



# Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>P</b>	Aaron Fallon	<b>P</b>	Helen Ferguson	-	Kristi Cales
<b>P = Present</b>	-	Ashley Frankie	<b>P</b>	Hope Browning	<b>P</b>	Leslie Leedy
<b>- = Absent</b>	-	Alyce Dantzler	<b>P</b>	Jeanne McCormack	-	Lisa Kemble
	-	Amanda Sparks	<b>P</b>	Jo Nelson	<b>P</b>	Matt Crookshank
	-	Anne Marie Green	-	Kim Gembala	<b>P</b>	Marie Muddiman
	-	Bill Duncan	-	Karen Mason	<b>P</b>	Malora Horn
	<b>P</b>	Ben Bristoll	-	Karen Michalski-Karney	-	Sabrina Cowan
	<b>P</b>	Brittany Huffer	-	Kathleen Williams	-	Susan Trout
	<b>P</b>	Jaimie Goodman	-	Katie Kennedy	<b>P</b>	Tanyia Jones
	<b>P</b>	Captain Jamie Clay	-	Keith Holland	<b>P</b>	Stacey Shepherd
	-	Geralynn Trelue	-	Kim Ferrell	<b>P</b>	Raquel Conn, United Way
	<b>P</b>	Elizabeth Pentecost	-	Kristin Moses	<b>P</b>	Mariam DiPasquale, FPGR
	<b>P</b>	Melissa Woodson, RAM			<b>P</b>	Amanda Holcomb, CCS
	<b>P</b>	Kristin Adkins, VDH			<b>P</b>	Jeff Crooke, CCS

- **Welcome and Introductions – Matt Crookshank**

- Matt Crookshank opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. via conference call. Roll call was taken. Minutes from previous meeting on April 7, 2020 were distributed via email. There were no changes.

- **COVID-19 Quarantine Preparation Update**

- Trust House clients are at Ramada Inn and receiving case management and food.
- The shelter was deep cleaned last Friday. The Health Department visited the facility on Monday and provided guidance on room arrangements and safety precautions.
- If Carilion can keep tested, symptomatic clients one night until test results are available, Trust House can assist “confirmed positive” cases up to 16 persons. There will be no restrictions on having a separate bathroom for each guest under this arrangement.
- Clients who have no symptoms but are a close contact of a confirmed positive could potentially stay in a hotel room for isolation.
- Automatic door openers are being installed at Trust House this week.
- Trust House continues to wait on PPE to be delivered.
- Jeff Crooke has been in contact with Feeding America SWVA regarding the MREs on behalf of VDEM and City of Roanoke Emergency Management. MREs are being explored as a short term solution for meals for individuals currently in hotels.

- **COVID-19 Funding**

- The CoC is receiving \$106,000 from the State (the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development), HUD is providing the City of Roanoke with \$525,000 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) COVID-19 response funding. Jeanne, Hope, Marie and Matt worked on a budget to use those funds through June 30.
- We anticipate housing 90 individuals in 75 hotel rooms. Trust House may double up some of their guests; unsheltered clients prioritized by age and underlying health conditions - 10 slots; Rescue Mission high-risk individuals will be another 10 slots. There will be additional slots for in-flow not able to be accommodated at



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the Rescue Mission and other shelters.

- Department of Corrections will be releasing inmates who have set home plans. The Rescue Mission has received 7 phone calls from persons without “home plans”. Rescue Mission will work with probation staff to prioritize those with ties to Roanoke. They may have to be under a 14-day quarantine and then moved to shelter.
- TAP’s Virginia Cares program can assist recently released individuals with employment and other supportive services.

### • Agency Updates

- Kristin Adkins, VDH, praised CoC members who have remained flexible during the past several weeks and stepped up to meet the urgent needs in the community.
- Matt Crookshank sent via email last week the link to the IRS portal if clients need to submit their personal information to receive a stimulus check. Please see the link below for those in your programs who may not have filed a 2018 and/or 2019 tax return. They can use this link to submit banking or address information to which they can receive their economic stimulus payment. This link is just for non-filers. Please check this same site periodically for an additional link for those who may need to update their banking or address information.  
<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>
- TAP continues all programs and are experiencing an increase in calls, especially through its domestic violence programs. They will be establishing new guidelines for use of additional SSVF funds. Jo Nelson, Matt Crookshank, Tanyia Jones and Jeanne McCormack will schedule a conference call this week to discuss use of SSF funds and will report back to the CoC. Restrictions around client financial assistance and other program requirements have been loosened.
- CHRC programs are operating remotely to serve clients.
- HMIS has been set up with “Temporary Placement – Ramada Inn” project to track temporary hotel placements. There is also a portion of the intake form attached to this project that asks several questions regarding the placement.
- RAM has opened the Financial Aid Office (981-1732) and is processing as much assistance as possible for clients needing financial assistance.
- Rescue Mission currently has available beds; they are lifting most suspensions. New guests may need to go into quarantine space for 14 days depending on their circumstances. Donations have provided an abundance of feminine products and milk. Agencies needing these items should contact Helen Ferguson.
- The VA guidelines required an inspection of the hotel clients will be using through Trust House. A slight change will be made to the VA’s contract with ARCH to accommodate the hotel placements.
- Colony House and Catawba Hospital are no longer viable options for a larger scale isolation facility because of the work that would be required in preparing the facility.
- VDH has compiled information for community partners and will email to Matt Crookshank who will forward to CoC agencies.

**The next conference call will be Tuesday, April 21 @ 9am.**