



Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

ATTENDANCE	P	Aaron Fallon	P	Helen Ferguson	-	Kristi Cales
P = Present	-	Ashley Frankie	P	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	P	Karen Michalski-Karney	P	Susan Price
	P	Brittany Huffer	P	Kathleen Williams	P	Susan Trout
	-	Jaimie Goodman	P	Tasha Evans	P	Tanyia Jones
	P	Captain Jamie Clay	-	Keith Holland	P	Stacey Shepherd
	-	Geralynn Trelue	-	Kim Ferrell	P	Raquel Conn, United Way
	-	Elizabeth Pentecost	-	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 21, 2020 were distributed via email, along with Community Outcomes Report for March. There were no changes.
- On the Community Outcomes Report, it was noted Sheltered Annual Counts is down from last year. The Average Length of Stay is up from last year, probably due to Covid-19 situations.
- 2020 Winter PIT data will be released in May.

- **COVID-19 Quarantine Preparation Update**

- Trust House is hoping to open on Thursday. Staffing issues have made it difficult to open last week.
- Matt Crookshank and HAT are identifying 10 more high-risk unsheltered clients this week to place in hotels. Planning to conduct new placements each week on Thursdays.
- Salvation Army is preparing and delivering meals to hotels. The meal program is going well; however, when the hotel count reaches over 30 clients, Salvation Army will need volunteers to help in the mornings. Volunteers should contact Lt. Rachel Pruitt at rachel.pruitt@uss.salvationarmy.org if interested in assisting. Matt will coordinate getting this opportunity posted with HandsOn Blue Ridge and shared through the CoC's communication platforms.
- ARCH is bagging a week's worth of breakfast items. They need volunteers to assist preparing the bags. This volunteer need has been posted with HandsOn Blue Ridge.

- **Agency Updates**

- TAP Domestic Violence Services have been extremely busy this past week. They had an emergency relocation for a family of 9 but was able to get assistance. TAP currently has 12 DV clients in hotels and will add 2 more today.
- TAP SSVF currently has 9 Veterans in Roanoke in hotels and a few in surrounding areas. They are housing Vets as quickly as possible to get them out of hotels.



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- TAP is hiring an additional intake worker to assist with SSVF case work.
- Rescue Mission is continuing to follow the Governor's guidelines.
- More clients need to sign up for the Manna Pantry as they become housed to access food. Manna is open Saturdays 7:30 am to 10 am.
- Rescue Mission originally received the call for the family of 9 and wanted to thank Stacey Shephard and her team at TAP for offering assistance and taking care of the family.
- Men's shelter has 3 beds open; Women's shelter has 7 open beds.
- Rescue Mission currently has 5 previously incarcerated individuals and continues to get phone calls. They cannot hold beds for anyone.
- Ben Bristoll has been cleaning up the shelter and hotel check-ins for reporting.
- Central Intake staff will be trained on hotel check-in procedures.
- Salvation Army is seeing clients by appointment only. They continue to distribute some food boxes.
- Turning Point hotline activity has tapered off. There are 2 families working on final steps to be housed. There are 3 single female rooms and 2 family rooms open.
- Marie Muddiman was instrumental in working with Western Virginia Water Authority in donating 198 bottles of water to use at Trust House.
- Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare - PSH currently has 10 vulnerable clients in hotels.
- Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare - PATH currently has 7 clients in hotels and meets with them each week to provide food boxes. Kathleen Guilliams is starting to have trouble with reaching clients on the day of distribution. Clients are not available by phone or are often wandering the streets.
- Roanoke City Schools has identified 16 students as homeless since schools closed. Food boxes will be distributed to families next week.
- Salem VA Medical Center team is focusing on getting Vets out of hotels and into housing using HUD-VASH and SSVF resources. They are having problems contacting landlords and viewing properties because of stay at home orders.
- VA Team is reviewing the BNL to prioritize clients to fill contract beds at ARCH as those clients move into housing.
- FEMA will announce funding on Friday for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program which provides funds for rent, mortgages, utilities, supplies, food and administrative costs. The local United Way will distribute funds once it is determined the amount allocated for the area. RFP announcing the application process will be posted publicly.
- RAM is working with Dr. Christopher Dyer, University of New Mexico and George Mason University, to perform research on clients' actual needs. He will also interview RAM guests who come for food. Contact Melissa Woodson if agencies would like to participate.
- Roanoke/Alleghany Health Department is providing training Friday on how to manage community services during the pandemic.

The next conference call will be Tuesday, May 5 @ 9am.