



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, October 13, 2017

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

- **Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**
 - Introductions by those in attendance.
- **Approval of Meeting Notes – September, 2017**
 - Those attending approved May and September notes by a unanimous, verbal vote.
- **BRICH Updates – Carol Tuning**
 - Paula Prince, on behalf of BRICH, made a presentation to the Rescue Mission Board. Everyone was interested in the valuable collaboration and progress being made by various organizations.
 - Lee Clark stated his goal was to raise the level of awareness of the Board on what was happening in the community and said they will continue the conversation in future meetings.
 - Tanyia Jones and Carol Tuning went to Denver several weeks ago for Built for Zero conference. They were provided an opportunity to present strategies used in our local agencies through BRICH. Our work was used as a role model for other agencies. The conference was provided by Community Solutions.
- **Roanoke City Schools – Homeless Student Report**
 - Malora Horn was not present. However, Paula reported that 280 students have been identified as homeless for so far this school year (through September), which is an increase of 60 from the same period last year.
 - Lee Clark stated they are seeing around 62 children each night at the Rescue Mission.

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- **BRICH Annual Calendar Review – Paula Prince**
 - The BRICH November meeting will be November 3 at the Salem Police Department on Calhoun Street.
- **Community Outcomes Report – Matt Crookshank**
 - Matt reviewed the Community Outcomes Report showing how we ranked on the metrics versus last year.
 - The average length of stay for emergency shelter is 51 days, down from 84 days last year.
- **Other Business**
 - Matt Crookshank updated the group on Data Quality Standards Committee and hopefully a draft plan will be presented to CoC for approval after their December meeting.
 - Carol Tuning received a request from Ken Lane to make a presentation on homelessness at his church on October 22. Carol and Paula are not available; Dan Merenda offered his assistance.
 - Matt Crookshank and Dan Merenda made a presentation to the Association of Realtors at Corned Beef ‘n Company.
 - Carol Tuning is trying to set up a meeting with Faith partners and their continuing support with utility/rental assistance. Central Intake is screening individuals who are seeking services through local churches. Everyone will be invited and can submit questions to Carol.
 - Paula Prince discussed the important role of the Faith community and the various services local churches offer to those in need.
 - Dawn Riddle mentioned that she has not seen an increase in homelessness in Alleghany County. The main obstacle is lack of resources. Dawn has discussed homelessness with the City Manager and County Administrator.
 - TAP and the Roanoke Police Department have been working with Wells Fargo on a backpack program. Carol Tuning asked those involved to contact her to make sure the backpacks go where needed.
 - Paula Prince asked if anyone knew what our Affordable Housing situation is in the Roanoke Valley. RRHN did a survey many years ago. Dan Merenda stated Housing Virginia’s website has good information.
- **Adjourn**

The next meeting of the BRICH will be November 3, 2017 at the Salem Police Station.

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