to committee of choice/need

Discussion of agenda for next meeting:

City Councilwoman, Treska Wilson-Smith encourages everyone to attend the City Council meetings held on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Adjourn

Petersburg Anti-Poverty Commission looks to help impoverished citizens

By John Adam, Staff Writer

Posted Jan 13, 2017 at 4:24 PM

Updated Jul 19, 2018 at 3:20 PM

Led by Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith, new commission looks to address 29.4% poverty rate

PETERSBURG — Petersburg City Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith was inspired to combat poverty in the city when Petersburg was named one of the most unhealthiest cities in the commonwealth back in 2011. She began to ask her fellow council members what could be done. Thus, in July of last year, the council wrote a resolution to create an anti-poverty commission to address the problems caused by poverty in the city.

“We believe that poverty is the root of all other problems in the city,” said Wilson-Smith. “We feel if we can attack all aspects of poverty, we can fix other problems.”

Smith said that the commission is committed to understanding and addressing all aspects of poverty, including issues such as transportation, job creation, and income-level. Other issues like adult education, financial literacy, and job training are being looked at by the commission as possible ways to lower the poverty rate in Petersburg.

As of the most recent US census, Petersburg has a poverty rate of 29.4 percent, which is significantly above the Virginia average of 11.2 percent. Another trend the council is looking to reverse is the median-income level for the city. The median-income level in Petersburg is \$25,101, which is drastically below the state average of \$64,902.

The commission met for the third time on Thursday night, as they begin to establish sub-committees, and long-term and short-term goals.

Chairperson Gerry Rawlinson said the members are adamant about putting together a realistic plan.

“There is room at the top for everybody,” said Rawlinson. “When we address poverty issues, everybody wins.”

The commission is committed to not just reversing these trends, but understanding how they exist in the first place, in order to come up with a “comprehensive plan”. The 12-member organization is hoping to further educate themselves and the community. In the upcoming weeks, they will have speakers from the Richmond Anti-Poverty Task Force come to meetings to talk about the steps they took to combat the problem in Richmond. The commission is also looking at other programs that have been implemented in surrounding localities, such as Circles in Ashland, which pairs impoverished families with special “allies” to help them come out of poverty.

“We’re trying to figure out what has worked, and what doesn’t work,” Rawlinson.

Though the commission is relatively new and still working on creating a role for itself within the city, the members believe they are on-track to help the city as it continues to recover from its struggles of the previous years. By tackling the issue from multiple aspects, the commission also feels like they can help fully root out the causes of poverty from the city.

“We’re not focused on hand-outs, we’re focused on hand-ups.” said Wilson- Smith. “We’re focused on what people need to do to get out of poverty.”

– *John Adam may be reached at jadam@progress-index.com or 804-722-5172*

Anti-Poverty Commission

Minutes of 1/26/17

In Attendance:	W. Taliaferro	B. Hoosier	L. Muse
	J. Williams	M. Shannon	D. Todd
	F. Rhue	R. Roy	M. Edwards
	D. Tolbert	G. Rawlinson	T. Wilson-Smith

Guest:	S. Williams	L. Curry
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The meeting was opened at 6:30pm by the Chairperson Gerri Rawlinson. We began by having visitors introduce themselves. Ms. Rawlinson stated that she had asked the guest speaker to come at 6:45pm so that the group could have 15 minutes to address anything else we needed to address.

Mrs. R. Roy asked if we could invite others to the meetings and if we were still taking applications. Mrs. Wilson-Smith responded, "Yes and please invite others" Applications for the Commission was placed on the table for anyone who wanted to join.

Mrs. Wilson-Smith indicated that she would like to focus on us establishing a means to bring information to the public. She explained about a program that the Extension Agency has which let all people in attendance learn about poverty and how it affects others. She asked the group to think about doing this. Mrs. Wilson-Smith also indicated that we needed to establish a set of by-laws or rules that would indicate such matters as how many meetings we could have. She explained that people need to be serious about being on this commission and that she felt that a set of rules was good for us to have.

The guest speaker, Mr. Thad Williamson, came in before the conversation went any longer. Mr. Williamson was introduced by Chairperson Gerri Rawlinson. Mr. Williamson, discussed several issues, to include, but, not limited to the following:

- Richmond set a goal of helping 1,000 people to get out of poverty
- Workforce Development Program
 - Job Creation
 - Transportation
- Strategic Systemic Change
- 'Create the walk, but, the person has to walk'
- Public Housing

- Creighton Court – Plan on housing and new better quality homes, looking at the housing needs.
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Public Housing Concentration
- Education:
 - Birth to age 4
 - Child care
 - After school programs
 - Future Center at the High Schools
 - Guidance Counselors are overloaded
- Other:
 - Holding the vision
 - Citizen Advisory Board
 - Get the schools and the city to have a joint strategy
 - Organize Business Leadership
 - Jack Berry was beneficial in developing the program in Richmond.

Where do we go from here? Form new relationship and network.

Read, Evicted by Matthew Desmond.

There was a question and answer period.

Mr. Williamson answered each question asked of him.

After he departed, the following items were agreed upon:

- ❖ Treska would develop the 'Rules of Conduct'
- ❖ The next quest to be asked would be Jack Berry and Robert Bobb for the Feb. 9 meeting. Treska will ask them.
- ❖ Other guest for March – May are as follows:
 - March – Workforce Development
 - April – Petersburg Supt and School Board Chairman
 - May – LISC

It was suggested by Pastor Tolbert, that we each come with a list of questions already prepared and ask questions in a systematic manner.

The Meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson

Next Meetings: February 9, 2017 – Guest – Jack Berry and Robert Bobb- Meeting at the YMCA

~~1/26/17~~

1/26/17

Wanda Taliaferro

Barbara Hoosier

Sherri Williams

Leonard A. Murr

Joanne Williams

Pastor Michael E. Shannon, Sr.

Daniel W. Todd

Leonard Curry, visitor

Cheska

Glenn Rhue

Rosealia Weaver Roy

7th Mutual Edwards

Pastor J. David Tolbert

Gary Pennington

Rules of the Anti-Poverty Commission

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PETERSBURG

Virginia leader on poverty reduction gives overview

Contributed Report

PETERSBURG — Dr. Thad Williamson, the former director of Richmond's Office of Community Wealth Building, recently presented an overview of poverty reduction to Petersburg's Anti-Poverty Commission.

The presentation included a discussion of how Richmond is meeting poverty reduction goals through workforce development, housing, transportation and education.

Richmond's Office of Community Wealth Building has been recognized nationally as a municipal model for

tackling systemic poverty in urban communities.

The Petersburg Anti-Poverty Commission, an initiative of Councilor Treska Wilson-Smith, was formed in late 2016 following approval by City Council.

"Phase one of the commission is fact-finding," said Wilson-Smith. "For the next few months, the commission will gather information from several poverty reduction groups as well as hear from officials of the Housing Authority, Workforce Development and City Schools."

Petersburg's Anti-Poverty Commission meets the second Thursday of each month. The next



Dr. Thad Williamson, center, the former director of Richmond's Office of Community Wealth Building, recently presented an overview of poverty reduction to Petersburg's Anti-Poverty Commission. [CONTRIBUTED REPORT]

meeting is scheduled for February 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the YMCA.

The public is invited to

attend. Applications for commission members are still being accepted.

Anti-Poverty Commission
Agenda – February 8th, 2017

6:30 – 6:35 : Opening, Welcome, Roll Call.....Gerri Rawlinson

6:35 – 6:37- Moment of Silence

6:37- 6:45 – Old Business:

Approval of Minutes

Discussion of the Proposed Rules of Anti-Poverty Commission

Discussion of the Proposed Activity on Poverty

6:45-6:46 – Introduction of Guest Speaker

6:46 -7:01 – Guest Speaker

7:02 – 7:03 – Introduction of Second Guest Speaker

7:04- 7:18 – Guest Speaker

7:18 – 7:45 – Questions and Answers

7:45 – 7:55 – Finish Old Business

7:55 – 7:58 – Announcements

7:58 – 8:00 – Adjournment

**Anti-Poverty Commission
YMCA
120 Madison Street
Petersburg, VA 23803**

February 8, 2017
6:30 pm

Meeting called to order

Moment of silence

Public Forum

No public forum

Roll Call

Edwards, Michael	Absent
Hoosier, Barbara	Present
Muse, Leonard	Present
Rawlinson, Gerry	Present
Roy, Rosezelia	Present
Rhue, Florence	Absent
Riggins, Cheryl	Absent
Shannon, Michael	Present
Sinclair, Janell	Present
Taliaferro, Wanda	Present
Todd, Daniel	Present
Williamson, Joanne	Absent
Wilson-Smith, Treska	Present

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the January 12, 2017
Motion/2nd
Approved

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Visitors were introduced: Tom Tyrrell, Interim City Manager; Jack Berry, Interim Deputy City Manager; and Robert Bobb, CEO of the Robert Bobb Group.

Jack Berry ran for mayor of Richmond last November. Poverty and community wealth building is a concern in Richmond, VA. A holistic and comprehensive approach is needed. Richmond has seen a 40% poverty and 50% childhood poverty reduction. Metrics need to be created. They need to be measured, tracked and reported. The metrics would include: income, unemployment, SOL disconnections, and teen crime reports. The commission should set goals and decide what to measure. Early childhood and ready to school issues are of great concern. Toxic stress, trauma, violence, no food, bills, and relationships are important topics; as well. It is known fact that children have difficulty receiving emotional support, warmth and nurturing from their parents. There is a need to find how to connect middle school children to the future. There may be a need to entertain the thought to students to visit potential employers which will promote hope and provide an incentive to achieve.

Tom Tyrrell stated this may be an opportunity for Parks and Recreation. He mentioned if a student is not reading at grade level by the 3rd grade; it's hard to catch up. There is a need for fresh new teams of administrators to provide deliverables.

Robert Bobb stressed the need to build human capital. The major points to consider are reading, diversity, and early childhood education. The group must look at the achievement gaps: prenatal care neglect; home environment (lead base paint); guardians (illiteracy and weak vocabulary); cognitive skills of the child; providers (unemployed/underemployed); and post-natal care. The help must be generational.

Q&A from the commissioners.

Closing of meeting

Motion to close

Second

Adjourned

Anti-poverty Commissioners

3/9/17

Janel Sinclair

LEONARD CURRY

Stovence Rhue

Milton Robb

Pat Caulkins

Leonard Muse

TERESA CALDWELL

Joanne Williams

Kelly Evans

Squeya Moore

~~Rosemary H. Long~~

Michael E. Shannon, Sr.

Kennard Curtis

Timothy Williams

Ryan Follett

Earlene Jones

Deborah Fauce

Cheryl Cruise

Courtney Curtis

**Anti-Poverty Commission
Petersburg Public Library
201 W Washington Street
Petersburg, VA 23803**

March 9, 2017
6:30 pm

Meeting called to order

Moment of silence

Public Forum

No public forum

Roll Call

Edwards, Michael	Absent
Hoosier, Barbara	Absent
Muse, Leonard	Present
Rawlinson, Gerry	Absent
Roy, Rosezelia	Present
Rhue, Florence	Present
Riggins, Cheryl	Absent
Shannon, Michael	Present
Sinclair, Janell	Present
Taliaferro, Wanda	Absent
Todd, Daniel	Absent
Williamson, Joanne	Absent
Wilson-Smith, Treska	Present

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the February 8, 2017
Motion/2nd
Approved

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Introduction of attendees were made and the speakers: Earline Jones and Ryan Follett (The Virginia Workforce Network)

Earline Jones: there is a difference between a job and work. The divide is there are jobs, but people are either not ready to work or don't want to work. There is an issue with work attitudes or the lack of skills. This organization assesses clients to determine where to start. All trainings are out-sourced. There is a need to go to the population: veterans and young people (in-school and out of school). Need to access clients. Employers are looking for employees that are able to work; have a good work attitude and possess the skill level. The current labor market demands are: healthcare, manufacturing, energy, and logistics (transportation).

The aspects of poverty are classified by what is available and what are you doing?

Ryan Follett: see attachments.

Q&A session with the commissioners.

Closing of meeting

Motion to close

Second

Adjourned

ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

Agenda

04/13/2017

Call Meeting to Order

Period of Silence

Review of Minutes

Review of/ Correction to Minutes/ Adoption of Minutes

Rules of the Anti-Poverty Commission

Review/Amend/Adoption of Rules

Planning/Presentations/Committee Design

Review and discussion of past presentations as a means of identifying of potential strategies to combat poverty for the City of Petersburg:

- Mission
- Policy plan of action
- Plan for partnership/collaboration—to identify other departments/programs within the City of Petersburg
- Plan for networking with other community resources
- Plan for networking with private entities—employers/educational institutions, etc

Discussion of New Business

- Presentation to City Council: Vote for presentation date May 2nd versus May 16th
- Presentations Cameron Foundation 05/11/2017 Circles Ashland 06/08/2017
- Changing future meetings start time to 6:00 pm

City Councilwoman, Treska Wilson-Smith encourages everyone to attend the City Council meetings held on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Adjourn

**Anti-Poverty Commission
Petersburg Public Library
201 W Washington Street
Petersburg, VA 23803**

April 13, 2017
6:30 pm

Meeting called to order

Moment of silence

Public Forum

No public forum

Roll Call

Edwards, Michael	Absent
Hoosier, Barbara	Present
Muse, Leonard	Present
Rawlinson, Gerry	Present
Roy, Rosezelia	Present
Rhue, Florence	Present
Riggins, Cheryl	Absent
Shannon, Michael	Present
Sinclair, Janell	Present
Taliaferro, Wanda	Absent
Tolbert, David	Present
Todd, Daniel	Present
Williamson, Joanne	Absent
Wilson-Smith, Treska	Absent

Guests

Len Curry
Paul Mullin
Linda Argencibia
Jackie Smith-Mason
Pamela Bingum

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the March 9, 2017

Motion/2nd
Approved

Old Business

modification

Discussion and amendments of the Rules of the Commission (See attachment)

New Business

Chairperson Rawlinson discussed some ideas to present to Council and Robert Bobb Group on behalf of the Commission:

- To hire a full-time employee to act as a liaison between the City and the Commission. This employee would work within the organization to carry out the Mission.

A motion was made to change the meeting time from 6:30pm to 6pm for May 11, 2017.

- Motion made/2nd (Roy/Shannon)
- Passed

A motion was made to change the meeting time from 6:30pm to 6pm for June 8, 2017

- Motion made/2nd (Tolbert/Rhue)
- Passed

The Commission

It was discussed that the Commissioners need to develop its vision/strategy/framework from the Commissioners' think-tank. Although the Commissioners are appointed by elected officials; it is imperative to remain politically free, to ensure the mission is achieved.

Closing of meeting

Motion to close
Second
Adjourned

ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

Agenda

05/11/17

Call Meeting to Order

Period of Silence

Review of Minutes

Review of/ Correction to Minutes/ Adoption of Minutes

Planning/Presentations/Committee Design

Review and discussion of past presentations as a means of identifying of potential strategies to combat poverty for the City of Petersburg:

- Mission
- Policy plan of action
- Plan for partnership/collaboration—to identify other departments/programs within the City of Petersburg
- Plan for networking with other community resources
- Plan for networking with private entities—employers/educational institutions, etc

6:30 pm Presentations: Valerie Liggins, Cameron Foundation

Discussion/ New Business

Circles Ashland 06/08/2017

Rules of Anti-Poverty Commission

City Councilwoman, Treska Wilson-Smith encourages everyone to attend the City Council meetings held on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Adjourn

Petersburg health summit fights adverse childhood experiences

By Contributed Report

Posted Jun 2, 2017 at 9:47 PM

Updated Jun 2, 2017 at 10:37 PM

Three-day workshops build community resilience

PETERSBURG — An educational summit among several state and local organizations wraps up Saturday during which combating adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, was the top priority.

The Crater Health District of the Virginia Department of Health along with United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg, The Cameron Foundation and the Petersburg Wellness Consortium partnered to present a major summit entitled “Beyond ACEs: Building Community Resilience.”

The summit was based on the premise that childhood experiences can have a tremendous impact on health and quality of life. The summit focused on building Trauma Informed Care (TIC) and resilience practices that benefit children and adults who have faced early adversity to shape a healthier community.

“This is not a one-time shot in the arm,” said Director of Community Impact/Southside of the United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg Betty Hobbs. “We want (the summit) to be the beginning of community impact reaching folks with trauma and bringing them to resiliency.”

The summit was held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week.

Thursday and Friday summit sessions were held at Tabernacle Family Life Center in Petersburg.

On Friday the H.O.P.E. Fest (Healing Our People Everyday), held in the parking lot of the Petersburg Health Department on Halifax Street, featured live jazz from the James Saxmo Gates and Friends group, food and community support vendors. Giant "HOPE" letters were unveiled and will be placed in the health department's front yard for display.

Saturday's session, focusing on building a trauma resilient community with a faith-based approach, concludes the three-day summit with a Community Day celebration at Appomattox Regional Governor's School in Petersburg.

"ACEs continue to have a significant impact on the health and well-being of our communities," said Crater Health District Director Dr. Alton Hart, Jr. "The Beyond ACEs Summit is just one of the first steps we are taking to address this important public health issue. I encourage school staff members, law enforcement, social services, faith leaders, community members and more to attend this meaningful event."

The summit featured over 30 presenters over the three days of workshops and special community activities. Some featured speakers included Jonathan Kozol, Dr. Marva Lewis, Dr. Allison Jackson, Rev. Paul Abernathy and Kwame Shaka Opare. The workshops focused on building trauma-sensitive schools, clinical and support services and criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Childhood trauma has lifelong consequences

By Michael Buettner

Staff Writer

Posted Jun 5, 2017 at 2:17 PM

Updated Jun 5, 2017 at 2:17 PM

Conference focuses on preventing, healing 'adverse childhood experiences'

PETERSBURG – A three-day conference on preventing and healing childhood trauma wrapped up Saturday with a call for attendees to take what they've learned and put it into action in schools, the justice system and churches.

Former Mayor Annie Mickens, who moderated a panel discussion among six local faith leaders, said Petersburg was an appropriate location for a conference on "adverse childhood experiences," or ACEs. On a variety of indicators of community well-being, she said, "Out of 134 localities in Virginia, we're number 133 or number 134. ... It's time to change the system."

The conference, "Building Community Resilience," brought together nearly three dozen experts from across the nation in fields ranging from social work to health care to education. They shared their knowledge of the impact of ACEs on communities and the lives of individuals, along with tools and techniques for treating trauma victims and restructuring institutions to make them less likely to have negative impacts on young people.

Numerous studies since the 1990s have found that individuals who have more adverse or traumatic experiences during childhood, including abuse and neglect, tend to have a variety of problems throughout their lives. One

of the largest studies, conducted by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Kaiser Permanente Foundation, found clear connections between ACEs and a wide range of health issues and risky behaviors.

According to the CDC, as the number of ACEs increases, the risk increases for a variety of issues, including:

- Alcoholism and alcohol abuse
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Depression
- Fetal death
- Health-related quality of life
- Illicit drug use
- Ischemic heart disease
- Liver disease
- Poor work performance
- Financial stress
- Risk for intimate partner violence

Strategies for preventing ACEs discussed at the conference focused on making schools, clinical and support services and the criminal and juvenile justice systems more sensitive to the potential for causing trauma, as well as methods for helping people reduce the impact of childhood trauma on their lives – including “the healing that takes place through the arts,” according to Dr. Alton Hart Jr., director of the Crater Health District, one of the conference’s co-sponsors.

• *Michael Buettner may be reached at mbuettner@progress-index.com or 722-5155.*

ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

Agenda

06/08/2017

6:00 pm

Call Meeting to Order

Period of Silence

- Review of Minutes
- Planning/Presentations
- Review of Rules for Anti-Poverty Commission

6:30 pm

Introduction of Speaker by Gerry Rawlinson

Presentation by David Cooper Circles of Ashland

- Discussion

master in sociology

New Business

Announcements

City Councilwoman, Treska Wilson-Smith encourages everyone to attend the City Council meetings held on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Adjourn



Circles Ashland
Teaching Families, Building Communities

David Cooper, MSW, MDiv, CPM
 Circles Ashland
david.cooper@circlesashland-va.org
 w/ 804.496.1212

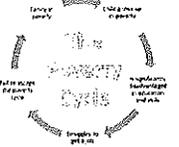




Circles Ashland
Teaching Families, Building Communities




Circles Ashland Mission
Inform, Inspire and Equip Individuals, Families and Community to Resolve Poverty and Thrive








Why Circles Ashland?

- ~17 % Poverty in Ashland (12% in 2 yrs)
 - ~1300 people of ~7600 population
- Median household income ~\$41,500
 - Hanover County median income ~\$77,500
- Need of Poverty Resolving Development
 - Livable wage jobs
 - Community Housing
 - Transportation



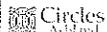


MULTI-GENERATIONAL APPROACH

- Circles USA provides adults and children with Circles curricula to teach important life skills to break the poverty cycle for present and future generations.
- Multi-generational approaches are best practice in addressing long-term poverty.







Circles Helps Families and Employers



Isolation and Poverty



Stability



Employment, Retention and Advancement (with coaching by Circle Allies)





Circles Ashland Is

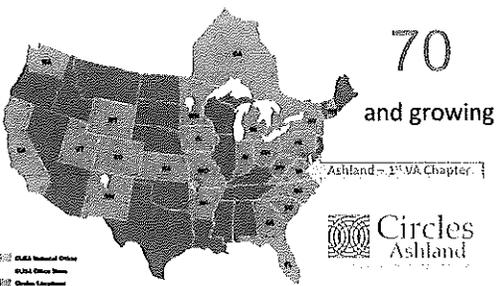
- **Equipping** Circle Leader families
 - rising to a sustainable, livable income
- **Informing** neighbors
 - learning together
- **Inspiring** community
 - a hand up - interdependence
 - growing friendships
 - ending poverty - together



Circles Approach



CIRCLES CHAPTERS?



70 and growing

Ashland - 3rd VA Chapter



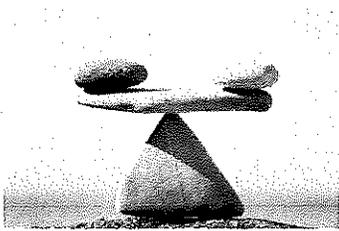
Circles Ashland Expansion: 2017

- 34 Total Circle Leader family members
- 24 Circle Allies
- 200 Volunteers to date - 80 consistent
- 5000 meals
- 4 Community Inform & Inspire Events
- 2 Cost of Poverty Simulations
- Expansion to 3rd cohort

<http://circlesashland-va.org>



THE TIPPING POINT





**Circles
Ashland**

Building Resilience. Restoring Communities.

David Cooper, CEO

Circles Ashland

david.cooper@circlesashland-va.org

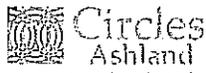
w. 804.496.1212





Circles Ashland Resource Teams

	Essential Functions (1/05/2017)
Board of Directors ("Board") – 16 members	Fiduciary responsibility for the organization; governs and sets broad policies; selects, appoints, supports and reviews performance of the CEO/Executive Director; sets and maintains by-laws, raises funds; promotes organization; approves annual budgets; and accounts to constituents
Executive Director/CEO (1.0 FTE)	Collaborates with the Board to accomplish the mission set by the Board; participates in developing, implementing and assessing strategic and program plans; manages day-to-day operations of the organization including employment, supervision and management of staff and interns; promotes the organization to the public; establishes organizational culture; forms and supports Resource Teams in the accomplishment of Resource Team goals and objectives.
Program Director (1.0 FTE)	Supervised by the CEO/Executive Director, provides direction and support for Coach/es and Resource Team leaders, provides comprehensive program planning and oversight including program design, implementation, external partners, metrics, data collection, management, assessment and reporting. Provides administrative support to the CEO/Executive Director and Resource Teams as required.
Coach/Master Coach (volunteer)	Supervised by the Program Director, provides guidance and support for Circle Leaders, Allies and Ad-Hoc volunteers; and provides support to Program Director as required.
<u>Volunteer Coordinator (0.5 FTE)</u>	Supervised by the CEO/Executive Director, collaborates with the Recruitment Team and Community Team, in coordination with the Communication Team, plans and recruits, places, supports measures and reports on volunteers to meet the needs of Circles Programs and operations.
<u>Resource Teams (7)</u>	<i>Resource Team Leaders (Board Committee Chairs) serve as members of the Board – 2016-2019. Thereafter, volunteer chairpersons will lead Resource Teams.</i>
Communications (volunteer)	Guided by the CEO/Executive Director, develops comprehensive communication plans, strategies and media (print, electronic and broadcast) to inform and inspire internal and external constituents to achieve the mission, goals and objectives of Circles Ashland; develops and maintains relationships with print, broadcast and social media outlets; manages Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, and other pertinent outlets; established and reports on metrics to guide effective and efficient media engagement.
Fund Development (volunteer)	Guided by the CEO/Executive Director, develops and implements fund raising plans to solicit and receive donations, grants, sponsorships,*and endowments sufficient to achieve the



Circles Ashland Resource Teams

	Board approved operating budget of Circles Ashland.
Services (Volunteer)	Guided by the Program Director (or CEO), establishes and maintains bridge resources (referral sources) to assist Circle Leaders toward self-sufficiency. Assists with developing MOA's with partners.
Recruitment (Volunteer)	Working with the Volunteer Coordinator and Program Director, plans for, recruits, screens, and promotes Circle Leaders and Circle Allies for program placement. <i>Note: Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for orienting, training and referring CL's and CA's to the Program Director and Coach/es for assignment.</i>
Big View & Cliff Effects (Volunteer)	Guided by the CEO/Executive Director and informed by the Program Director, researches, educates, inspires and engages Circle Leaders, Allies, community members, civic leaders and organizations to address systems and policies that resolve poverty; improving access to affordable housing, jobs and transportation and other factors that promote the success of Circle Leader life plans. Plans with Circle Leaders and community, strategies to resolve Cliff Effects.
Jobs and Education (Volunteer)	Guided by the CEO/Executive Director, researches and establishes business and educational contacts and hard-skills training resources to support Circle Leader Life Plans and organization development. Informs, assesses and supports Circle Leaders and Allies with employment and career issues.
Community (1 chair, 2 sub-chairs) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Meals (volunteer)- Child education & care (volunteer)	Guided by the CEO/Executive Director and informed by the Program Director, plans, organizes and arranges meeting spaces and furnishings; secures, organizes and provides meals; organizes and applies children's curriculum and child care; and assists Program Director, Volunteer Coordinator, Coach, and Volunteers with facilitating Circles meetings and training.

The Anti-Poverty Commission

First Report – June 20, 2017

“The existence of poverty in the US should not be accepted as a necessary and insoluble problem, but should be considered a crisis requiring emergency action. It is a matter of will and priorities, not a matter of resources.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Anti-Poverty Commission

Members

Gerry Rawlinson – Chairperson

Michael Edwards – Vice Chair

Janell Sinclair – Secretary

Barbara Hoosier – Assistant Secretary

Cheryl Riggins

Joanne Williams

Leonard Muse

Wanda Taliaferro

Pastor David Tolbert

Pastor Michael Shannon

Florence Rhue

Rozelia Roy

Leonard Curr

- Applications are ongoing. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the PPL a
-

The Anti-Poverty Commission

- The Anti-Poverty Commission was established in July of 2015.
- Citizens of Petersburg applied and were appointed by City Council.
- We have adopted the theme:

“Giving a hand up, not a hand out!”

- The Anti-Poverty Commission’s goal is to influence public policy to address poverty and the impact of poverty.
- Strategies are to address interventions by the local government of Petersburg in conjunction with the community and private sector.

The Anti-Poverty Commission

• 15-R-41 Adopted: 07/07/15

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

- **WHEREAS**, The Petersburg City Council, by the authority vested in them, hereby creates the **Anti-Poverty Commission**; and
- **WHEREAS**, under this authority, the **Anti-Poverty Commission** is hereby established to develop strategies to address poverty demonstrable results for increasing employment and educational attainment, improving transportation, and enhancing healthy outcomes for Petersburg residents; and
- **WHEREAS**, the City of Petersburg seeks to identify the root causes of poverty in the City and develop policies designed to address causes; and
- **WHEREAS**, according to the *US Census 2013 American Community Survey*, 26.7% of Petersburg residents are below the poverty threshold the Federal government compared to 11.3% average for the Commonwealth of Virginia; and
- **WHEREAS**, the *US Census 2013 American Community Survey* reports the median household income for residents of the City of Petersburg is \$34,424, while the median household income for the Commonwealth of Virginia is \$63,907; and
- **WHEREAS**, according to the *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, February 2015 data, the unemployment rate in the City of Petersburg is 10.1%, while the rate of unemployment for the Commonwealth is 4.7%;
- **WHEREAS**, the City of Petersburg seeks to promote economic parity and social justice for all of the citizens and residents of Petersburg, Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Petersburg, Virginia, hereby sets forth to develop an **Anti-Poverty Commission**, and do hereby Order that:

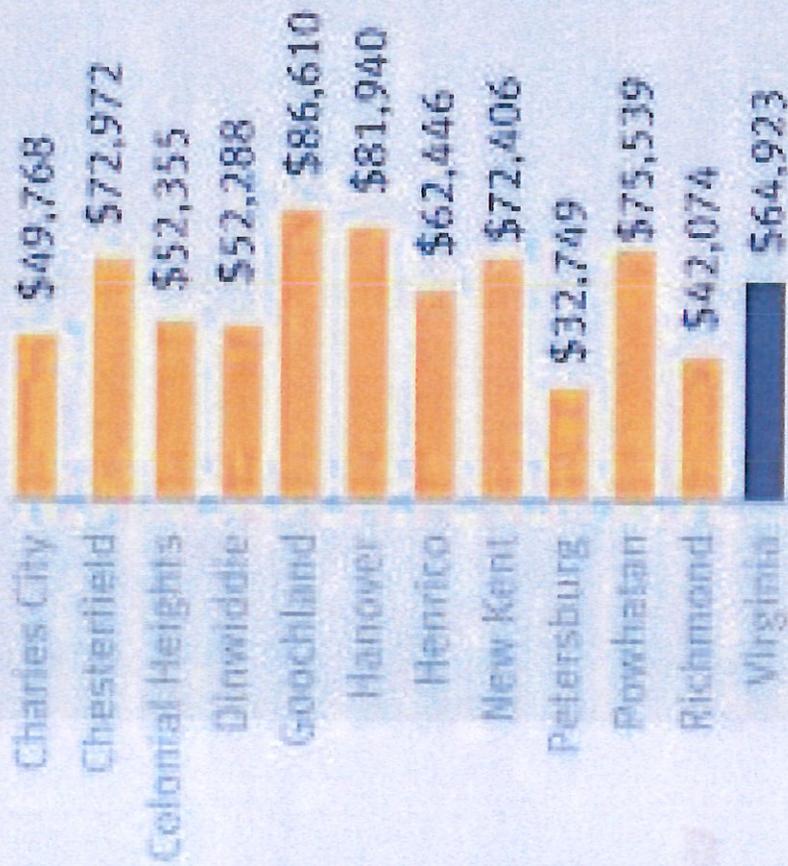
The Commission shall, by way of illustration but not limitation, consist of the following work groups: **Job Creation, Workforce Development/Education, Policy/Legislation, Healthy Communities, Research/Evaluation, and Transportation**. The Commission will identify strategies to address poverty. The Commission will identify strategies consistent with making Petersburg a more equitable and vibrant community, and develop a report detailing its recommendations within twelve (12) months of the establishment of the Commission.

The Anti-Poverty Commission

**Petersburg has a population
of approximately 32,477
residents as of 7/1/2015
(US Census Bureau)**

- On November 29, 2016, the Progress reported....
- “ In comparison, the cities of Petersburg have seen only 41.7 percent and 50.5 percent poverty since 2000, respectively, but their about a quarter of their total population Petersburg and 25 percent in Richmond).

2014 Median Household Income



DEFINITION OF POVERTY

Poverty is a state of deprivation lacking the usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions. (Wikipedia)

The US Bureau of the Census defines poverty as money income before

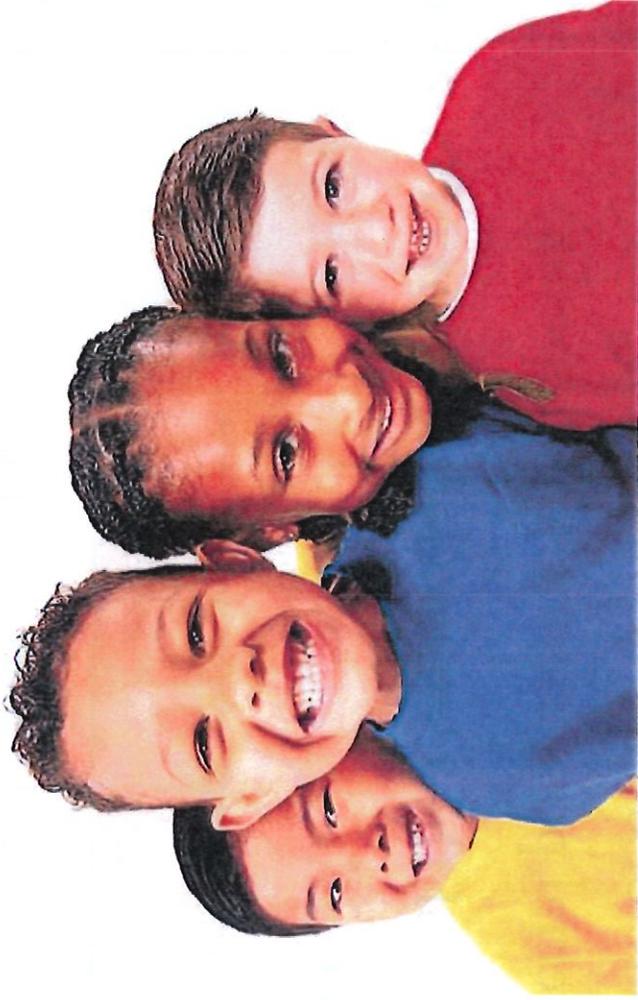
2015 Poverty Thresholds

	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people
100%	\$12,085	\$15,397	\$18,872	\$24,259
200%	\$24,170	\$30,794	\$37,744	\$48,518

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Weighted Average Poverty Thresholds

In the Greater Richmond region, 1 in 6 children below poverty thresholds. That's 44,841 children

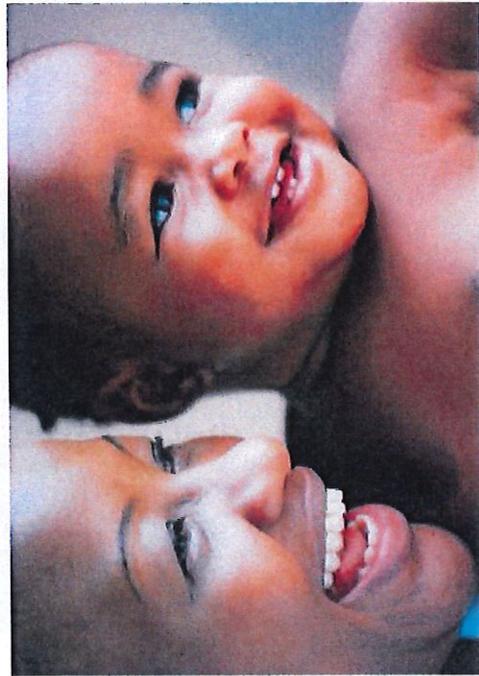
“What Does Poverty Look Like in Petersburg VA?”



46.4% Under age 18

Based upon United Way Data and 2015 United States C

“What Does Poverty Look Like in Petersburg VA?”



44.8% Ages 18-64 Years



Based upon United Way Data and United States Cen

“What Does Poverty Look Like in Petersburg VA?”

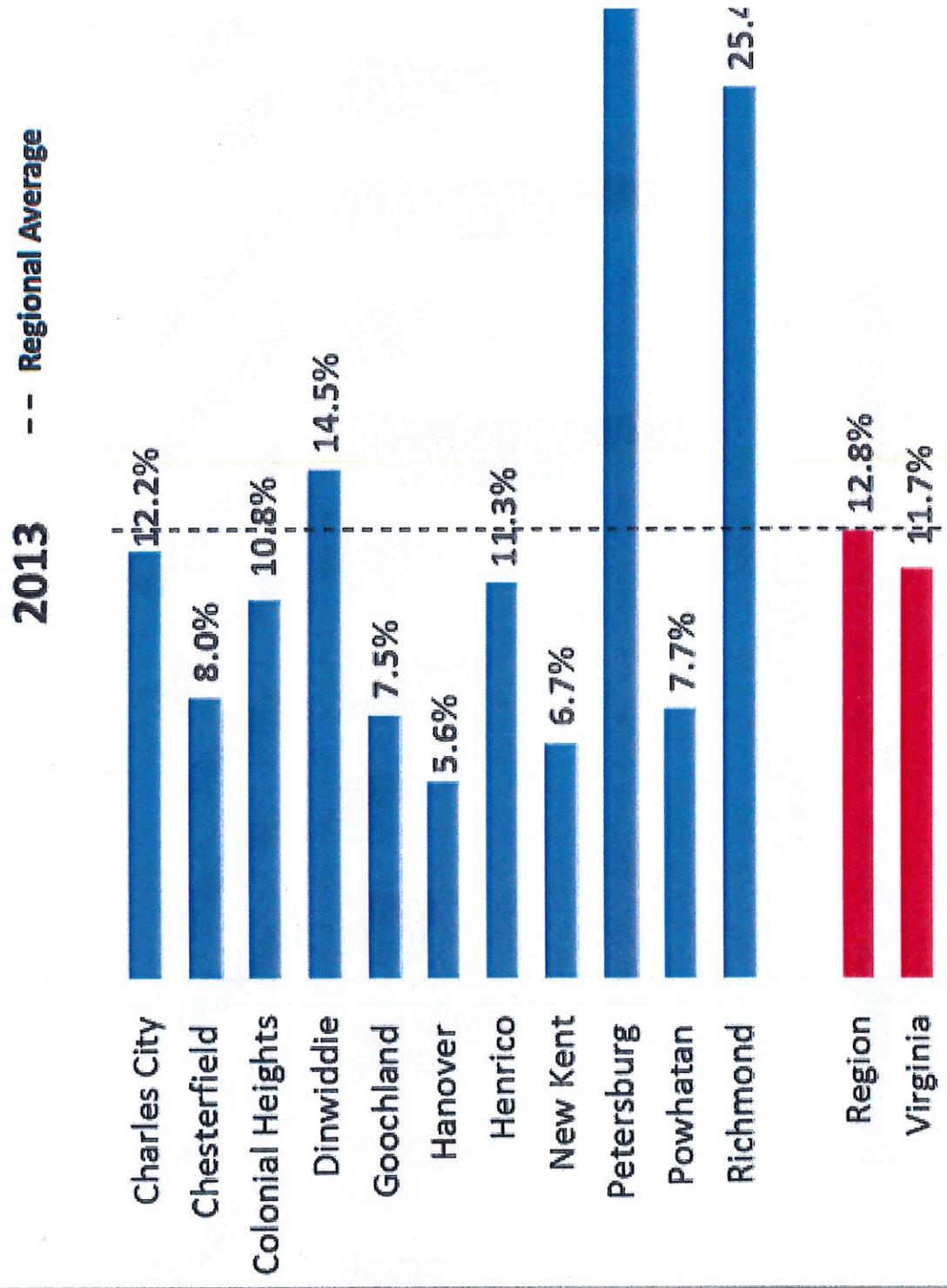


8.9% Elderly 65+ years

<http://www.city-data.com/poverty/Petersburg>

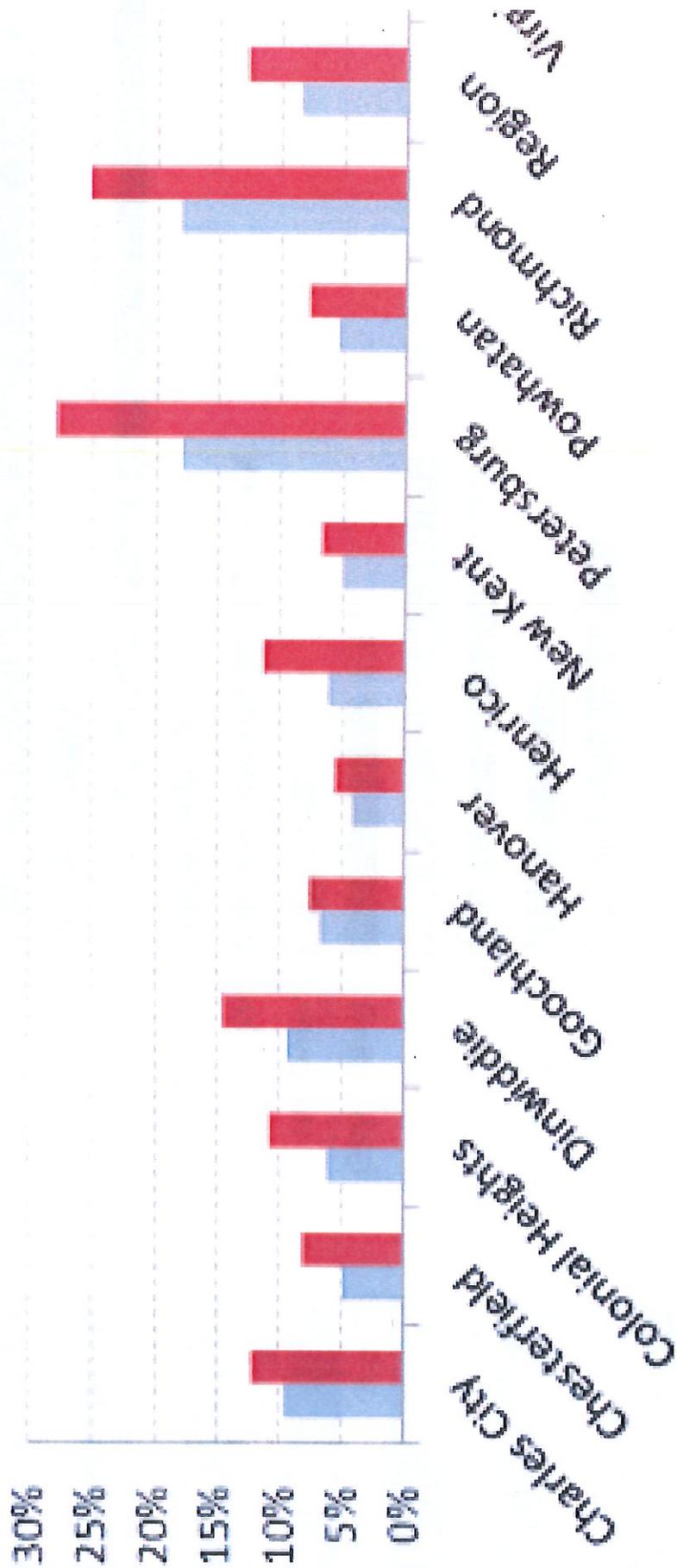
Total Population in Poverty	
Locality	2013
Charles City	865
Chesterfield	25,704
Colonial Heights	1,885
Dinwiddie	3,970
Goochland	1,538
Hanover	5,598
Henrico	35,788
New Kent	1,261
Petersburg	8,953
Powhatan	2,000
Richmond	51,290
Region	138,852
Virginia	941,059

Percent of Total Population in Poverty



Percent of Total Population in Poverty

■ 2000 ■ 2013



The Anti-Poverty Commission

The Anti- Poverty Commission has taken the role of identifying strategies to reduce poverty in Petersburg a Tier One City. The Commission continues to research, collaborate with neighboring cities and organizations, utilize available resources, and collaborate with the local government of Petersburg. The focus has been on

- Job Creation,
- Workforce Development
- Education,
- Policy/Legislation,
- Healthy Communities,
- Research/Evaluation, and
- Transportation.

The Anti-Poverty Commission has had the following organizations/individuals to present:

Richmond City: Office of Community Wealth Building

presentation by Thaddeus Williamson on 1/26/17
First Director of Office of Community Wealth Building for Richmond City (worked with the former Mayor Dwight Jones and currently works with Mayor Lavar Stoney).

Mr. Williamson provided an overview of Richmond City's approach to address poverty in its communities. In the spring of 2011, the Office of Community Wealth Building was established to define, address, and measure poverty.

It is also noted that the Office of Community Wealth Building partnered with Virginia Commonwealth University, neighborhood activists, religious leaders, public officials, and business community leaders.

Their program piloted criteria was low income working females -head of household.

Richmond City's program had on its agenda to define poverty and how to measure poverty.



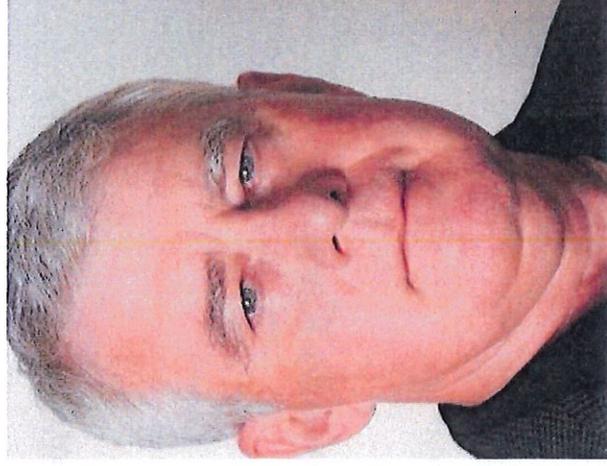
The Anti-Poverty Commission

February 8, 2017 – City of Petersburg

Robert Bobb, CEO of the Robert Bobb Group

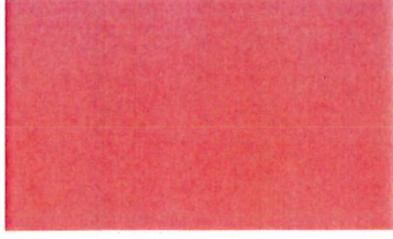
Tom Tyrell, Interim City Manager

Jack Berry, Interim Deputy City Manager



Information and discussion was presented to address:

- The need to develop a holistic and comprehensive approach to decrease poverty.
- The need to develop criteria metrics by which to measure, track and report progress in decreasing poverty.
- The metrics would include income, unemployment, SOL disconnections and teen crime reports.
- Early childhood and school readiness issues need to be addressed.





Presented by Earlene Jones- Program Services Specialist and
Ryan Follett-Disability Services Coordinator

March 9, 2017

The Crater Regional Workforce Investment Group / Learn to Earn Inc.
presented on

the following topics:

- Individuals readiness for the work place
- Lack of job skills
- Targeted Populations: Veterans, Young Adults (in and out of school)
- Employers desired skills in employees
- Current Labor Market Demands
 - Healthcare,
 - Manufacturing,
 - Energy, and
 - Logistics (transportation).
- They reported that Employers are looking for employees who are able to work; have a good work attitude and possess desired skill level for job opportunities.

The Anti-Poverty Comm

CAMERON FOUNDATION

Presented by Valerie Wiggins

May 11, 2017

- Valerie Wiggins presented on statistics identified needs of community based collected by the Virginia Department of Health
- She also addressed:
 - Funding sources goals, and strategies pregnancy, poverty, and mental health
 - Current programs in the Tri-Cities Cameron Foundation, and
 - Awarding of grants via the Cameron Foundation



The Circles of Ashland

June 8, 2017 Mr. David Cooper introduced Circles of Ashland.

- Circles of Ashland is an innovative, community-based approach to solving poverty.
- The Circles Framework model works to utilize relationships and resources within the individuals community in effort to improve their economic situation and overall quality of life.



Mr. David Cooper, MSW, Mdiv, CPP

The Anti-Poverty Commission

Phase One

Collaborating with surrounding communities regarding their efforts to combat poverty.

Phase Two

- Identify Petersburg's current state of poverty.
- Develop metrics by which to measure, track and report efforts to decrease poverty in the City of Petersburg.

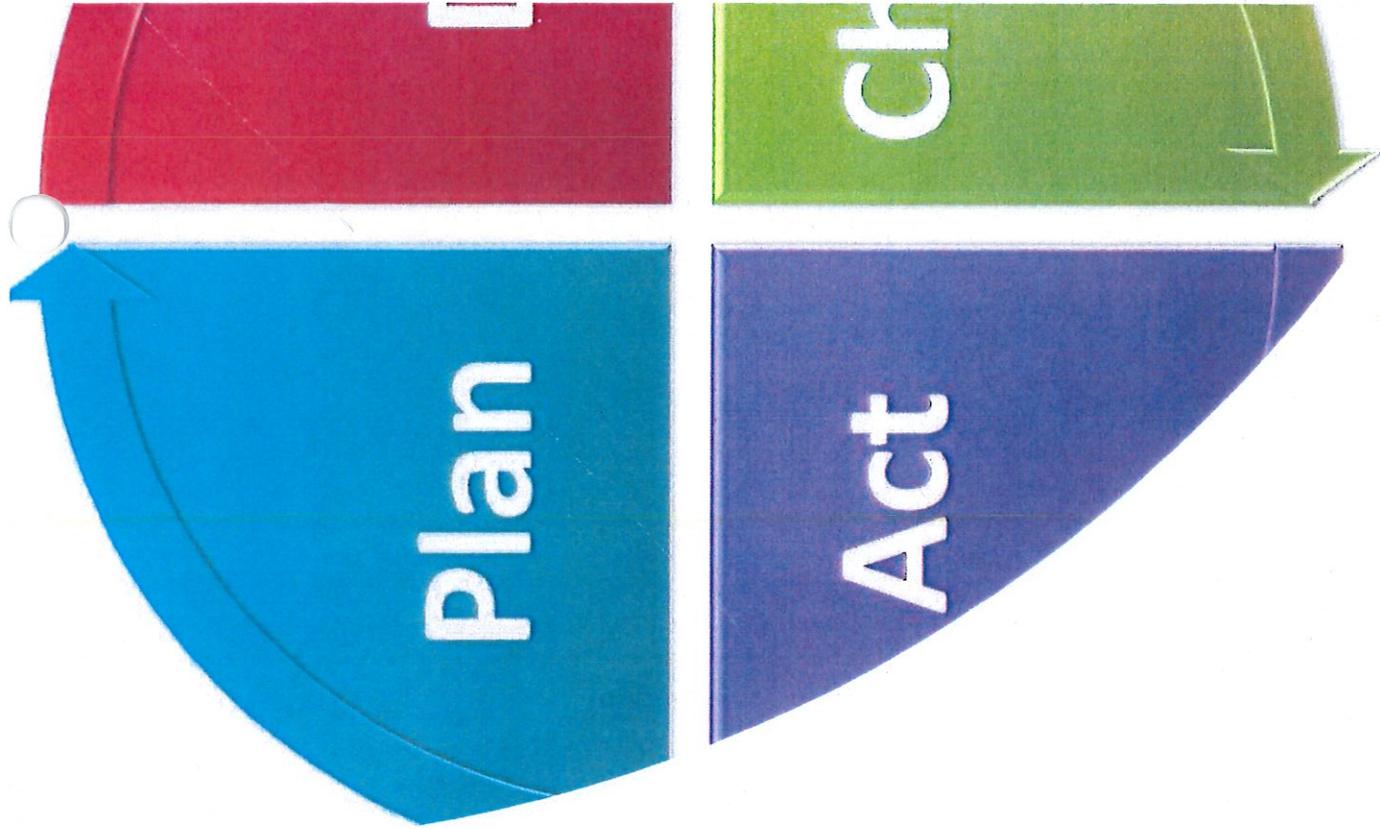
Phase Three

- Collaborate with City Council and the Community to increase awareness about poverty in the City of Petersburg

Via: A Symposium and Poverty Simulation

Phase Four

Continue to collaborate with members of the community, private sector and local government to develop a plan of action to decrease poverty in the City of Petersburg.



Plan

Act

ck

Do



CRATER REGION

JOB SEEKERS EMPLOYERS RESOURCES MEETINGS & EVENTS ABOUT

CONTACT

Crater Regional Workforce Center opens in Petersburg

October 27th, 2017

Billed as a “one-stop shop” for residents, the center includes private offices and classrooms where unemployed people can come for assistance in their job search.

“Historically, [unemployed persons] had to shop around for these resources,” said James A. Rothrock, the Commissioner of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitation Services. “[The center] is truly a one-stop shop.”

A special ceremony was held yesterday at the center, as Chris Johnson, the chair of the Crater Regional Workforce Development Board, addressed the crowd at the center. Johnson credited the state and local officials who worked to make the center possible.

News Categories

> Workforce News

Upcoming Events

Crater Regional Workforce Development Board Meeting

November 12 @ 8:30 am - 10:30 am

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Petersburg Mayor Samuel Parham also addressed the crowd, thanking McAuliffe. "It's such an exciting day to have our jobs governor with us," he said. "He's helping us reset our future, and letting our citizens know they have support."

William A. Robertson Jr., the chairman of the Board of Supervisors in Prince George County, credited the whole region for coming together on the project.

"Four cities and five counties, we all came together," he said. "As the jobs change, we have to change."

The officials got together for an official ribbon cutting after the speakers. Tours were then given to attendees, who were impressed with the amount of office space and resources the center has.

The center offers a wide range of resources, not just for unemployed citizens but for business owners as well. The owners can come in and request workers they need, and can also request workers with specific skill sets that are in line with their business.

"Business owners come in, they tell our staff exactly what they need, what skill sets they need, and they put a program here working with our community colleges so that employer will have workers"

"Business owners come in, they tell our staff exactly what they need, what skill sets they need, and they put a program here working with our community colleges so that employer will have workers," said McAuliffe.

Persons with disabilities and veterans can also come into the center and receive assistance.

The unemployment rate in Petersburg is currently about 7.2 percent, which is above the state unemployment rate of 3.8 percent. Officials are hoping the center can help the unemployed find a steady job and provide resources that might have been hard to come by otherwise.

“We have many high-paying open jobs we cannot fill,” said McAuliffe as he addressed the crowd. “That’s why these offices are essential, for folks to get career advice and planning.”

The workforce center in Petersburg is the 63rd such center to be opened in Virginia, where unemployment is at the lowest it has been in nine years. McAuliffe said his administration has plans to open more.

“These centers have been a godsend for so many people to get them back into the workforce,” said McAuliffe. “If you want to work in Virginia, we have a job for you.”

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22 W Washington
Street Petersburg, VA
23803

> [Contact](#)

[Sitemap](#)

Phone: [\(804\) 862-6155](tel:(804)862-6155)

Fax: [\(804\) 732-6668](tel:(804)732-6668)

Email:

admin@vcwcraterregion.com

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