



Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 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	-	Jo Nelson	P	Matt Crookshank
	-	Anne Marie Green	-	Kim Gembala	P	Marie Muddiman
	-	Bill Duncan	-	Karen Mason	-	Malora Horn
	P	Ben Bristoll	-	Karen Michalski-Karney	-	Susan Price
	P	Brittany Huffer	-	Kathleen Williams	P	Susan Trout
	P	Jaimie Goodman	P	Tasha Evans	P	Tanyia Jones
	-	Captain Jamie Clay	P	Jennifer Diehl	P	Stacey Shepherd
	P	Geralynn Trelue	P	Kim Ferrell	-	Raquel Conn, United Way
	-	Elizabeth Pentecost	-	Kristin Moses	P	Mariam DiPasquale, FPGR
	P	Melissa Woodson, RAM			-	Amanda Holcomb, CCS
	P	Samara Lott, 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 May 5, 2020 were distributed via email. There were no changes.
 - The 2020 PIT Count Presentation is now available on the CoC website: <https://www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-PIT-Presentation.pdf>

- **2020 Winter Point-in-Time Presentation – Matt Crookshank, Hope Browning**
 - Matt Crookshank and Hope Browning reviewed the Power Point presentation of the January PIT Count data.
 - The Point-in-Time Count is a HUD-mandated count of all homeless individuals for communities that receive Federal funding. HAT staff, Radford/Carilion PA students, Salem VAMC, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare and other volunteers assisted with the street count.
 - Over the entire CoC service area, there were a total of 276 homeless individuals which is a decrease of 13.5% over last year. There has been a 50.8% decrease in homelessness since 2012.
 - There were 246 (89.1%) sheltered individuals, 30 (10.9%) unsheltered.
 - Children under the age of 18 were 37 (80.1%); young adults age 18-24 were 16 (5.8%); veterans 30.
 - Chronic homelessness has decreased by 29% between 2019 and 2020. (70.1% since 2012)
 - Since 2012, there has been a decrease of:
 - 58.3% in veterans
 - 70.5% chronic homeless with disabilities
 - 52% families with children
 - Of those counted, 136 individuals participated in the survey. Survey participation rate was



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57.4%. The average VI-SPDAT score was 5.6 for a single adults and 5.4 for families.

- Reasons for being homeless were: #1 – relationship conflicts, #2 – substance abuse issues, #3 – loss of job, and #4 - eviction.
- 59.9% of those surveyed became homeless inside the CoC service area.
- Reasons for the decrease in homelessness is largely due to policy changes and focusing to get people housed, more prevention initiatives, VA HUD VASH resources, and the partnership with the Housing Authority to get preference for homeless individuals.

- **COVID-19 Quarantine Preparation Update**
 - Trust House isolation facility is open, but has no clients at present. Staff are assisting in other areas.
 - Trust House and HAT continue to place high-risk unsheltered individuals in hotels. They have 21 units, mostly doubled up.
 - Lunch and dinner are being prepared and delivered by the Salvation Army; breakfast items are provided in weekly food box by Trust House. RAM continues to offer meals for anyone who wants food.
 - Hotel is doing laundry once per week if clients leave clothes in laundry bag outside door.
 - RAM has offered for any hotel client to come do their laundry at their facility.
 - Matt Crookshank has spoken with Trevor Shannon, Roanoke City Emergency Management and Molly O'Dell, Virginia Health Department, regarding isolating “contacts” when a positive case is identified. Depending on the current housing status, the contacts can be isolated at the Ramada Inn or the Trust House (if not full).

- **Agency Updates**
 - TAP DVS is very busy with very little change this past week.
 - Rescue Mission is working on their re-opening policies. Food Service (Saturday breakfasts) is the first area that will re-open – expected to begin this service again within the next week. They have shelter openings at the Men’s Shelter and Women and Children’s Center if needed.
 - Matt Crookshank will forward the group the new CDC Opening Guidelines for shelters, restaurants, day cares, churches, etc.
 - Turning Point currently has 12 clients. They are increasing to approximately 49 meals this week for hotel guests.
 - Safehome’s Board of Directors meet next week to discuss re-opening strategies. They are full but can accommodate someone if necessary.
 - Bethany Hall is open and taking intakes if needed.
 - The 8-unit PSH building is undergoing renovations/updates and will be ready in two weeks. The management company is asking for background checks on tenants to screen out violent offenders.
 - The VA is out of HUD-VASH vouchers and will be talking to the Housing Authority to switch vouchers so more can be opened.

The next conference call will be Tuesday, May 19 @ 9am.