



Blue Ridge Continuum of Care

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

ATTENDANCE	X	Aaron Fallon	X	Helen Ferguson	X	Leslie Leedy
P = Present	-	Alyce Dantzler	X	Hope Browning	-	Lisa Kemble
- = Absent	X	Amanda Holcomb	X	Jeanne McCormack	X	Matt Crookshank
	-	Anne Marie Green	X	Jo Nelson	-	Marie Muddiman
	-	Bill Duncan	-	Kim Gembala	-	Malora Horn
	X	Ben Bristoll	-	Karen Mason	X	Kristin Gibson
	-	Brittany Huffer	-	Karen Michalski-Karney	X	Mariam DiPasquale
	-	Elizabeth Pentecost	-	Kathleen Williams	X	Melissa Woodson
	-	Jaimie Goodman	X	Tasha Evans	-	Raquel Conn
	X	Captain Jamie Clay	-	Jennifer Diehl	X	Stacy Shepherd
	-	Jeff Crooke	-	Kym Carroll	X	Susan Price
	-	Geralynn Trelue	-	Kristin Moses	X	Tanya Jones
	X	Reagan Costello-White, CCS Intern				
	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 August 11, 2020 were distributed via email. There were no changes to the minutes.

- **July Outcomes Report – Ben Bristoll**

- The report reviewed today excludes hotel clients. Ben is going to make the change to include those numbers.
- The graph on the last page shows the primary reasons why clients are returning to homelessness.
- It is likely that the state moratorium on evictions is reducing the homeless numbers.
- Over the past several months, it has been difficult to get landlords to show properties to clients.
- The July performance report was reviewed:

	<u>YTD 2019</u>	<u>YTD 2020</u>
Avg length of stay	47 days	57 days
Total Sheltered Homeless Persons	1,951	1,326
First-Time Homelessness Persons who entered ES, SH, or TH during the period	2,063	1,396
Persons who exited program(s)	2,063	1396
Persons prevented from becoming homeless through financial assistance	853	756



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	<u>YTD 2019</u>	<u>YTD 2020</u>
Persons placed in permanent housing through Rapid Rehousing programs	312	280
Persons provided Permanent Supportive Housing services	223	189
Single-Day count of homeless school-Aged children	July 31 23	July 31 3

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

- Anywhere from 30-50 new applications are received each week.
- Last week, approximately \$90,000 was paid in back rent. Since July 1, \$245,000 has been authorized in back rent/mortgage payments.
- The State changed the rules, effective today. TAP can now pay 100% of arrears; landlord does not have to agree to forgive a certain number of months' rent.
- With the new guidelines, funds may last to mid-October.
- Since TAP has additional CARES Act funds for SSVF, they are primarily serving Veterans through SSVF instead of the RMRP.

- **Isolation Facility and Hotels – Jeanne McCormack**

- Staff are still receiving early morning/late night calls regarding drug activity and behavioral issues at the hotels.
- Trust House Veterans need to be moved to a different hotel. Jeanne, Matt and Hope are working to resolve this issue.
- Trust House will be open Monday-Friday to Rescue Mission clients who are waiting on test results from the clinic in order to facilitate more efficient placement of clients into the Rescue Mission shelter programs.
- The VA is mandating any veteran who stays in hotel during Covid19 to participate in treatment programs.

- **Agency Updates**

DSS has CARES Act Funds available for utility and other assistance for those at 80% median income. The online application is found on the Roanoke City: <https://www.roanokeva.gov/2606/Recovery-Funds>

- Central Intake Services has an online application to apply for assistance through the Water Authority. The application can be found on the www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org site.
- RAM still has FEMA funds that can be used for utility assistance.
- Salvation Army has school supplies available. Contact Jamie Goodman to make an appointment.
- Salvation Army is also providing some utility assistance and food boxes.
- The Salvation Army volunteers have prepared over 12,000 meals to the hotel clients so far this



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year. Thank you!

- Christmas Store will not be operating this year, but Salvation Army will have the Angel Tree. The online registration process for the Angel Tree will begin in September.
- Turning Point has housed 2 families recently. Operations are currently running normal.
- Family Promise shelter is now open with families being sheltered at duplexes. Partner congregations are helping with meals and gift cards.
- RAM will have its new website revealed on PBS Tuesday, August 25, at the Grandin Theatre, along with several other nonprofits.
- VA Harm Reduction Coalition continues to offer free Covid19 and Hep C testing in the community.

**The next conference call will be Tuesday, September 8
@9am.**