



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

313 Luck Avenue, SW | Roanoke, Virginia 24016 | P: 540.343.4417 | F: 540.343.4416 |



Friday, May 8, 2020

ATTENDANCE	-	Amanda Sparks	P	Anne Marie Green	P	Joyce Earl	-	Kathleen Guilliams
P = Present	-	Angela Penn	-	Dani Poe	-	Jo Nelson	P	Jaime/Russell Clay
- = Absent	P	Annette Lewis	-	Dave Prosser	P	Judy Smith	-	Pamela Hall
	P	Lt. Pulley	P	David Bustamante	P	Judy Hough	P	Paula Prince
	P	Ben Bristoll	P	Dawn Riddle	-	Keith Holland	-	Sally Putnam
	P	Bill Duncan	P	Debbie Brown	P	Kristin Adkins	-	Sherry Stull
	-	Brian Geiser	-	Felicia Prescott	P	Leah Gibson	-	Sheryl Walters
	-	Bruce Phipps	P	Hope Browning	P	Lee Clark	P	Tanyia Jones
	P	Bryan Hill	P	Isabel Thornton	P	Leslie Leedy	-	Jensen Mellnick
	-	Carla Wallace	-	Jim Weber	-	Malora Horn	-	Helen Ferguson
	-	Chelsea Pardue	-	John Garland	P	Matt Crookshank		
GUESTS								

- **Welcome and Introductions – Matt Crookshank**

- Introductions by those in attendance. Minutes from the latest CoC meeting were distributed in the agenda packet along with the March BRICH meeting notes.

- **Ratification of ESG-CV Funding – April 2019**

- The City of Roanoke received additional COVID-19 funds and BRICH members received an email in April to vote on how the funds would be used. 27 votes “Yes”; 0 “No” so the proposed budget was approved.
- Bryan Hill motioned to ratify the vote on the previous decision in April to approve the COVID-19 ESG fund budget as presented; Debbie Brown second the motion. Those present voted to agree.

- **2020 Winter Point-in-Time Presentation – Matt Crookshank, Hope Browning**

- Matt Crookshank and Hope Browning reviewed the Power Point presentation of the January PIT results. The presentation will be placed on the BRICH website in the future.
- The Point-in-Time Count is a HUD-mandated count of all homeless individuals for communities that receive government funding.
- There was a sheltered and unsheltered count done by HAT and Radford/Carilion PA students and other volunteers.
- Over the entire CoC service area, there were a total of 276 homeless individuals which is a decrease of 13.5%. There has been a 50.8% decrease in homelessness since 2012.

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- There were 246 sheltered individuals, 30 unsheltered.
- Children under the age of 18 were 37; young adults age 18-24 were 16.
- Of those counted, 30 were veterans.
- 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
 - 50.8% the total decrease in homeless
- **HOME TOGETHER** is the Federal, interagency program that the Blue Ridge CoC uses as guidelines to monitor homelessness.
- Of those counted, 136 individuals participated in the survey. The average VISPDAT was 5.6 for a single adult.
- Reasons for being homeless were: #1 – relationship conflicts, #2 – substance abuse issues, and #3 – loss of job
- 62% of those surveyed came from other parts of Virginia. 38% were from another state.
- 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.

- **System Performance Report – Ben Bristol, CHRC**

The February performance report was distributed.

	<u>YTD 2019</u>	<u>YTD 2020</u>
Avg length of stay	75 days	120 days
Total Sheltered Homeless Persons	1545	1206
First-Time Homelessness Persons who entered ES, SH, or TH during the period	921	636
Persons who exited program(s)	1257	1070
Exited to Permanent Housing	217	166
Persons prevented from becoming Homeless through financial assistance	653	632

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	<u>YTD 2019</u>	<u>YTD 2020</u>
Persons placed in permanent housing Through Rapid Rehousing programs	262	223
Persons provided permanent Supportive housing services	222	195
Single-Day count of homeless school- Aged children	April 30 23	April 30 7

The COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place mandate may affect the time it takes to get individuals housed which increases the length of stay.

• Isolation Facility and Hotel Placement Update

- Trust House clients have been relocated to the Rescue Mission and local hotels. Trust House is the isolation facility for homeless individuals and currently has no placements.
- Carilion donated cloth gowns that can be reused. Masks and gloves have also been purchased or donated.
- The budget allotted 90 slots for hotel stays through June. Not all slots are filled, so the funds will last past June and will decrease as individuals are housed. All hotel referrals are processed through Central Intake
- VASH funds are available that will quickly house veterans.
- Individuals in hotels are provided food and case management services. Most hotels have a light breakfast that is available and breakfast items are also in the food boxes they receive.
- Salvation Army is currently providing lunch and dinner to 30 individuals at the Ramada Inn.
- Ramada has agreed to do client laundry once a week if they sit laundry bags outside their room for pickup.
- Refer to the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care minutes distributed with agenda. The CoC has been meeting every Tuesday through March and April to discuss progress and various issues.

• Other Business

- Malora Horn previously informed the Blue Ridge CoC that 16 kids were identified as homeless just since school was let out in March.
- The Roanoke City School’s homeless team was instrumental in obtaining food boxes containing several meals for 5 persons plus backpacks with school supplies. Over a three day period, these were distributed to families of the homeless students.
- The Rescue Mission has approximately 20-30 kids at the shelter. A staff member organizes enrichment activities plus they have access to educational materials and teachers. They are constantly looking for creative ways to engage children.

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- Greene Memorial UMC is continuing the Summer Pack-a-Snack program this year and distributes 500-700 food bags each week.
 - During June, July and August, BRICH will not meet; however, Matt Crookshank will continue to keep members updated each month along with the Community Outcomes Report provided by Ben Bristoll.
 - There will be no Summer PIT count and no Symposium in August.
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- **Adjourn - The next meeting of the BRICH will be September 11, 2020.**

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