



Community Service Organization of Beaufort County



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 18 from 1:00-2:00PM
Grace Coastal Church - Fellowship Hall

Revisit the Mission: The mission of the Community Service Organization (CSO) of the Beaufort County Human Services Alliance is to ensure that all residents of Beaufort County have access to food, clothing, and adequate shelter and basic health care with the overarching goal of reducing the percentage of children living in poverty.

- *Comments:* John Ring, CSO Chair, provided an overview of why the CSO emerged, the Coalition's history and accomplishments, as well as a vision for its future.
 - The CSO seeks to coordinate communication between organizations and ensure that limited resources are used efficiently to meet the community's most pressing needs.
 - Initially Everyone Counts and Charity Tracker were two of the CSO's core initiatives.
 - The CSO has held its meetings North of the Broad, South of Broad, and in the middle of the County (at Grace Coastal Church) for the past 18 months.
 - The CSO is committed to supporting Beaufort County organizations' efforts to reduce poverty among children by offering pertinent information and resources, e.g., expert interview webinars and Charity Tracker trainings, in a convenient and beneficial manner.

Goals and Objectives:

- To improve access to basic needs assistance throughout Beaufort County
- To facilitate information-sharing among organizations providing basic needs assistance
- To increase advocacy and public awareness about the root causes of poverty
- To develop a continuum of care that encourages individuals to progress from survival to self-sufficiency
- *Comments:*
 - John reviewed the CSO's goals and objectives.
 - He also cited examples of collaboration, such as Grace Coastal Church and Deep Well's efforts to renovate and improve housing amongst the Jasper County community.

New Direction: Three-Pronged Strategy

- Quarterly Community Action Meetings Relevant to Emergency (Basic Needs) Services
 - When and where should these be held?
 - Who NEEDS to be "at the table"?
 - Timeline (2018-2019)
 - July - Food Stability
 - February - Economic Stability
 - October - Housing Stability
 - May - Ideas are welcome
 - *Comments:* There was a question regarding the action meetings' greater impact, besides just getting a bunch of people together in a room, and how the CSO would know that the action items discussed are actually being implemented. It was mentioned that folks want to see a timeline associated with deliverables. Another person in attendance responded



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that the action meetings could have an impact at the organizational level. He added that there will be accountability, minutes, and action items resulting from each of the Community Action Meetings. Someone suggested that the CSO could serve as a collective voice to ask the “movers and shakers” to do their part to impact change in the community based on the first-hand knowledge that the nonprofit representatives will share during these meetings. One person mentioned that existing CSO participants need to invite people to the CSO meetings that can add value to the conversation and the Coalition’s collective efforts to move the needle in the direction we would like to see it going. It was noted that the “food committee” could offer best practices and information on gaps in food provision across the County. A participant added that the CSO could help the community understand where Beaufort County stands (statistically) and where it’s going. One suggestion involved encouraging CSO participants to help disseminate information (relevant to the needles we intend to move) within their spheres of influence. Involving the beneficiaries of the services CSO organizations provide was mentioned as a key aspect of the Community Action Meetings. This would allow the community to hear “real-life” stories of homelessness, hunger, and poverty-related struggles, rather than simply looking at charts or listening to non-profit professionals. In preparation for the Community Action Meetings, someone encouraged the group to create a template and organizational process that refines the focus and defines the intended outcomes.

- Define “terms”
 - Establish a “foundation” - what data sources and statistics are we using
 - What issues are we trying to solve
- Expert Interview Webinars and Organizational Spotlight Videos (at least once per quarter)
 - Suggestions:
 - Establish expectations of webinar speakers and audience
 - Offering the webinars in a live format to allow for question and answers
 - Focus on empowering versus enabling clients/consumers
 - Categorize the webinars by subject-area: health, food, shelter, transportation, etc.
 - Ideas for Webinar Content
 - Complex case study panels (similar to staffing a case)
 - How is Charity Tracker used in this case? (Employing real-world scenarios)
 - Thought process for accessing services and collaborating with partner agencies
 - Asset mapping and development
 - How to measure impact and outcomes
 - Motivational interviewing
 - South Carolina (SC) works
 - Beaufort County Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC)
 - Beaufort County Statistics: what they are and where to find them re: basic needs
 - Goal: to generate a list of FAQs and solutions
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- Organizational Spotlight Videos
 - 5-8 minute overview of organizations that participate in the CSO
 - Create a step-by-step guide for recording and uploading
 - Sample Topics to Address/Standardized Template:
 - How to contact (any staff member in particular)
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Special emphasis on certain populations or geographic regions?
 - Geographical service area/footprint
 - How clients should go about accessing services
 - Walk-ins versus appointments
- Charity Tracker
 - Training
 - Usage
 - Support
- *Comments:*
 - John mentioned how Grace Coastal Church uses Charity Tracker to better ensure that the Church's limited resources are going to families who are truly in need. He also mentioned that one of his goals as CSO's chair is to help churches see how Charity Tracker can improve their ability to maximize their limited resources.

Upcoming Events

- **May 1**, Charity Tracker Training at 12:30PM at Help of Beaufort ([2 Ice House Rd](#))
- **May 1**, United Way of the Lowcountry Pre-Qualification Phase Opens
 - For more information, <https://uwlowcountry.org/apply-for-united-way-funding/>
- **May 16**, First Expert Interview Webinar, tentatively scheduled for 1pm (more information to follow)