



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, February 10, 2023

ATTENDANCE	-	Amanda Sparks	-	Dave Prosser	-	Judy Smith	-	Captain Russell Clay
P = Present	-	Angela Penn	-	David Bustamante	P	Judy Hough	-	Captain Jamie Clay
- = Absent	P	Anne Marie Green	-	Dawn Riddle	-	Kathleen Guilliams	-	Paula Prince
	P	Annette Lewis	-	Debbie Brown	P	Keith Holland	-	Sally Putnam
	-	Sgt Martin	-	Felicia Prescott	-	Kristin Adkins	-	Sherry Stull
	-	Bill Duncan	P	Hope Browning	-	Lee Clark	-	Stacy Sheppard
	-	Brian Geiser	-	Helen Ferguson	P	Leslie Leedy	-	Steve Martin
	P	Bryan Hill	-	Jeffery Doyle	P	Loretta Freeman	P	Sue Goad
	-	Chelsea Pardue	-	John Garland	P	Malora Horn	P	Tanyia Jones
	-	Dani Poe	-	Joyce Earl	P	Matt Crookshank	P	Toni McLawhorn
			-	Jo Nelson	-	Ashleigh Bowman	P	Melissa Woodson
GUESTS	P	Alison Jorgensen, Council of Community Serv			P	Brian Burnette, Director CHRC		
	P	David Dantzler, Rescue Mission			P	Emily Jewett, Legal Aid		

- **Welcome and Introductions – Matt Crookshank, City of Roanoke**

- Matt Crookshank opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The agenda and January minutes were distributed to BRICH members prior to meeting. Page 2, under Council of Community Services, 10th item, should read, “. . .most GPD veterans are at the end of their 12-month period in the program.” It was confirmed Stacey Sheppard was not in attendance at the January 2023 BRICH meeting.
- Judy Hough motioned BRICH approve the minutes as written with changes; Annette Lewis second the motion. Those members present approved the revised minutes.

- **ARCH and PSH Update – Matt Crookshank, Brian Burnette**

- All but two veterans were housed from Trust House when the shelter closed on 1/31/2023. Those two Veterans were placed in a hotel by TAP SSVF and have since moved into permanent housing.
- Letters were submitted to HUD field office that CoC, CCS, and ARCH were in agreement with the PSH grants transitioning temporarily to CCS during the RFP process.
- Brian Burnette reported February rent was paid for all PSH clients, and he has made contact with two thirds of the landlords. Brian has had difficulty in obtaining keys to all units.
- Both of the ARCH PSH case managers are now part-time contract employees of CCS.

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- Anne Marie Green noted that the PSH grant does not cover the administrative work done during the transition.
 - Tommy Oliver with the ARCH Board has been a great resource and helps mediate with landlords on client issues. ARCH has taken responsibility for back rent and damages done by clients prior to 2/1/23. Several units will remain empty until the new agency takes over the program.
 - Brian wants to review tenant rights with those living in current PSH units. Emily Jewett will provide pamphlets to assist with the understanding of rights.
 - When clients have been homeless for years, it is difficult getting them acclimated to living in a residence. Substance use and mental health issues are also a barrier. It was suggested that a transparent review process be developed before a client is discharged from the PSH programs.
 - Tanyia Jones suggested more training needs to be in place to support case managers. Some clients can be extremely psychotic during home visits.
 - It was suggested that there needs to be a clinical component to the organization that takes over the PSH program.
 - TAP and SERCAP are sponsoring a Fair Housing Community Conversation on February 22nd at the Roanoke Higher Education Center.
 - RAM has experienced an increase in bad behaviors due to large number of clients sleeping outdoors.
 - The BRICH Funding Committee will review RFP PSH applications when it closes March 3.
- **ARCH Funding Discussion – Matt Crookshank**
 - Matt provided a handout for discussion, listing the ARCH funding sources. It was suggested that the Trust House SSO Case Management grant be reallocated to PSH.
 - Trust House emergency shelter operation funds (ESG) have been reallocated to CCS to expand their RRH program.
 - The ARCH HUD case management funds need to be reallocated soon. Possibly combining it with the two PSH grants to cover the administrative expenses and other activities under Supportive Services.
 - Annette Lewis motioned to re-allocate the ARCH HUD SSO case management grant to PSH dedicated to the chronically homeless; Tanyia Jones seconded the motion. Those BRICH members present unanimously approved. Anne Marie abstained from the vote.
 - The PSH Manual ARCH created years ago needs to be updated. The program needs to be more structured to assist clients in becoming more self-sufficient and graduating out of the program.
 - **ESG and HOME ARP – Keith Holland**
 - The City Manager has approved the reallocation of ESG, ESG-CV and CDBG funds. Amendments have been sent to the City Attorney's Office.

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- HOME-ARP allocation plan is out for a 30-day public comment period. City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00 pm. Comments from the community are encouraged.
- Between the two funding sources (ARP dedicated to homelessness response and HOME-ARP), 40 new units of affordable housing will be created. Funding for supportive services has also been included in the plan.
- **Strategic Plan Update – Alison Jorgensen**
 - The Community Engagement Committee, chaired by Marie Muddiman Beebe, is communicating with partners in the community about dispelling the myths of homelessness.
 - Research has been conducted to see how other communities have dispersed information to the general public. Visit <https://www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org/facts-myths-about-homelessness/> and hover over each of the statements for a drop down menu to appear.
 - The Data & Performance Committee is revisiting the CoC Release of Information, reviewing HMIS policies and procedures, along with monitoring data quality.
 - Coordinated Entry process is being updated with partner agencies to make sure most vulnerable are prioritized within the community. VISPDAT will no longer be used. The committee has developed a localized assessment to replace the VI-SPDAT.
 - If BRICH members are interested, Keith Holland can potentially utilize CDBG funds to hire consultants to provide organizational development and to assist with updating the BRICH Governance Charter to fit our current operations.
- **PIT Count and Resource Fair – Matt Crookshank, Alison Jorgensen**
 - There were 41 persons counted in the early morning street count. Data will be finalized and presented in April or May.
 - Resource Fair received great feedback and improvement suggestions for the next event. Approximately 80 individuals participated, had lunch and visited a donation area. There were 30 vendors displaying services that are available in the community.
 - One barrier is being able to follow up with individuals who were interested in services. They are not responding back for help.
 - Church Women United raised \$2,000 in a short period of time to cover the cost of lunch. It was a great asset to provide lunch for individuals.
 - Several individuals spoke with Legal Aid regarding poor housing conditions.
- **Community Outcomes Report – Brian Burnette**
 - The January report was distributed prior to discussion.
 - In January 2023, there were 478 persons in emergency shelter compared to 164 January 2022.
 - Even though the number of persons permanently housed was smaller than the previous year, a much larger group of individuals is being currently served.

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- On a positive note, the Percentage of Returns to Homelessness was lower than the previous year.
- **Homeless Students Report**
 - The Homeless Students Report for January was distributed with the agenda.
 - In January, there were 39 students identified as homeless which brings the total for FY2022-2023 school year to 481 (271 families).
 - Malora Horn discussed issues regarding families that have electricity cut off. Not many agencies will assist with large utility bills. She has often split costs with other agencies. Malora wants to meet with partner agencies that can assist families with utility cut offs.
 - Malora referred Denise Tucker, who has raised her grandchildren, about talking to BRICH about her thoughts on affordable housing. Information on the City Council meeting will be provided to Denise if she can attend.
 - One barrier for families to obtain housing, landlords are asking for a double deposit or a “holding fee”. Malora received three calls in one week about the holding fee. Emily Jewett offered to assist in resolving issues related to “holding fees”.
- **Announcements**
 - Keith Holland proposed using the EOC room at the City Municipal Building. One concern was limited parking. Discussion will be held at the next meeting.
 - Bryan Hill noted BRICH, being a committee of the Regional Commission Board, cannot hold virtual meetings unless requested in advance or there is a medical reason for not attending. Public board meetings are limited to two virtual meetings per year.
 - The BRICH Bylaws need to be discussed and updated.
 - The Veterans Homeless Team has housed 125 veterans in 2022, exceeding their goal of 103. They were recognized by local media this week.
- **Adjourn - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BRICH will be March 10, 2023.**

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