



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, September 9, 2016

ATTENDANCE	-	Angela Penn	P	Dan Merenda	-	Judy Hough	P	Pete Clark
P = Present	-	Annette Lewis	P	Dani Poe	-	Judy Lash	-	Sally Putnam
- = Absent	-	Antwyne Calloway	-	Dave Prosser	-	Keith Holland	P	Sherry Stull
	P	Lt. Barry Booth	-	David Bustamante	-	Kristi McCoy	-	Sheryl Walters
	P	Ben Bristoll	-	Dawn Riddle	-	Lisha McCargo	P	Susan Carroll
	-	Brenda Thornton	P	Debbie Brown	P	Malora Horn	P	Suzanne Adcock
	P	Brian Geiser	-	Felicia Prescott	P	Matt Crookshank	-	Tamy Mann
	-	Bruce Phipps	-	Jane Conlin	-	Nancy Reid	P	Tanyia Jones
	P	Bryan Hill	-	Jim Weber	-	Pamela Hall		
	P	Carol Tuning	P	John Garland	-	Pat Rolley		
	-	D.E. Hartman, II	P	Judy Cusumano	P	Paula Prince		
GUESTS								

- **Welcome and introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**
- **Approval of Meeting Notes – May, 2016**
 - Postponed vote to adopt the May meeting minutes until the October meeting, to give members time to read the May minutes.
- **CoC Update to Ranking Committee (vote needed)**
 - Paula Prince described the new process followed by the Ranking Committee.
 - Brenda Thornton created a new ranking sheet.
 - The committee did site visits to all programs on the sheet.
 - The process was quite good, so will continue it.
 - Will do site visits next summer.
 - John Garland asked what would happen if not all projects get fully funded; Carol said that the projects would get funded in order of priority on the list, leaving the last one or more projects to get reduced or no funding, depending on how much funding is available.
 - Dan Merenda moved to approve the Ranked List; Bryan Hill seconded, and it was approved by a voice vote with the only “nay” from Pete Clark of TAP.
- **CoC Update to Governance Charter (vote needed)**
 - Carol Tuning distributed a handout of the proposed update and described the change.
 - The added section is on page 2, section 3.A.i.5.
 - Says all ESG and CoC-funded projects must refer families with children in public schools to the local education authority within 7 days to ensure the families know of their children’s right to stay in the same school or be enrolled immediately in school if they’re not already in school.

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- Malora Horn moved to approve, Debbie Brown seconded, and the update was approved by a voice vote with no “nays”.

- **Summit Update**
 - The summit was very successful and had excellent attendance.
 - It focused on Youth and Family Homelessness, and speakers included Joe Savage from the federal Interagency Council on Homelessness and Mindy Mitchell from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

- **Roanoke City Schools Homeless School Report – Malora Horn**
 - Malora Horn reported 163 students currently homeless:
 - Breakdown by situation:
 - 111 doubled up
 - 36 in emergency shelter
 - 16 in hotels
 - Breakdown by age group:
 - 106 in grades K-5
 - 29 in grades 6-8
 - 28 in grades 9-12
 - Money was raised to help students who are homeless
 - A lot of cash donations that are unrestricted, unlike grants
 - Some money will flow through Central Intake to fill in gaps left by other programs
 - Money allocated in \$2500 allotments
 - 43 children in 29 families helped in the first \$2500 allotment
 - Works great with Susan Trout in Central Intake
 - Used most effectively to finish filling needs that aren’t completely covered by other programs
 - A lot of families don’t meet the HUD criteria for homelessness, but do meet the McKinney-Vento criteria and therefore can be helped by this effort.
 - Things will probably level out after 2-3 months
 - Dan Merenda asked the school’s effort connects with RYSE, the United Way effort.
 - Malora Horn said her understanding is that RYSE will initially be looking to assist families who are living in hotels, because they have some income and may just need help with the upfront payments to get into a rental.
 - Dan asked when RYSE would start, and Malora said she didn’t know. One issue that needs to be resolved is addressing needs for confidentiality when the school refers students or families to RYSE; Haley Poland is working on that.
 - John Garland asked how the current number of 163 homeless students relates to the number 600 that has been reported in the media.
 - Malora explained that the 600 number was cumulative from throughout the previous school year, while the 163 number is the current number for the month of August. As the school year progresses and homeless students are housed or leave the district, they are not removed from

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the total count, so the number accumulates and is much larger by the end of the year than the actual number of homeless students currently at that time.

- **Community Housing Resource Center Report – Matt Crookshank**
 - **System Performance Report**
 - Matt distributed 2 handouts:
 - System Performance Measures in Context - a document that describes HUD's 7 system-level performance measures.
 - Summary Report for VA-502 – a report that shows the values of the 7 HUD system performance measures for the Roanoke CoC, using data pulled out of our HMIS.
 - Matt explained how the 7 different metrics are pulled out of our HMIS and reported to HUD.
 - HUD will tie funding more toward outcomes in the future.
 - CHRC will look at data regularly (at least once/month) and monitor performance.
 - Dan Merenda asked Matt to interpret the data.
 - Matt started with the chart that shows the average length of stay being 222 days; HUD wants us to get that down to 30. Matt noted that the length of stay numbers are skewed high right now because our HMIS has a lot of people from the Rescue Mission still in the system for months or years because we don't have a process yet for getting data of when they left the Mission, but we're working on it. When we get that issue resolved, our length of stay numbers will go down significantly.
 - Matt noted that we get a lot of benefit from the Rescue Mission and that we've made progress and got more data than we used to.
- **BRICH Workgroups – Update on Projects – Chairs**
 - Paula Prince listed the members of the workgroups; see later in these notes for the lists.
 - It was noted that Brent Asbury has retired.
 - Susan Carroll announced that she's retiring soon, and that Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare has received \$25,000 to be used for Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Can be used for rental, utility deposits, hotels, background checks.
 - From the Dept. of Behavioral Health
 - BRBH will share the application with everybody when it's ready.
 - Botetourt County is eligible, but Alleghany County is not.
- **Public Relations/Marketing – Debbie Brown, GMUMC**
- **Youth and Family Homelessness – Antwyne Calloway, BRILC**
- **Homelessness PIT Count – Paula Prince**
 - Paula Prince attended the PIT Count conference in Seattle.
 - Seattle has over 6,000 homeless (much larger than Roanoke).



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- Paula passed around a colorful infographic sheet that King County WA produced about homelessness there (see image attached with email). The CHRC is interested in making something similar here.
- **Rural – BAC Home Reentry Program – Suzanne Adcock**
 - Includes Botetourt, Alleghany, and Craig counties; Probation District 40.
 - TAP, VA Cares, RCSB, Goodwill are involved.
 - Transportation, housing, jobs to get ex-offenders back on their feet.
 - House some people in a hotel in Covington when there are no other options; finding affordable housing is always a challenge.
- **Other announcements**
 - Paula Prince read a letter from Senator Mark Warner about the Youth and Family Homelessness Symposium.
 - In July, he voted for the Housing Opportunities and Modernization Act.
 - His office has been very supportive of our efforts.
 - Carol Tuning said more funding will be available soon for rural areas.
 - There will be a webinar soon.
 - Housing trust fund money will be available.
 - John Garland asked about homeless children in other school districts (outside of Roanoke City); Paula Prince said there are part-time homeless student coordinators in other districts.
 - Sherry Stull said the Rescue Mission has worked very well with them at Scott Hill Retirement Community.
 - There were 30 apartments available out of 139, but that is now down to 3 available.
 - To be eligible, people must be 62+ years old and have a mental illness.
 - Carol Tuning said she was glad DRI is at the table, and to let us know if other representatives from any organizations should be here.
- **Adjourn**

The next meeting of the BRICH will be October 14, 2016

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Meeting Dates – 2016 thru 2017

October 14 – Regular Meeting

November 11 – City of Salem (Roanoke County)

December 21 – Annual Homeless Persons Memorial Service

January 13 – Meeting at local shelter (TBD)

February 10 – Extended Meeting (ESG Funding Distribution)

March 10 – Regular Meeting (Release of PIT Data)

April 14 – TBD

May 12 – Regular Meeting

June 9 – Regular Meeting

Unless otherwise noted, the meeting location will be the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission upstairs conference – 313 Luck Avenue SW, Roanoke Virginia, 24016.

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Blue Ridge
Continuum of Care
A Place to Call Home

Recommended BRICH Workgroups – Provide Action Team Reports at Monthly Meetings

Data Collection and Assessment – Data, PIT and planning will be the focus of this group

Paula Prince
Tanyia Jones
Bryan Hill
Brent Asbury

Matt Crookshank
Brenda Thornton
Judy Cusamano
Brian Geiser

Grant Review

Dawn Riddle
Nancy Reid

Susan Carroll
Judy Hough

Public Relations/Marketing and Communications

Debbie Brown
Bruce Phipps

Dave Prosser
Dan Merenda

Youth and Family Homelessness

Malora Horn
David Bustamante
Suzanne Adcock

Antwyne Calloway
Angela Penn
Todd Gearheart

NOTE: The Chair of the CoC will facilitate each of the above groups.

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WORKGROUP DESCRIPTIONS

(Workgroups are considered short term, task specific groups that may be reconstituted as needed.)

Data Collection and Assessment:

Members will work to identify capacity strengths and challenges of our BRICH process and establish capacity building goals to assist in assessing the critical elements for effective planning around ending homelessness. This group will assess current leadership capacity and identify those areas that need strengthening. Members shall assist in conducting the annual homeless count. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that each Continuum of Care (CoC) perform a [Point-in-Time Count](#) of all its sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families. The count is necessary for the CoC application along with other non-HUD funding sources. The Blue Ridge CoC conducts the count in 8 jurisdictions each year.

Grant Review:

Members shall participate as reviewers of applications that are received by BRICH for homeless programs. The workgroup reviews and evaluates applications and performs site visits using criteria and guidance provided by the CoC monitoring staff. The initial workgroup will participate in developing guidelines that further define the committee's role.

Public Relations/Marketing and Communications:

Members shall direct BRICHs overall comprehensive marketing and communications strategy. Oversee a consistent and active communication strategy to all stakeholders for the purposes of recruitment, program messaging, fundraising, awareness and branding. This workgroup will contribute expertise to assist staff in establishing organizational marketing, branding and communication plans and initiatives; develop creative market outreach programs that will promote awareness.

Youth and Family Homelessness

Members shall foster CoC-wide coordination to address the multiple problems of individuals and families experiencing homelessness; identify risk and protective factors to prevent episodes of homelessness for at-risk populations and identify risk and protective factors to prevent chronic homelessness among persons who are already homeless.

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