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

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 were 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
12/01/17

Wanda Taliferro
Barbara Hoosier
Sherri Williams
Leonard A. Mace
Joanne Williams
Pastor Michael E. Shannon, Sr.
Daniel W. Todd
Leonard Curry, visitor
Gieska
Florence Rhue
Lozecelia Weaver Ross
Pastor J. David Tolbert
Gary Pearlman
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 Councillor 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 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 9, 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

Edward, 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, Tresa  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 postnatal care. The help must be generational.

Q&A from the commissioners.

Closing of meeting

Motion to close
Second
Adjourned
3/9/17
Janell Sinclair
Leonard Curry
Florence Rhue
Milton Abby
Pat Caulkins
Leonard Nixon
Theresa Caldwell
Joanne Williams
Kelly Evans
Squella Moore
Rosie Smith
Michael E. Shannon, Sr.
Kennard Curtis
Timothy Williams
Ryan Follett
Earlene Jones
Darlynn Taucer
Cheryl Canise
Courtney Curtis
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 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

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

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.
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

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
David Cooper, MSW, MDiv, CPM
Circles Ashland
david.cooper@circlesashland-va.org
w: 804-496-1212

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)
- 1,000 people of 7,000 population
- Median household income: $41,800
- Hancock County median income: $47,500
- Need for Poverty Reduction Development
  - Living 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

- 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
Circles Partners with Over 1000 Organizations across America

POVERTY IS A HUMANITARIAN ISSUE: POVERTY IS AN ECONOMIC ISSUE.

10+ Million people in the U.S. living in poverty... Yet, we don't have enough labor available to fill needed positions.

Where Circles is Headed

- Assessment
- Planning
- Demonstration
- Expansion

Circles Ashland is here: 2017
Circles Ashland Expansion: 2017
- ~ 34 Total Circle Leader family members
- ~ 24 Circle Allies
- ~ 2,000 Volunteers to date – 80 consistent
- ~ 5000 meals
- 4 Community Inform & Inspire Events
- 2 Cost of Poverty Simulations
- Expansion to 3rd cohort

http://circlesashlandva.org

THE TIPPING POINT

David Cooper, CEO
Circles Ashland
david.cooper@circlesashland-va.org
w: 804-981-2112
## Circles Ashland Resource Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Essential Functions (1/05/2017)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Directors</strong> (&quot;Board&quot;) – 16 members</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Director/CEO (1.0 FTE)</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Director (1.0 FTE)</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coach/Master Coach (volunteer)</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Volunteer Coordinator (0.5 FTE)</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resource Teams (7)</strong></td>
<td>Resource Team Leaders (Board Committee Chairs) serve as members of the Board – 2016-2019. Thereafter, volunteer chairpersons will lead Resource Teams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communications (volunteer)</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund Development (volunteer)</strong></td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Circles Ashland Resource Teams</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Board approved operating budget of Circles Ashland.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Services (Volunteer)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recruitment (Volunteer)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with the Volunteer Coordinator and Program Director, plans for, recruits, screens, and promotes Circle Leaders and Circle Allies for program placement. Note: Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for orienting, training and referring CL's and CA's to the Program Director and Coach/ies for assignment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Big View &amp; Cliff Effects (Volunteer)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jobs and Education (Volunteer)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community (1 chair, 2 sub-chairs)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- <strong>Meals (volunteer)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Child education &amp; care (volunteer)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
"The existence of poverty in the US should not be accepted as a necessary insoluble problem, but should be considered a crisis requiring emergency. 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.
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 pover demonstrable results for increasing employment and educational attainment, improving transportation, and enhancing healthy Petersburg residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Petersburg seeks to identify the root causes of poverty in the City and develop policies designed to add causes; and

WHEREAS, according to the US Census 2013 American Community Survey, 26.7% of Petersburg residents are below the poverty tr 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 Peru $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 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 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. To provide recommendations on strategies to address poverty. The Commission will identify strategies consistent with making Petersburg and develop a report detailing its recommendations within twelve (12) months of the establishment of the Commission.
Petersburg has a population of approximately 32,477 residents as of 7/1/2015

(US Census Bureau)
2014 Median Household Income

- Charles City: $49,768
- Chesterfield: $72,972
- Colonial Heights: $52,355
- Dinwiddie: $55,288
- Goochland: $86,610
- Hanover: $81,940
- Henrico: $62,446
- New Kent: $72,406
- Petersburg: $32,769
- Powhatan: $75,539
- Richmond: $42,074
- Williamsburg: $64,923
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 taxes and other income at or below the poverty level.

### 2015 Poverty Thresholds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 person</th>
<th>2 people</th>
<th>3 people</th>
<th>4 people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$12,085</td>
<td>$15,397</td>
<td>$18,872</td>
<td>$24,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200%</td>
<td>$24,170</td>
<td>$30,794</td>
<td>$37,744</td>
<td>$48,518</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Census
“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/poverty-Petersburg,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles City</td>
<td>865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterfield</td>
<td>25,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Heights</td>
<td>1,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinwiddie</td>
<td>3,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goochland</td>
<td>1,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanover</td>
<td>5,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henrico</td>
<td>35,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Kent</td>
<td>1,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newport News</td>
<td>8,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powhatan</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>51,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>138,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>941,059</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percent of Total Population in Poverty 2013**

- **Region**: 12.8%
- **Virginia**: 11.7%
- **Richmond**: 25.4%
- **Region**: 11.3%
Percent of Total Population in Poverty

- Charles City
- Chesterfield
- Colonial Heights
- Dinwiddie
- Goochland
- Hanover
- Henrico
- New Kent
- Petersburg
- Powhatan
- Richmond
- Region
- Virginia

- 2000
- 2013
The Anti-Poverty Commission has taken the role of identifying strategies to reduce poverty and make 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.
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
  o Healthcare,
  o Manufacturing,
  o Energy, and
  o 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 Community

CAMERON FOUNDATION
Presented by Valerie Wiggins

May 11, 2017

- Valerie Wiggins presented on statistical 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
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.
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.
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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