

## **Addressing Homelessness in the Community Update**

The City of Pascagoula has been working on developing a plan on addressing homelessness in the community. We initially conducted a homelessness assessment in February 2020 to determine the rates of homelessness in our community. After this homelessness assessment in February we have started to reach out to community stakeholders to identify the issues surrounding homelessness. We had our initial homelessness meeting in May and were able to identify a few important matters surrounding homelessness:

- At the February 2020 homelessness assessment it was determined that there were 12 individuals that were actually classified as homeless.
- Open Doors Homeless Coalition has been active in providing transportation and housing opportunities for homeless individuals to help them leave the homeless encampments.
- Many of the people that are perceived as homeless are not actually classified as homeless.
- There are multiple categories of people that reside in homeless encampments.

We conducted another homelessness assessment on May 21<sup>st</sup> to determine if the homeless rates had stayed the same. The next step of this process will be to continue facilitating meetings with community stakeholders to determine strategies that can be implemented to address homelessness and the misperceptions surrounding homelessness in our community.