

Petersburg  
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes  
January 14, 2021

**Attendees:** Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Ms. Keitoya Taylor, Mrs. Florence Rhue, Mrs. Barbara Hoosier, Pastor Michael Shannon,

Guests: Mr. Norris Stevenson, Director of Petersburg Social Services Department and Mrs. Leanne Lytle, Director of Community Impact

**Video Conference:** Zoom meeting

**Meeting Commenced:** 6:05 p.m.

**Agenda:**

- I. Opening the Meeting
- II. Introduction of Guest – Mr. Norris Stevenson, Director of Petersburg Social Services
- III. Overview of Anti-Poverty Commission's Goals
- IV. Conversation with Mr. Stevenson
- V. Acknowledgement of Appreciation to Guest
- VI. Approval of Minutes
- VII. Follow-up on Minutes Being placed on Petersburg's Official website and Meeting Date Announcement
- VIII. Discussion of Guest Responses
- IX. Set date for subcommittee's Best Practices Review on Healthy Community
- X. Follow-Up of subcommittee's meeting on Education/Workforce Development
- XI. Announcements
- XII. Closing Prayer

I. Meeting opened with Prayer - Dr. Roy

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II. Introduction of Guest Speaker: Mr. Norris Stevenson, Director of Petersburg Social Services

III. Overview of Anti-Poverty Commission's Goal

IV. Conversation with Mr. Stevenson

Commissioners/ Guest	Topic/Questions/	Summary of Mr. Stevenson's remarks
	Group discussion related to Social Services and reduction of poverty in the community.	
Mr. Stevenson	Provided a summary of statistics.	Persons living in poverty in Petersburg is around. 22%. Looking at a community with a huge need.
		Unemployment rate of

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		5.6% as appose to statewide rate of 2.8%.
		Without health insurance: at least 13%. Unemployment exceeds the state level and depends on state funding.
		20,000 residents have received some type of assistance (TANF, Medicaid) totaling 64%.
		About 13,000 people provided food stamps. About 18,000 persons received medical services and/or some type of benefits.
		Medicaid has increased about 11%. TANF decreased by 12% a lot of unmarried than married. Caseload increased by 7%
Dr. Roy	What strategies would you like to bring to the table to help the community?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Need collaboration with people/groups who want to participate.</li> <li>2. Develop a holistic relationship to increase capacity.</li> <li>3. Funding.</li> <li>4. Expand capacity and see how effective it can be.</li> </ol>
Dr. Roy	<p>Who can we contact when an individual desired help?</p> <p>How is the public informed and provided information?</p> <p>Is there collaboration?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Need consistency with communication and collaboration.</li> </ol>
Mrs. Rhue	We will have to impress upon the commission to communicate the information to the council.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are you willing to be in a partnership to address the critical problems?</li> <li>2. Encourage a partnership the City can embrace.</li> </ol>

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Mrs. Lytle	From your experiences in Illinois, is there an effective partnership to combat poverty?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working with grass root groups that found their niche.</li> <li>2. Informing the City of what works and the City bought into it.</li> </ol>
Dr. Roy	How do we encourage individuals to be involved in becoming self-sufficient?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remake their safety net.</li> <li>2. Collaboration with the Federal government to help with self-sufficiency.</li> <li>3. Funding pilot programs to transient demographic groups and include wrap around services to help with improving health care, housing and employment.</li> <li>4. What will help people improve capacity? Sharing information, concentrate on training, job readiness, and support with housing.</li> <li>5. Help with individual's development. For example, when persons work, funds will go toward housing.</li> </ol>
Mrs. Rhue	Discussed funding sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Programs that will allow to leverage work with SNAP participants: such as working with Federal government. Possible project - work with 100 families to build capacity.</li> <li>2. Looking for additional funding but need to find partnerships to build the programs.</li> <li>3. Case management to track the progress.</li> </ol>
Dr. Roy	What are the different types of data collected?	It just depends on where we want to start.

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	Can we use the data?	
	Will Social Services change its location?	Social Services has been there for about a year due to no other facility was ready to house staff and address concerns. Garnered agreement with public transportation to transport people to the door.
	Verbal concerns about poor contact with staff at Social Services.	There was a direct line number for staff (it does not exit). If you left a message for staff and no return call, call the main line number and provide (name, number) and someone will answer within 24 hours. Another option is email (this is monitored all day long). This is not a perfect science.
Dr. Roy	What venues are being used for communication?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facebook, Twitter, mail, letters and word of mouth.</li> <li>2. Whatever is comfortable for the people.</li> <li>3. The state will send out information for Social Services.</li> </ol>
Mrs. Hoosier	What is the procedure to determine food stamps?	The Federal Government uses an algorithm to calculate the amount received for food stamps. Social Services completes the paperwork for submission.
Dr. Roy	What concern do you suggest bringing forth to legislation?	Petersburg has a lot of food insecurity.
Mrs. Lytle	Provided information: <a href="https://vakids.org/">https://vakids.org/</a> Voices for Virginia Children (FACT) Trauma informed website.	
Dr. Roy	CARES Act helped people in the community.	The CARES ACT helped the City of Petersburg with food incentives and local businesses.

**V. Acknowledgement of Appreciation of Guest**

Dr. Roy	Anti-Poverty Commission expressed its appreciation to Mr. Stevenson in sharing his	
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	thoughts and recommendations as it relates to reducing poverty in Petersburg.	
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**VI. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes	12-10-20. Meeting minutes were not approved due to number of commissioners present.	
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**VII. Follow-up on Minutes Being Placed on Petersburg's Official website and Meeting Date Announcement**

Commissioners/ Guest	Topic/Question/Thoughts	Summary
Dr. Roy	APC meeting minutes on Petersburg City website.	We will follow-up on who to contact regarding making sure they are on the Petersburg's website.

**VIII. Discussion of Guest Responses**

Commissioners/ Guest	Topic/Question/Thoughts	Summary
Mrs. Rhue	Thoughts on the guest response	The information provided will help with giving insight on family needs, gaps in the program and understanding barriers.
Dr. Roy	Thoughts on the guest about sustainability of program	Previously, a pilot program was initiated by the city - 25 people were selected for wrap around services from designated areas. Thus far, I am not aware of the outcome of the program.
Mrs. Lytle	Thoughts expressed by guest	Speaker expressed the need to have collaborative communication and share. Someone calls DSS and referred to other resources. Ensure they will not get lost in the system. It is important to look at career development to help with issues. To have 100 people in a pilot program would be great to follow.

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**IX.. Subcommittee’s - Best Practices Review on Healthy Community**

<b>Commissioners/ Guest</b>	<b>Topic/Question/Thoughts</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Dr. Roy	<p>Healthy community subcommittee attendees: Pastor Shannon, Mrs. Hoosier, Mr. Christian, Dr. Roy Topic discussed: Healthy Challenges: Youth, Housing Challenges, Childhood Trauma and Eviction Rate. Training people in the community, reducing violence, helping the youth</p> <p>:How to work with children experiencing trauma? (further discussed information shared by Dr. Hart</p>	<p>Pastor Shannon Response:</p> <p>We will need to make legislative changes. There are challenges with employment, obtaining housing, and issues with getting people out of homelessness. People need education regarding making good decisions. What is the expectation of the City Council and the citizen need to lobby for homelessness?</p>
Mrs. Hoosier	Thoughts on subcommittee healthy community	<p>The city does not acknowledge we have a homeless problem.</p> <p>We need to have environment that is livable for families. For example: families have moved out of Pecan Acres into the hotels.</p>
Mrs. Rhue	Thoughts on subcommittee healthy community	The City does not plan to address the homelessness issue and it is not a priority to utilize recommendation.
Dr. Roy	Thoughts on subcommittee healthy community	<p>There is an issue with no place for women and children. There should be strategies for the city to address this concern. The City should bring forth strategies that addresses what is beneficial for the city. Safety Concerns: A model program from Flint Michigan (Documentary). Mrs. Buford is willing to</p>

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		view the documentary to ascertain if strategies will possibly benefit Petersburg.

**X. Follow-Up of Subcommittee’s meeting on Education/Workforce Development.**

Dr. Roy	Suggested to schedule a subcommittee an Education Workforce Development. meeting.	
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**XI. Announcements**

Dr. Roy	Petersburg City Public Schools offering workshops for parents, check website.
	Petersburg City Public Schools requesting persons to donate new or gently used books, including books for adults, for a bus named “Wave” which will travel the city and offer books.
	Attended a meeting in which Dr. Paul Abernathy- Resilient Community, advocate was the guest. Dr. Abernathy shared information regarding a resilient community and the importance of grass roots individuals being highly effective in their communities and helped to ascertain problems and recommend solutions.
Mrs. Rhue	Reviving the Neighborhood Association would be a great way to get information out in the community.
Dr. Roy	Meeting attended...Crater Area Coalition on Homelessness...Dr. Hart’s made a presentation. Modera vaccination 94% effected. Second shot - 28 days from their first shot. Pfizer vaccination will need specialized refrigeration, 2 shots within 21 days from the 1 <sup>st</sup> shot. Tony Anderson- 804-862-8282. Scheduling contact. <a href="http://www.vdh.gov">www.vdh.gov</a> 1-877-275-8343.
<b>XII. Next Meeting</b>	Next APC scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**XIII. Closing**

Closing Meeting Time: 8:01p

Closing Prayer: Mrs. Florence Rhue