



## **BRIDGES TO PROGRESS 90 DAY MEETING JANUARY 23, 2020 MINUTES**

We had a very productive, well attended Bridges to Progress 90 day meeting on January 23, 2020.

**RideSolutions**, a **free** app that is connecting the region's commuters, was presented by Kelly Hitchcock from the Central Virginia Planning District Commission. You can tailor your profile (which is completely anonymous) to request a ride or provide a ride to your specifications (non-smokers, only want female riders, etc.). If the app finds any matches, you are sent the information to make contact if you are interested. The system refreshes every 24 hours to capture new registrants. You earn points from carpooling, biking, and even walking to cash in for monthly raffles, coupons, discounts and free stuff from local and national retailers. The data from the app can be used to identify areas of need and will provide evidence to support using funds to improve the area's transportation options. [www.ridesolutions.org](http://www.ridesolutions.org)

**2020 Census** information was provided by John Hughes, Assistant City Manager. They are in dire need of census takers. The work is part time with flexible hours starting at **\$18.50** an hour! You must have transportation (or team up with another taker that has transportation). **For SNAP participants, the income earned will not be counted as part of your SNAP income and will not affect their SNAP benefits.** The work is expected to continue through the summer (depending on the job, it may go into September). John stressed the importance of participation in the census as the data is used to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds. *It is vital that every citizen gets counted so that the area receives the funding it is due for schools, health care, housing, public transportation, food assistance, assisting the*

*homeless, career and technical education grants, and Medicare Part B.* You may apply online at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs) or call 1-855-JOB-2020.

City Council will hear CDAC recommendations for the B2P taskforces grant applications tonight, **January 28, 2020, during the 7:30pm Regular Session** in General Business. Steering Committee members, Task Force Facilitators, Presenters, etc. are asked to be in attendance for support and to answer any questions Council may have. Please come and show your support!

The taskforces then had their breakout sessions and reported out the following:

### **COMMUNITY**

- 1)** The taskforce has applied for the a grant. **2)** If approved, the funds will be used to increase social supports for Getting Ahead grads
- 3)** Health department employees have been trained in Career Essentials to hopefully allow for more coordination between Getting Ahead classes and Workforce through Virginia Career Works. **CHECK OUT THE LIFE SKILLS INSTITUTE OPEN HOUSE FLYER AT THE END OF THIS EMAIL. A FLYER IS ATTACHED.**

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION**

- 1)** This taskforce has studied the existing public funding sources for childcare and preschool education. Currently Lynchburg receives Head Start funding, public school Pre-K funding (VPI) and subsidies for childcare, for eligible families, through the Department of Social Services. Head Start and VPI classrooms are full. **2)** The Child Care and Early Childhood Education Committees merged in order to address two different factors impacting poverty. Child Care is needed in order for parents to work to increase family median income. At the same time, children enrolled in quality child care programs should also be provided a quality early childhood education to prepare them for school success and future learning. This leads to a better educated workforce in the future. A better educated workforce is less likely to live in poverty. **3)** Goals:
  - A) The Governor's early childhood initiative is expanding funding to serve more preschool children. The ECCE Committee will continue to search for ways for Lynchburg to be recognized as a potential recipient of expanded

state and federal funds. B) Lynchburg is defined as a Child Care Desert. There are nine children for every 1 child care spot available. (Especially for infants and toddlers). Since all public funds are currently utilized and there continues to be a shortage of care, the ECCE Committee will reach out to the private sector to provide data about the impact that a shortage of child care has on employee productivity and attendance and to seek support for private funding. The next meeting is to be determined. For more information, you can contact Jane Gerde at [jane@eelc.info](mailto:jane@eelc.info).

### **FAITH TASKFORCE**

**1)** They are developing an intergenerational program for families entitled 4\$UCCE\$\$ -- a 4 week hands on program for families to review current household budgets and develop a future budget based on career plans. There will also be a soft skills inventory and soft skills action plan. Classes will be at community centers. The Faith Taskforce's grant application is to fund this program. **2)** A presentation called, "**LPD- Know your Rights**" is scheduled on **Tuesday, February 18 at 2 pm** in the Community Room of the Lynchburg Public Library. **3)** The taskforce will also be collaborating with other B2P taskforces: meeting with Health/Mental Health on Monday, February 3 at CAN; meeting with Community to provide mentors for Getting Ahead; meeting with Legal to share resource brochure in jails; and sharing Education taskforce University of Lynchburg leadership program headed by Dr. Owen Cardwell, the B2P Education liaison.

### **FOOD TASKFORCE**

**1)** Last 90 days, they submitted a grant for carts to help people transport food from grocery stores and pantries home via walking or public transit. **2)** Plug for lynchburgfeeds.org as a place to identify where there is already food assistance in the city, **3) Next meeting is Wednesday, February 12, 10am, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.** Please come to help us determine our 2020 direction! How do we increase knowledge of and access to existing food resources?

## **HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH TASKFORCE**

**1)** This taskforce continues to partner with other taskforces and coalitions in the community. **2)** They are working on recruiting a citizen who uses the community health/mental health services to be on the taskforce. **3)** They are planning on a project for Mental Health Awareness Month which is May. **Next meeting: February 13 at 5:00 PM, Horizon, 2215 Langhorne Road, Lower Level Conference Room**

## **HOUSING TASKFORCE**

**1)** The Housing Taskforce is making a recommendation for policy changes and working on a mission that will go before council. **2)** Next meeting will be a discussion on alternatives to get repairs done for homeowners without all the red tape. If you would like to be a part of this meeting, contact Denise Crews at [dcrews@lynccag.org](mailto:dcrews@lynccag.org). The following is another meeting that is housing and legal related.

**\*\*Eviction Meeting **Lynchburg Campaign to Reduce Evictions:**** Please join us to discuss practical and tangible solutions to reduce unlawful evictions and to make evictions rare in Lynchburg. **January 29, 2020 at 11:00am** at the Salvation Army Fellowship Hall, 2215 Park Ave., Lynchburg, VA.\*\*

## **LEGAL TASKFORCE**

**1)** This taskforce has distributed over 400 First Steps Reentry Guides. Dr Veronica Washington spoke to citizens near release at Amherst, Dillwyn, and Lynchburg facilities to present the brochure, make personal connections, and answer questions. Feedback from returning citizens confirm that the Guide has been effective in connecting returning citizens to needed resources. **2)** Legal would like to work with the Mental Health Task Force to determine how those with mental health challenges experience various aspects of the legal system such as arrests, court hearings, incarceration and re-entry and how this impacts their ability to stabilize in the community. **3)** Continue seeking community partners to fund the printing of our First Steps Guide and provide support for our Welcome Backpack project. We are also researching the effect of costs such as court fees, fines, and costs during incarceration on low income individuals and families.

## TRANSPORTATION TASKFORCE

1) A grant application was submitted for \$31,375 by committee members representing Ways to Work and LACIL. The taskforce has recruited two new committee members from the Academy for the Arts and CVCC.

2) The Parkview Mission representative on the task force reports they are working on a pilot program that is looking into contracting with Uber about providing a large van for delivering passengers and their food home for their clients; the taskforce is working with Central Virginia Region Planning District Commission representative, Scott Smith. He is working closely with the CVMPO for long range transportation planning for our region. Our task force committee's idea of providing Car Pooling for Work Force training opportunities (a big need in our area) was really liked by the State Department Rail and Public Transportation Department. The hope is that the state's interest in this may be expressed to the Federal Transportation folks; GLTC committee member, Brian Booth, reported that there is a **Budget Bill in the House (HB30) that if passed would allocate 1 million to areas that submit request (via competitive grants) that would pay for fare passes for the low income**-if passed this would head to the Senate to be passed. *We urge all you to contact your local representative to vote yes on HB30*; they would like to work with the Community Taskforce to glean what transportation needs they may have. 3) GLTC will conduct a survey to look at the demographics of their ridership; look at additional needs/gaps in service to work on and continue to work with Park View Mission and CVACL for their program needs.

## WORFORCE

Keith Cook, the Workforce Operator, reports they are gearing up for getting the Career Essentials classes going. Below is a flyer for an open house to talk about the opportunities being offered. Please share! The flyer is attached.

# **Life Skills Institute Open House**



**Come to a FREE Informational session at the Life Skills Institute to hear about opportunities for education, work or careers.**

**We will help guide you down the road to your goals and ensure that you have the training, education, and confidence needed!**

**Date: February 11, 2020**

**Time: 10:30a-12:30p**

**Location: Life Skills Institute**

**Lower Level Plaza**

**2323 Memorial Avenue Suite 26**

**For more information call 434 845 8468 ext 800**

**or email [LSI@parkviewmission.org](mailto:LSI@parkviewmission.org)**

**Refreshments and Childcare will be provided**