

# The Anti-Poverty Commission

## First Report – June 20, 2017

**“The existence of poverty in the US should not be accepted as a necessary evil or insoluble problem, but should be considered a crisis requiring emergency measures. 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 Curry (guest)

- Applications are ongoing. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the PPL at 6:00pm

# 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 that have demonstrable results for increasing employment and educational attainment, improving transportation, and enhancing healthy communities 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 these causes; and
- **WHEREAS**, according to the *US Census 2013 American Community Survey*, 26.7% of Petersburg residents are below the poverty threshold set by 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 as \$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:

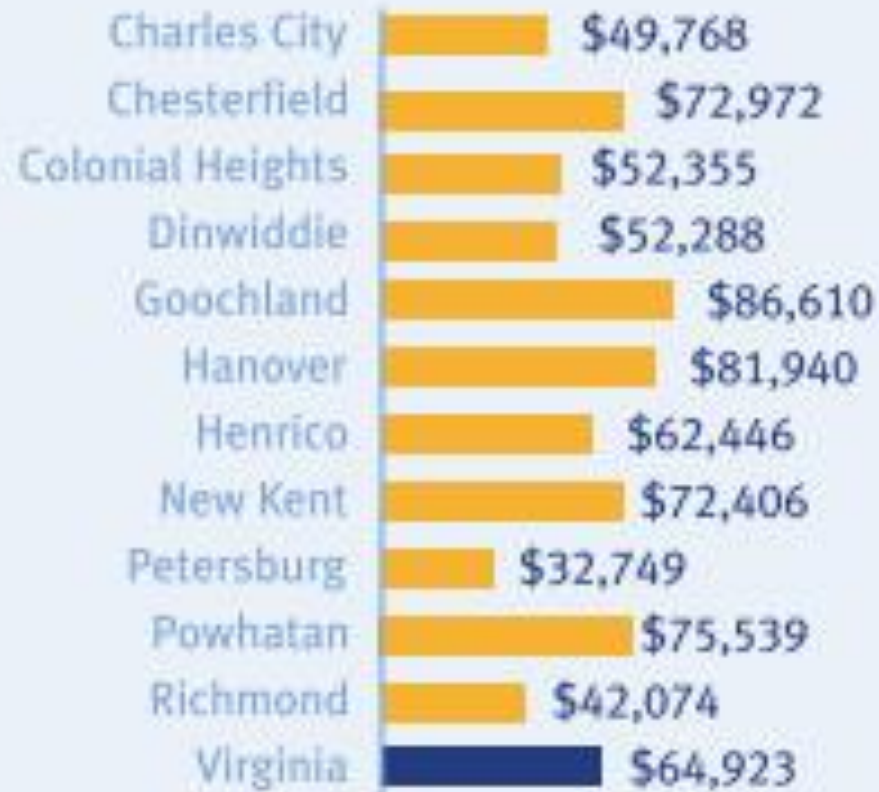
The Commission shall, by way of illustration but not limitation, consist of the following work groups: **Job Creation, Workforce Development/Education, Policy/Legislation, Healthy Communities, Research/Evaluation, and Transportation**. The Commission will provide recommendations on strategies to address poverty. The Commission will identify strategies consistent with making Petersburg a Tier One City, 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-Index reported....
- *“ In comparison, the cities of Petersburg and Richmond have seen only 41.7 percent and 50.5 percent increases in poverty since 2000, respectfully, but their poor make up about a quarter of their total population (25.8 per cent in 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 taxes...**

## 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 live below poverty thresholds. That's 44,841 children.

# “What Does Poverty Look Like in Petersburg, VA?”



46.4% Under age 18 years

Based upon United Way Data and 2015 United States Census Bureau



# “What Does Poverty Look Like in Petersburg, VA?”



44.8% Ages 18-64 Years



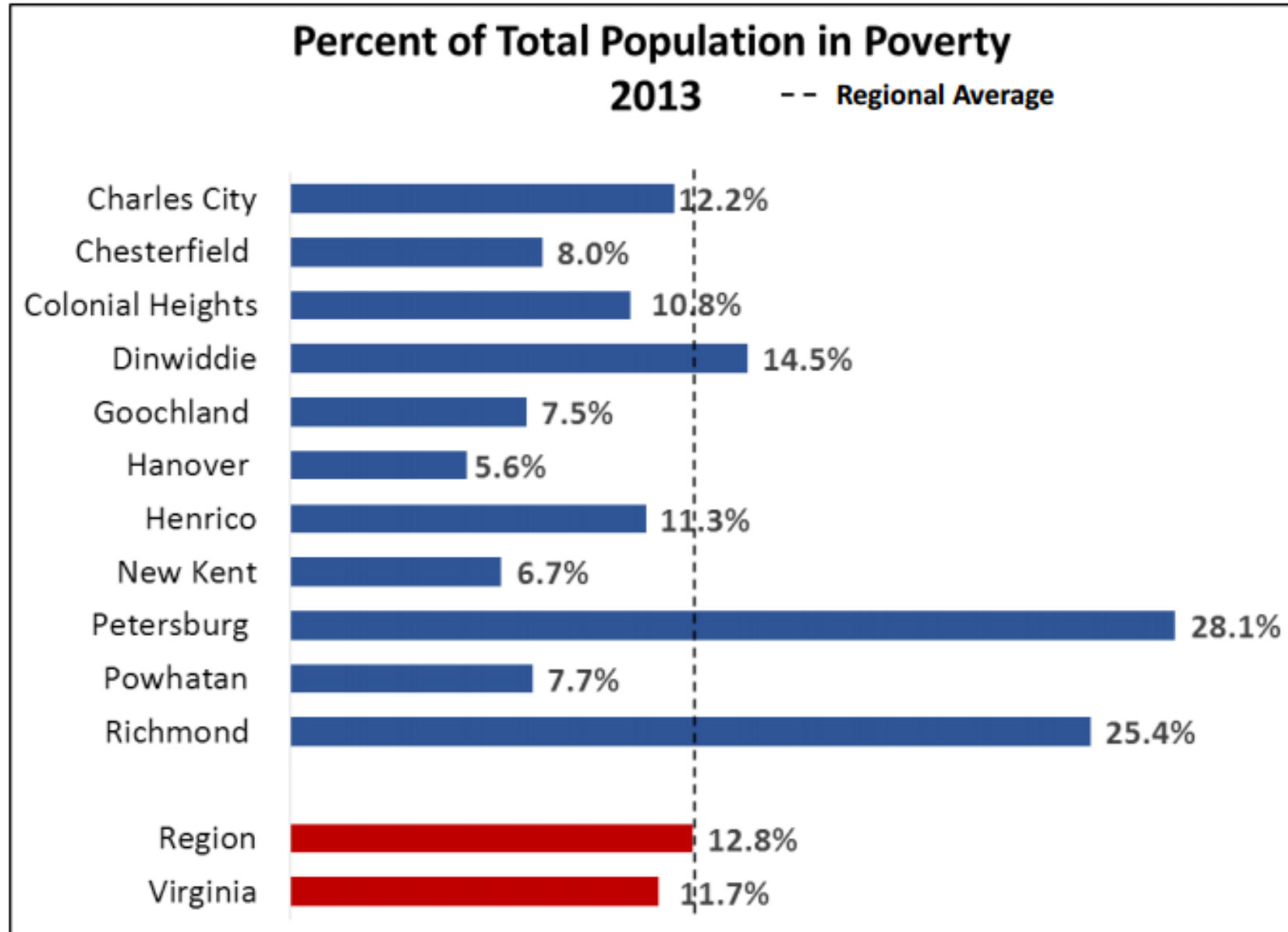
# “What Does Poverty Look Like in Petersburg, VA?”



8.9% Elderly 65+ years

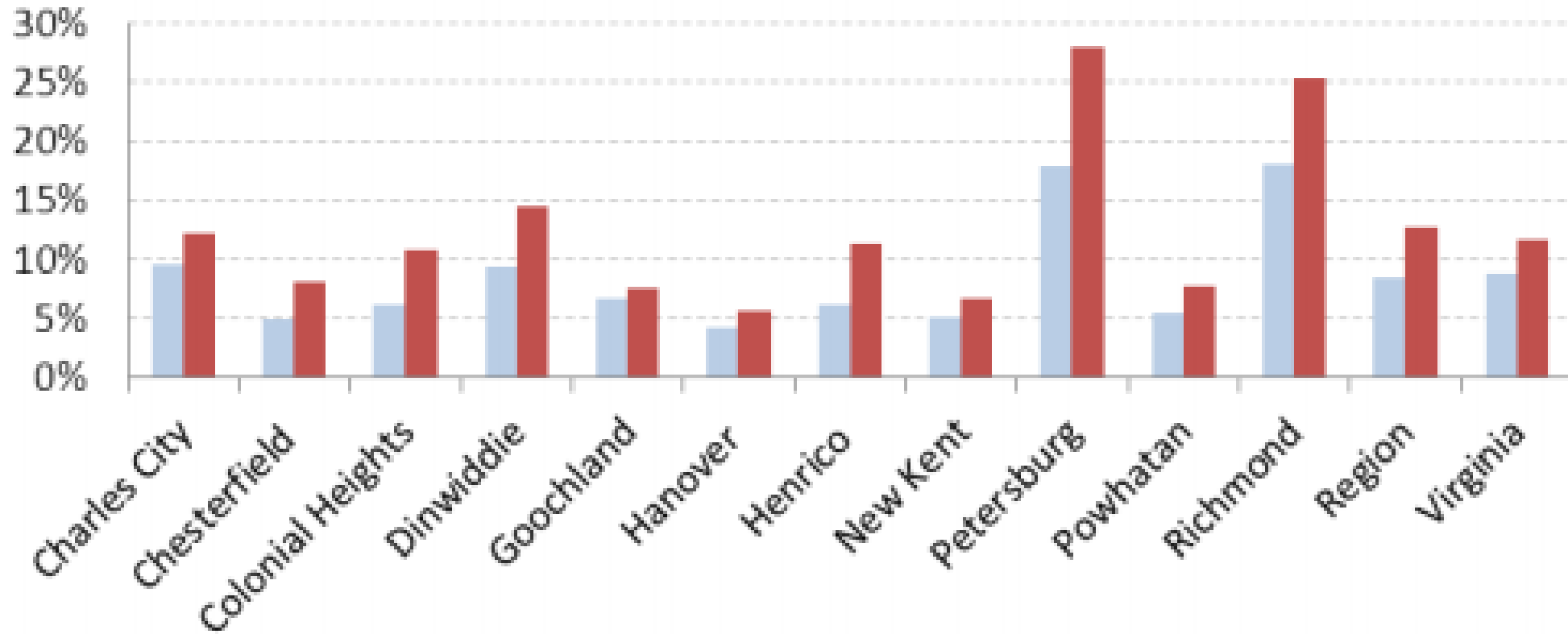
# Poverty

| 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

2000 2013



# The Anti-Poverty Commission

The Anti- Poverty Commission has taken the role of identifying strategies to reduce poverty and to 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.



# The Anti-Poverty Commission

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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 Commission

### **CAMERON FOUNDATION**

Presented by Valerie Wiggins

May 11, 2017

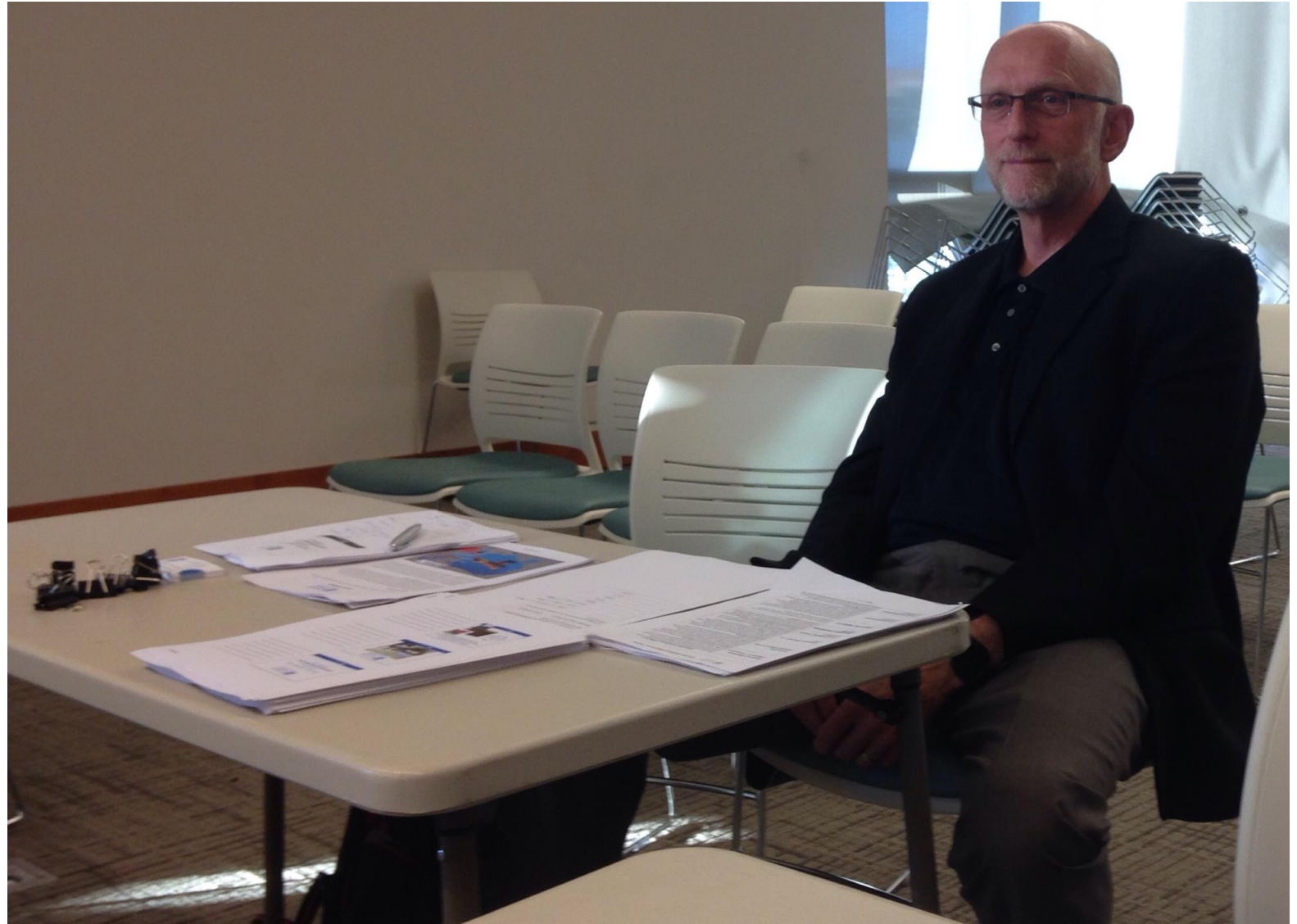
- Valerie Wiggins presented on statistics and identified needs of community based on statistical data collected by the Virginia Department of Health.
- She also addressed:
  - Funding sources goals, and strategies to address teen pregnancy, poverty, and mental health,
  - Current programs in the Tri-Cities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

## Anti-Poverty Commission

# 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, CPPM CEO.

# The Anti-Poverty Commission

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## 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.

