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Minutes
Northampton County Take Charge
“Where Are We Now?”
Wednesday, January 15, 2003
Northampton County Extension Office
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Present: Brenda Holden, VCE; Pauline Milbourne, VCE; Jennifer Haycox, VCE; Jon Johnson, VCE; Reverend James E. Davis, Jr; David Magruder, Shore Health Services; Charles Smith, DOCAG; Learl Ames; Mary Strand; Pam Gibson, Institute for Innovative Governance

Gibson opened the meeting by stating the objectives of the program and telling the participants what they can expect in the coming weeks. Following introductions, Johnson read a synopsis of the history of Northampton County, including the fact that Northampton County has the oldest continuous records in the nation, dating back to 1632.

Using individual table laptops, Gibson led the group through a series of demographical data on educational, economical, and employment data comparing Northampton County to the rest of Virginia. As a group, the participants discussed the data and formulated analyses of the trends that were recognized; including low educational attainment, a high level of poverty, and a rising population of 25-44 year olds.

In individual groups of 2-3, participants completed the “Strengths and Weaknesses” evaluation. Afterwards, Gibson led everyone in compiling the results into one list. Please see attachment for the complete list. Discussion ensued about many of the topics that were mentioned.

In closing, Gibson encouraged everyone to return for part 2 of 3; “Where Do We Want To Be?” on Wednesday, January 22, 2003, at the Northampton High School, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Holden then thanked everyone for attending, and informed them that a complete list of the discussion items would be available on the 22nd.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.