



Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

ATTENDANCE	P	Aaron Fallon	P	Helen Ferguson	-	Kristi Cales
P = Present	-	Ashley Frankie	-	Hope Browning	P	Leslie Leedy
- = Absent	-	Alyce Dantzler	P	Jeanne McCormack	-	Lisa Kemble
	-	Amanda Sparks	P	Jo Nelson	P	Matt Crookshank
	-	Anne Marie Green	-	Kim Gembala	P	Marie Muddiman
	-	Bill Duncan	-	Karen Mason	P	Malora Horn
	P	Ben Bristoll	-	Karen Michalski-Karney	-	Sabrina Cowan
	P	Brittany Huffer	P	Kathleen Williams	P	Susan Trout
	-	Jaimie Goodman	P	Tasha Evans	-	Tanyia Jones
	P	Captain Jamie Clay	-	Keith Holland	P	Stacey Shepherd
	-	Geralynn Trelue	P	Kim Ferrell	P	Raquel Conn, United Way
	-	Elizabeth Pentecost	P	Kristin Moses	P	Mariam DiPasquale, FPGR
	P	Melissa Woodson, RAM			P	Amanda Holcomb, CCS
	P	Kristin Adkins, VDH			P	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 14, 2020 were distributed via email. There were no changes.

- **COVID-19 Quarantine Preparation Update**

- Trust House is hoping to open on Thursday. They are currently waiting on PPE supplies. Trust House will be the isolation residence for up to 16 persons if only confirmed positive COVID-19 cases are placed. Capacity will be reduced if those awaiting results and/or contacts are also placed.
- One referral from Lewis-Gale and several other new intakes have been placed in hotels through Trust House, in addition to those transitioned from the shelter.
- Three high-risk unsheltered clients have been identified and will be in a hotel later this week.
- Hotel placements will continued to be scaled up for high risk populations.
- Salvation Army is providing lunch and dinner for those being placed in hotels and RAM House will provide assistance to fill gaps with meals.
- TAP is placing SSVF clients at the Extended Stay Airport and is also buying them groceries. Five veterans are currently in hotels through SSVF.
- The contract from the State for emergency COVID response funding has been received so reimbursement requests can be submitted. State funds will be used first then ESG funds through Roanoke City will be used once the necessary approval processes through HUD have been completed.

- **Agency Updates**

- TAP has received additional SSVF funds through October that will double the current amount of financial assistance available.
- SSVF Regulations have been waived during the crisis except no dishonorable discharge clients.



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Prevention will continue to operate as usual with a focus on keeping veterans housed. SSVF can also assist with housing beyond three months during the crisis and will be used to pay for hotel stays and to rapidly rehouse veterans from hotels.

- TAP currently has 5 veterans in hotels.
- TAP will also receive funds through its Virginia CARES program in several weeks to assist with housing and other services for ex-offenders who are on early release.

- The Rescue Mission cleared 8 incarcerated individuals scheduled for release and has 4 more pending. They will be referred to VA Cares office to see if they are eligible for services through TAP.
- Ben Bristoll has received guidance from HUD on how to set up HMIS for hotel placements and will be reviewing our current set-up to ensure alignment with HUD guidance.
- The Rescue Mission is operating as business as usual even though social distancing makes certain situations difficult. The shelter is full but can quarantine a few women at this time. Clinic is still seeing patients.
- Rescue Mission wants agencies to encourage housed clients to utilize food pantries such as Manna to save funds for their other needs.
- When Carilion Hospital discharges COVID-positive homeless persons, they should be filling a 14 day supply of medicine. Bradley Free Clinic can also assist with filling prescriptions.
- Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare has closed Liberty Road office to clients. Burrell Center is still open and will be taking temperatures at the door.
- PATH is continuing with outreach services. There are currently 7 clients in hotels but are looking to place 3 more.
- Family Promise had 1 family move into permanent housing. One family that moved out is back staying at the Day Center due to black mold being discovered in their new home.
- Salvation Army Turning Point housed a family last week and have 2 more families waiting to move out by month end.
- Salvation Army has several letters from inmates scheduled for early release who will be referred to TAP to route them to VA Cares.
- Turning Point will continue to use the same procedure for domestic violence victims because they are kept separate from other clients.
- Amanda Holcomb suggested inmates being released who may be HIV positive should be referred to the Drop-In Center. The Drop-In Center can assist these individuals in obtaining housing and in meeting other needs. Todd Rothrock is the contact for the CHARLI program.
- Salvation Army's New Day Center has suspended its program indefinitely due to funding and COVID-19. Any 18-24 year old clients can be referred to TAP for employment or housing services.
- Roanoke City Schools is hoping to receive a donation of food boxes for their students' families. If other agencies have students in their programs during the crisis, please contact Malora Horn (mhorn@rcps.info) with information.
- Since schools were closed due to the crisis, 12 students have been identified as homeless. There are students with undocumented parents who cannot get assistance or unemployment benefits.
- SafeHomes in Covington is preparing food boxes for their clients. They are also working with jails on inmates that may get early release.
- TAP currently has 12 clients in hotels through its domestic violence programs and has received



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- plenty of referrals. TAP needs funding for utility deposits on clients who are being housed.
- Blue Ridge Behavioral and RAM have some funding available for utility deposits.
 - The Roanoke/Alleghany Health Department is going to set up training this week to discuss how to manage providing services during the COVID-19 crisis. Kristin Adkins will send information when available.

The next conference call will be Tuesday, April 28 @ 9am.