



Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

ATTENDANCE	P	Aaron Fallon	P	Helen Ferguson	P	Leslie Leedy	
P = Present	-	Alyce Dantzler	P	Hope Browning	-	Lisa Kemble	
- = Absent	P	Amanda Holcomb	P	Jeanne McCormack	P	Matt Crookshank	
	P	Anne Marie Green	P	Jo Nelson	-	Marie Muddiman	
	-	Bill Duncan	-	Kim Gembala	-	Malora Horn	
	P	Ben Bristoll	-	Karen Mason	-	Mariam DiPasquale	
	P	Brittany Huffer	-	Karen Michalski-Karney	P	Melissa Woodson	
	-	Elizabeth Pentecost	P	Kathleen Williams	P	Raquel Conn	
	P	Jaimie Goodman	P	Tasha Evans	P	Stacy Shepherd	
	P	Captain Jamie Clay	-	Jennifer Diehl	P	Susan Price	
	P	Jeff Crooke	-	Kym Carroll	-	Susan Trout	
	-	Geralynn Trelue	-	Kristin Moses	P	Tanyia Jones	
	P	Ariel Johnson, Va HARM Reduction Coalition					
	P	Kristin Adkins, VDH					

- **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 June 30, 2020 were distributed via email. There were no changes to the minutes.

- **State Rent/Mortgage Relief Program– Jo Nelson, Total Action for Progress**
 - Approximately 30 applications have been processed and \$30,000 has been paid to date to landlords for individuals going through evictions.
 - There are 50 applications that are waiting on completed paperwork. Getting proper documentation from the recipients at the first interview has been difficult, even though individuals are given a checklist to follow.
 - The program will be housed in the Roanoke Higher Education Center, 108 N. Jefferson Street, through the summer until TAP’s main office air conditioning is repaired.
 - Staff will be trained in multiple TAP departments to complete applications/referrals for RMRP services for any of their program participants.
 - Several landlords do not have a tax id number and are not willing to disclose social security numbers to complete the application.
 - If TAP has any interest in property where the relief funds are targeted, a third-party review of the paperwork will be required. The Council of Community Services offered to assist with third-party file reviews for tenants living in TAP-owned properties.
 - State reporting is requiring more data than originally requested. TAP is adjusting reports accordingly.
 - Roanoke County DSS has received CARES Act funds and is providing assistance for utility, medical and child care bills to compliment the Rent/Mortgage relief administered by TAP. Roanoke County DSS will also assist with rent/mortgage bills if anyone is over TAP’s income limit restrictions.



Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes

- **Hotels and Transportation**

- One isolation client who was deaf tested negative. Trust House provided him a phone so he could communicate. There are no current clients at Trust House.
- Hotel accommodations are running smoothly. There are 88 clients currently in hotels. The hotels have been operating at capacity for the last several weeks. New clients are being placed as clients moved out of the hotels and into permanent housing. Central Intake is continuing to maintain a waiting list of high-risk unsheltered clients, with priority for placements being given to those based on age and those with underlying medical conditions identified by the CDC as being “high risk”.
- There are 5 PSH units open at ARCH and plans are to rent 6 more units as needed.
- Discussion is ongoing regarding hiring a shuttle driver to transport clients from hotel if funds are available.

- **Case Management**

- The new CHRC case management position has been filled with a start date of August 3.
- CoC members will be discussing how to provide case management and serve the hotel clients so services are not overlapped.
- More hotel clients have moved into Melrose Towers and have interviews with the Housing Authority for Mainstream and Housing Choice Vouchers.
- Ariel Johnson, Va HARM Reduction Coalition, attended today’s meeting to determine how their services can best assist mutual clients. Over 80% of HARM Reduction Coalition clients are experiencing homelessness.
- Va HARM Reduction Coalition provides overdose education, client advocacy, Covid19 testing, and patient navigation services.

- **Agency Updates**

- SSVF has 7 veteran families in hotels, and 2 of them are moving into housing this week.
- SSVF is out of CARES Act funds, but SSVF regular funding continues.
- Community Solutions wants to schedule a virtual meeting with CoC members on how we can end Veteran homelessness. We are close to a “functional zero” in our CoC and are being moved into the “Last Mile” co-hort in functionally ending Veteran homelessness.
- The VA is continuing to work to transition Veterans who no longer need intensive case management services out of HUD-VASH and into Housing Choice Vouchers.
- If your agency receives additional funding, please remember to contact 2-1-1 VIRGINIA so they can be up-to-date on information to provide referrals.
- Turning Point has a full-house with only 2 single beds available. There has been an influx of DV clients (1 family and 2 single human trafficking clients).
- Salvation Army continues to provide lunch and dinner meals to hotel clients.
- RAM has received \$18,900 for rent/mortgage relief. The Good Neighbors Fund is available to provide assistance so please refer clients as needed.



Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes

- At the Rescue Mission, the men's quarantine area is consistently at capacity.
- Rescue Mission is having more families seek shelter services, and at time have to shut down an entire room to accommodate quarantine requirements based on family size/composition.
- Rescue Mission continues to serve community meals.
- Family Promise will be opening up in early August. The program has been redesigned to provide emergency shelter through apartment placements instead of through rotating congregation sites.
- If you would like to stay current on CoC events, please join the CoC Facebook Partners Group and/or "like" the CoC Facebook page. The closed partner group is private and for CoC members only.
- Virginia Department of Health continues to offer free drive thru Covid19 testing. Please refer to their Event Page on Facebook for a complete listing. It is also linked to the CoC Facebook page. If there is a positive result, VDH is requesting that individuals quarantine.
- A case investigation is completed on all positives and contact tracing is done if necessary. If it appears to be a cluster, VDH can shut down businesses. Most businesses will complete a thorough cleaning and remain open.
- To date, our district has seen 1,543 positive cases mostly linked to travel or social events; 385 are still active cases.

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