



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, May 12, 2017

ATTENDANCE	-	Angela Penn	P	Carol Tuning	P	John Garland	-	Pamela Hall
P = Present	-	Annette Lewis	P	Dan Merenda	-	Judy Cusumano	P	Paula Prince
- = Absent	-	Ashley Marshall	-	Dani Poe	P	Judy Hough	-	Sally Putnam
	-	Lt. Jennings Tardy	-	Dave Prosser	-	Keith Holland	P	Sherry Stull
	P	Ben Bristoll	-	David Bustamante	P	Lee Clark	P	Sheryl Walters
	-	Bill Duncan	-	Dawn Riddle	P	Leslie Leedy	-	Tamy Mann
	-	Brenda Thornton	P	Debbie Brown	-	Lisha McCargo	P	Tanyia Jones
	-	Brian Geiser	-	Felicia Prescott	P	Malora Horn	-	Tracy Kochel
	-	Bruce Phipps	-	Isabel Thornton	P	Matt Crookshank		
	-	Bryan Hill	-	Jessica Farmer	P	Monica Seiler		
	-	Carly Villarreal	-	Jim Weber	-	Nancy Reid		
GUESTS	P	Anna Bowman, Regional Housing Specialist						

- **Welcome and introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**
 - Introductions by those in attendance.
- **Approval of Meeting Notes – April, 2017**
 - Judy Hough motioned the April minutes be approved; Dan Merenda second the motion. Those attending approved by a verbal vote.
- **Roanoke City Schools – Homeless Student Report**
 - The Homeless Student Report was distributed to those present.
 - During April, 11 students were identified as homeless.
 - Students identified as homeless are 118 less for the same time period in 2016.
 - The non-restricted funds raised during the year has been used to prevent approximately 50 students from becoming homeless which keeps the number down.
 - Malora read a statement from a student who wanted to share his story.
- **Community Performance Report – Matt Crookshank**
 - Matt reviewed the April report distributed with the agenda.
 - In an effort to increase Metric 2 and 3 performance, there will be DSS Eligibility Training for front-line staff so they know the process to connect people to benefits and increases.

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- Average length of stay in emergency shelter is 39 days down from 73 days for the same period last year.
 - Paula Prince asked if the Outcomes and School reports could be broken out by race/ethnicity to see how each community is being effected by homelessness.
 - John Garland asked if anyone could brief Roanoke City Council on Poverty and Homelessness. Carol Tuning said it may be better to wait until the series of articles on Poverty is completed.
 - Carol Tuning stated she has been asked to prepare data for the City Manager's office on the RYSE families and homelessness in Roanoke.
- **Summer Conference Update – Carol Tuning**
 - “Demystifying Our Crisis Response System: Retooling That Works” is title for this year.
 - Conference is August 7th at the Salem Civic Center.
 - Speakers and sessions have been established; anticipating good attendance.
 - Dan Merenda suggested the Homeless Conference and RRHN conference be combined in the future due to overlapping subject matter.
 - **Marketing Committee – Video – Dan Merenda**
 - From the suggestions made at our last meeting, Dan developed a script for our video and has sent it to Carol Tuning for review. It will be discussed with the video consultant next.
 - Lee Clark suggested we could do a 30 second PSA for our television partners and an audio PSA for radio stations to provide more media attention.
 - **Other Business**
 - No regularly scheduled meeting in June/July.
 - John Garland suggested viewing a show from PBS Frontline called “Poverty, Politics and Profit”. It can be found on the PBS Blue Ridge website.
 - Monica Seiler announced the Day Center for kids aging out of foster care is still on target for October 1 opening.
 - Lee Clark stated Rescue Mission staff will be provided HMIS training on September 1 so they can go live on January 1.
 - The Rescue Mission Day Resource Center (for men and women) will have Open House on May 25 from 1-2:30 pm.

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- Carol Tuning and Paula Prince will make a presentation on Homelessness May 25 at 3:00 pm to the Regional Commission.
- Anna Bowman, Regional Housing Specialist, Department of Housing, stated there is an information session for persons with developmental disabilities at the South County library on May 31 at 11:00 am. Information will be on mental health issues and independent living resources.
- **Adjourn**

The next meeting of the BRICH will be September 8, 2017

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