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Neighborhood and Business Summit on Homeless
Filed under eNews Newsletter on Wednesday, February 14, 2007 by Author: Erika Llenza.

The City of St. Petersburg is holding a "Summit on Homelessness" at the Campus Activities Center Saturday, Feb. 24 from 8 a.m.-noon.

Don Shea, president of the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, Barbara Heck, president of the Council of Neighborhood Associations, Ford Keys, chair of the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Leslie Curran, St. Petersburg City Council member, will attend.

The summit will serve the dual purpose of obtaining input on strategies to help end homelessness in the city, county and country and to establish methods that will develop positive relationships between social service providers and those who live and work in areas surrounding social service agencies.

"I think this meeting is a positive step," said Jessica Cabness, Ph.D., assistant professor of Social Work. "The concept of poverty reduction is an issue that requires public and private partnerships. It requires that everyone be involved, from corporations, private citizens, volunteers, schools, etc."

Cabness began her career in social work as a result of working with the issue of homelessness. "I spent 5 years as the director of a shelter program and 10 years as a board member for an organization that focused on services for the homeless, it was through this experience that I became interested in social work."

"Homelessness is not inevitable and there is no easy fix, but this is a step in a positive direction," she said.

Space for this event is limited. For this reason, participants are asked to register to Dana Battle at dana.battle@stpete.org by Wednesday, Feb. 21. Include: name, address, telephone number and affiliation.

Call Dana Battle for more information at 727-893-7539.

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