



# Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



## Friday, September 11, 2020

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

- **Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**

- Today’s meeting was virtual. The agenda was distributed to BRICH members prior to the meeting.

- **Homeless Data Integration Project – Andriea Ukrop, DHCD**

- Andriea Ukrop made a Power Point presentation on the Homeless Data Integration Project that will warehouse data for state policy makers, DHCD, CoC’s and other stakeholders.
- Statewide HMIS data from CoC’s can be uploaded into Green River’s Open Path Software to provide comprehensive data to end homeless in Virginia.
- The integrated system will provide:
  - a. maximized use of data and creation of CoC reports for outcome measures.
  - b. standardized data-sharing policies.
  - c. support statewide efforts to utilize for funding allocations.
  - d. develop training and make it available to CoC’s.
- CoC’s cannot choose exactly what data will go into statewide database. However, if a client does not sign a release of information, their data will not be visible to CoCs.
- If an agency does not want to participate, they can opt out but it may affect future State funding received by the CoC.
- Efforts will be made to address all concerns so agencies are comfortable in the integration project.

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- Isolation Facility and Hotel Placement Update – Jeanne McCormack, ARCH**
  - Trust House was converted into an isolation facility for the homeless. To date, there has not been a positive test result among the homeless population.
  - There are approximately 90 clients in hotels. Staff are being hired to cover evening hours so a staff member is always available.
  - Staff are well-trained to de-escalate situations and can go into a room and confiscate drug paraphernalia if drug use is suspected. Drug testing will be done twice a day if required.
  - Clients will be given a three-day notice to change their behavior or be dropped from the program if expectations are not met.
  - Jeanne McCormack, Matt Crookshank and Anne Marie Green will be meeting with the Roanoke County Police Department to discuss the increase in 911 calls. Most of the calls are due to fights or are domestic violence related.
  - RAM volunteer has been providing transportation to bus stop which is one mile from hotel. Volunteers from the faith-based community are currently being sought to help with transportation coverage.
  - The Salvation Army is not staffed to continue providing meals. Meal services have been transitioned to the Canteen (vendor used by the LOA for the Meals on Wheels program). The Canteen is providing three meals a day to hotel clients. On Fridays, meals for the entire weekend are distributed.
  - All hotel clients have case managers working to get them housed and out of the hotel. Hotel case conferencing meetings are being held every Friday by the CoC partners coordinating the hotel work.

- System Performance Report – Ben Bristol, CHRC**

The August performance report was reviewed.

	<u>YTD 2019</u>	<u>YTD 2020</u>
Avg length of stay	45 days	58 days
Total Sheltered Homeless Persons	2,121	1,454
First-Time Homelessness Persons who entered ES, SH, or TH during the period	1,452	859
Persons who exited program(s)	1,932	1,275
Persons prevented from becoming Homeless through financial assistance	919	796
Persons placed in permanent housing	325	286

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Through Rapid Rehousing programs

Persons provided permanent Supportive housing services	224	189
Single-Day count of homeless school-Aged children	Aug 31 18	Aug 31 12

- The Covid19 pandemic and moratorium on evictions have affected the outcome numbers.
- The decrease in people receiving permanent supportive housing services is due to clients moved from Healing Haven to Section 8 housing vouchers. Staff are in the community getting paperwork completed to fill openings in ARCH’s permanent supportive housing programs.

• **Other Business**

- The Virginia Governor’s Housing Conference will be virtual on November 18-20. Registration is currently open and can be found on their website.

• **Adjourn - The next meeting of the BRICH will be October 9, 2020.**

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