



# Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, August 11, 2020**

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		Aaron Fallon	X	Helen Ferguson	X	Leslie Leedy
<b>P = Present</b>		Alyce Dantzler	X	Hope Browning		Lisa Kemble
<b>- = Absent</b>	X	Amanda Holcomb	X	Jeanne McCormack	X	Matt Crookshank
	X	Anne Marie Green	X	Jo Nelson	X	Marie Muddiman
		Bill Duncan		Kim Gembala		Malora Horn
	X	Ben Bristoll		Karen Mason	X	Kristin Gibson
	X	Brittany Huffer		Karen Michalski-Karney	X	Mariam DiPasquale
		Elizabeth Pentecost	X	Kathleen Williams	X	Melissa Woodson
	X	Jaimie Goodman	X	Tasha Evans		Raquel Conn
		Captain Jamie Clay	X	Jennifer Diehl		Stacy Shepherd
		Jeff Crooke		Kym Carroll		Susan Price
		Geralynn Trelue		Kristin Moses		Susan Trout
	X	Ariel Johnson, Va HARM Reduction Coalition			X	Jeffery Doyle, SVAMC
	X	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 July 28, 2020 were distributed via email. There were no changes to the minutes.

- **State Rent/Mortgage Relief Program– Jo Nelson, Total Action for Progress**

- To date, the program has processed about \$150,000 in rent/mortgage assistance payments. TAP is authorizing approximately \$20,000 - \$30,000 a week in client assistance. Anywhere from 45-50 families a week are applying for services with the program.
- Most payments are for rent because mortgage companies are working with customers and most are put on a payment plan to avoid foreclosure.

- **Isolation and Hotels – Jeanne McCormack**

- There are no clients at Trust House; we maintain zero positive cases among the homeless in the community.
- One client was at Trust House until tests came back negative; now they are at Rescue Mission.
- The new CHRC Housing Case Manager has divided clients with staff from ARCH and HAT so everyone in hotel rooms has been assigned a case manager.
- Salvation Army continues to prepare meals each day. RAM continues to assist with shuttle service on certain days.
- Veteran clients may have to be moved to another hotel away from drug activity.
- ESG funding has been approved to reimburse Salvation Army for staff assistance and food preparations. MOU is currently being developed.
- RAM will also receive ESG funding to reimburse for shuttle costs. MOA is being initiated as details are planned.



# Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

## Meeting Minutes

- **COVID-19 Testing**

- The Rescue Mission has obtained COVID-19 testing through the Fralin Clinic so incoming clients can avoid the 14-day quarantine. They will wait at Trust House until test results are available.
- Trust House can hold 5 persons if they require private bathrooms. Otherwise, 12 persons if sharing a bathroom is an option.

- **Agency Updates**

- SSVF is down to 1 veteran family in a hotel and continue to provide support for those already housed.
- SSVF has been approved for a second round of CARES ACT funds (\$400,000) to support Veterans.
- SSVF regular grant funds have also been approved for next year.
- TAP has exhausted all United Way Emergency Funds used for utilities, etc.
- Built for Zero – Roanoke City continues to receive technical assistance from Community Solutions in reducing veteran homelessness. We are currently down to 23 homeless veterans in our community. Our goal is 10, to reach “functional zero”. We have been moved into the “Last Mile” cohort of communities in ending Veteran homelessness.
- The VA is looking to hire an intensive case manager to work with chronically homeless veterans.
- CHRC is moving to Council of Community Services main office on Campbell Avenue. They continue to assist clients by working remotely.
- Central Intake staff will be trained on new HUD Coordinated Entry Guidelines. Testing will hopefully end by October so other agencies can be trained.
- Salvation Army will begin offering Youth Services online on Wednesdays. The program is still in development.
- RAM has been working with TAP and has seen an increase in financial aid applications.
- Rescue Mission’s Manna Program now allows individuals to register from vehicles on Saturday mornings to eliminate risks of exposure.
- Food donations are not being picked up by community pantries so the Rescue Mission has surplus food. Contact Helen Ferguson if your agency would be able to use extra food.
- Rescue Mission is ensuring Wi-Fi throughout the shelter. To assist children with virtual learning, desks are being made available to provide them a safe place to learn.
- Family Promise will be opening the duplex shelter next week. They will continue to provide after-care support to former guests. Referrals can be sent to Tasha Evans.
- Safehomes in Covington has clients back on the property for counseling, maintaining CDC protocols. There are only 5 rooms available for shelter as safety precautions are being followed.
- Roanoke City Schools has opted for 100% virtual learning the first nine weeks of the school year. Internet access is the barrier officials are dealing with and working to address. Wi-fi hot spots will be provided to those who do not qualify for assistance through Cox Communications. They will continue to assist with obtaining school supplies for those in need.
- The Salem VAMC continues to work with the Housing Authority to transition HUD-VASH vouchers to Housing Choice Vouchers so other homeless veteran can utilize HUD-VASH.
- The Salem VAMC has requested 10 new HUD-VASH vouchers for those who are non-VA eligible



# Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

## Meeting Minutes

veterans. Most should still qualify for SSVF case management services.

- The Roanoke City Health Department is working with community partners to continue COVID-19 testing. The Health Department has been working on back-to-school immunizations.
- The Roanoke City Health Department is seeking information on what resources available for the Latin community, especially 'undocumented' residents who need food and other items to safely isolate. Please let Kristin Adkins know of any resources.
  - The Rent and Mortgage assistance is available to them.
  - Rescue Mission also provides Manna food boxes.
  - RAM provides meal services on site.
- DMV appointments are months away and clients need photo ID's to obtain housing, jobs, etc. It was suggested that DMV may be willing to bring their mobile unit to a central location for client appointments.

**The next conference call will be Tuesday, August 25 @9am.**