



# Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, May 11, 2018

1. Welcome and introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair
2. Approval of Meeting Notes – April 2018
3. Roanoke City Schools - Homeless Student Report – Malora Horn, RCPS
4. System Performance Report – Matt Crookshank, CHRC
5. RRHA Letter of Support – Mainstream Vouchers – David Bustamante
6. Other Business
  - Annual CoC Symposium – Creating Safe Places: Culturally Competent Housing and Care for Vulnerable and Underserved Populations
7. Other Business
8. Adjourn

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BRICH will be  
June 8, 2018**

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**[www.rvarc.org/homelessness](http://www.rvarc.org/homelessness)  
[www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org](http://www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org)**



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## Friday, April 13, 2018

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

- **Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**
  - Introductions by those in attendance.
- **Approval of Meeting Notes – March, 2018**
  - Judy Hough motioned to approve the March minutes; Mike Patterson seconded the motion. Those attending approved the minutes by a verbal vote.
- **Roanoke City Schools – Homeless Student Report – Malora Horn, RCPS**
  - Malora Horn was unable to attend but provided an updated report
  - There have been 508 homeless students identified during the period August 2017 through March 2018 (87 in shelter, 384 doubled up and 37 in hotels).
  - There are 299 homeless children Pre-K to Grade 5.
- **System Performance Report – Matt Crookshank**
  - Matt distributed the March report and reviewed metrics noting that Rescue Mission data is included.
  - The average length of stay in emergency shelter projects was 32 days for March 2018. March 2017 was 59 days.
  - The Rescue Mission completes exits each night which elevates the number of individuals not exiting to permanent housing. The data will continue to be refined as they move forward.

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- Paula Prince suggested the actual number of individuals not exiting be shown along with the percentages.
  - Mike Patterson asked if HMIS could identify individuals who have been coming in and out of the Rescue Mission for years and who will not seek permanent housing so the numbers do not get obscured.
  - Ben Bristoll mentioned that he could produce a monthly graph to show the number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals to demonstrate the fluctuation between seasons.
  - Dan Merenda motioned the Data Quality Committee design a report for the summer count of sheltered/unsheltered individuals. Lee Clark seconded the motion. Those attending approved the motion by a verbal vote.
- **Grant Updates – Carol Tuning**
    - The State DHCD/VHSP application was submitted on time, asking for approximately \$860,000 or 20% more than the previous year.
    - Carol has received notice that The Foundation for Roanoke Valley \$6,000 grant for utility assistance was awarded to the City. Roanoke City is also placing funding for utility assistance back into their budget.
    - Matt, Dan and Carol have completed the Youth Homeless Demonstration grant. The initial phase of the grant is approximately \$250,000 for an 8 month community planning process. Community youth service providers were excited about the opportunity to apply for this grant.
    - One requirement of the grant is to have Youth Action Board to participate in the planning process. A stipend for the youth to attend meetings was written into the grant.
    - Carol and Matt will have the presentations from last week’s Housing Roundtable sent to BRICH members.
  - **BRICH Initiatives – Landlords, Affordable Housing, Membership**
    - Members of the BRICH committee need to attend the monthly meetings to assist reaching our yearly goals. If there are ideas for work group projects, please notify Carol Tuning.
    - About 75 people were in attendance at the Roanoke Regional Housing Network’s Housing Roundtable discussion. DHCD and VHDA were in attendance to share information on state resources; Delegate Sam Rasoul and other housing representatives discussed available local resources.
    - A representative from Downtown Roanoke, Inc. (DRI) and the Housing Authority would be a good addition in the BRICH meetings. Paula Prince will reach out to these organizations.

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- A discussion was held to determine if there was a landlord who would be a good representative to attend BRICH meetings.
- Dan Merenda motioned that the Public Relations, Marketing and Communications Committee create an annual report on BRICH initiatives.
- **Other Business**
  - CoC Symposium is scheduled for August 21, 2018 at Greene Memorial.
  - A planning meeting will be held Wednesday, April 18 at 11:00 am at Greene Memorial in Carol's office. Judy Hough, Lee Clark, Matt Crookshank, Tania Jones and Dan Merenda volunteered to attend the meeting.
  - Carol has found a speaker for the Symposium who will discuss housing and sexual discrimination.
  - Lee Clark will join the Marketing workgroup; Monica Seiler will be added to the Youth workgroup.
  - Carol Tuning, Matt Crookshank and Lee Clark will be doing a panel presentation at the Housing Virginia's Most Vulnerable Conference, June 12-14, in Richmond.
  - National Alliance to End Homelessness Annual Conference is in Washington, DC, the latter part of June if anyone is interested in registering.
  - Bridges-Out-of-Poverty training is highly recommended if you interact with low income individuals.  
  
Bridges out of Poverty Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bridges-out-of-poverty-tickets-44917540573>
  - Tania Jones, Veterans Administration, will be getting 5 new HUD vouchers; 2 will be used in Danville area and 3 in Roanoke.
  - The Veterans Administration is asking for donations of gently used bicycles for Veterans to use to get to their jobs. Bikes can be dropped off at the Goodwill store on Melrose and in Salem.
  - VA2k Walk is May 16 during lunch.
- **Adjourn - The next meeting of the BRICH will be May 11, 2018**

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