

**Homeless Reduction Task Force of NWF  
Faith Based Organizations/Food/Mentoring/Transportation  
Subcommittee Minutes  
Wednesday, January 4th, 2022  
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.  
Hagler Auditorium, City Hall and Zoom**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Blair Hinsch, Connie Bookman, Jennifer Tompkins, Walter Arrington, Terri Merrick, Pete King, Donna Jacobi-Pruett, Lauren Clark

**WELCOME AND PRAYER**

The group opened with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**January meeting goals:**

1. Discussion about the 2023 (or 12 month) organizational goals for each member involved on your subcommittee (we can fold them into our task force plan)
2. Ask your members to bring their *written* organizational strategies and measurements to your respective subcommittee's February meeting
3. Mention the Advisory Committee's March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting date and how we will share their goals so that we can create our task force strategic plan (and, all are invited to our advisory committee meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.).

The Escambia Board of County Commission must have their ARPA \$4 million homeless reduction spending plan in place in March, so if we can share specific goals of your subcommittee members before their due date, it will be helpful as they finalize their county spending plan.

## **DISCUSSION**

The group discussed the new Food services site map, which is not yet live, but should be soon. We discussed the back end of the map and how it may be updated. The group will create a plan to share the map and help get the word out, as well as have Blair do a press release.

Terri offered for Blair to take photos off of the Dream Center page for news and updates; everyone is encouraged to share photos of their work that is going on.

Pete will be traveling to Orlando soon to check out the vending machines, similar to the ones Michael Caro mentioned that are for hot food, but these are for personal items and toiletries. They are operated by something called a “Nayak” card, which is like an EBT card for these items.

Terri encouraged us all to think technologically-savvy; at the doctor’s office, people input their own data and names onto iPads. Maybe they can implement something like this for their own volunteers and people who get food? Pete mentioned a software for churches that she should look into. This may be easier to use than HMIS.

Connie will be meeting with the food dessert foundation program tomorrow. It was suggested that Kyle may be a good person to connect with, as the LEAP project this year will also be addressing our food desserts.

Walter suggested that Connie reach out to Carolyn Grawi, as she teaches a social work class. Her students can possibly help with the monthly map updates? They would need to verify all of the entries info, call them up and find out hours of operations in the google

sheet. Blair will develop a SOP for this process to send to the interns.

Terri mentioned the “Blessing boxes” which sometimes have meals in them, they are at certain locations and some near churches- she suggested we publish these as well.

Lauren mentioned Circle K and how they have their regional headquarters in Pensacola. It would be good PR if they have a sponsored trash can or a blessing box there on site as gas stations. Connie said she will reach out to Keep Pensacola Beautiful to ask about the trash cans, while Lauren will connect with Circle K.

Pete also shared Lamar billboard information for nonprofits with Terri, to better help her obtain billboard space for a low cost.

The group discussed scheduling a transportation SIM in the near future, so that we may wrap our heads around who all does what, and when. In this SIM, we can highlight any relationship with dealerships who may donate vehicles to Task Force, the fact that CareerSource and 90Works will donate some money for car repair; and the assessment created by Rocky for their new partnership with United Ministries called “Cars for Vets and Vats.”

Terri expressed that she had more mentors. It is our goal as a subcommittee to better engage mentors and help them train more mentors. Being a mentor is just a commitment to show up once a week, for a year. The training is just a one-day training. If we know someone who can benefit from a mentor, please connect them to Terri.

Donna also mentioned a program called “Haywood Street” which is in Asheville, North Carolina, which allows people to come and sit and have a meal with the homeless- not just serve them.

Upon discussion, Blair has decided to set up a SLACK channel for the Task Force so that we can all better communicate updates as they happen.

## **SUMMARY**

In summary, the three main goals of the subcommittee going forward in 2023 will be:

- 1.) FOOD- promote the food services map, keep it up-to-date using volunteer social workers or interns, and promote its usage.
- 2.) MENTORSHIP - we will support Terri and the Dream Center in getting both mentors and mentees.
- 3.) TRANSPORTATION- schedule and conduct a SIM that includes all transportation resources in Escambia and Santa Rosa County.