



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

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

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

- Introductions by those in attendance. Micoela Ruben, God's Foundation, was invited to attend today's meeting to learn more about BRICH. God's Foundation has reached its first anniversary working with youth and elderly in the community.

- **Approval of Meeting Notes – April, 2018**

- Amy Shirkey motioned to approve the April minutes; Judy Hough seconded the motion. Those attending approved the minutes by a verbal vote.

- **Roanoke City Schools – Homeless Student Report – Malora Horn, RCPS**

- The Homeless Student Report was distributed and reviewed by Malora Horn.
- There have been 541 homeless students identified during the period August 2017 through April 2018 (89 in shelters, 406 doubled up and 46 in hotels). Dan Merenda suggested the Homeless Student Report be labeled as number of students served during the school year and not monthly totals.
- Malora believes the increase is due to the partnership with Central Intake because she gets a monthly report that lets her know what is going on in the community. She also gets referrals from families she has served in the past.
- Matt Crookshank said HMIS could do a retention report on those families who have exited to housing and have returned to a shelter at a later date.
- Dave Bustamante, RRHA, asked Malora if she was able to identify the number of Section 8 families that have been evicted. His goal is to prevent the eviction before it happens, even if

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they have to be moved to another location.

- CHRC would not be able to use State or HUD funds to assist a subsidized family. United Way or other Central Intake funds would have to be used.
- **System Performance Report – Matt Crookshank**
 - Matt distributed the April report and reviewed metrics noting the average length of stay in a shelter for “high performing communities” is 20 days.
 - The average length of stay (calendar-to-date) in emergency shelter projects was 32 days through April 2018.
 - The percentage of individuals exiting to permanent housing in April was 6 of 7 (85.71%) because one participant died.
- **RRHA Letter of Support – Mainstream Vouchers – David Bustamante**
 - Mainstream Vouchers are HUD vouchers for elderly, disabled individuals who are exiting an institution, homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. There are approximately 90-95 individuals who qualify for those vouchers which is double from the previous year.
 - Annette Lewis motioned to provide RRHA a Letter of Support for the increased number of vouchers; Debbie Brown second the motion. Those present voted to approve the motion.
- **Annual Symposium**
 - CoC Symposium – “Creating Safe Places: Culturally Competent Housing and Care for Vulnerable and Underserved Populations” is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at Greene Memorial United Methodist Church. Parking passes will be provided. Cost is \$10 per attendee.
 - A speaker from the Center For Social Innovation will discuss Safe, Affordable Housing and Basic Human Rights of All Individuals to Have Access to Housing. Ron Leggett, Regional Director, Housing and Urban Development along with Pam Kestner from VHCD have also been invited as speakers.
 - Other sessions include: Mental Health, Jail Services (discharge planning and services provided), Community Faith Services, Effective Case Management, Sexual Harassment in Housing, Housing in Uncertain Times, Survive and Thrive: Turning Stress into Strength.
- **Other Business**
 - VA2k Walk is May 16 during lunch, from 12 to 1 pm. Goodwill will be giving out donated bikes to Veterans.

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- The new Turning Point Director is Cheyenne Caldwell.
 - The Youth Center is ready to go on June 1. Date for Open House will be announced soon.
 - Debbie Brown said the Summer Pack-a-Snack program is being finalized. There will be 700 bags prepared each week. Kroger is delivering food and providing a discount.
 - On May 24th, Carol Tuning and Paula Prince will be presenting PIT information to the Regional Commission on the state of homelessness.
 - There will be a summer PIT count completed electronically (minus the surveys). PA students from College of Health Sciences could assist with a street count.
 - Roanoke City police are going to camp sites and provide outreach when it is possible. Outreach staff want to meet with those individuals who are on private property and let them know they need to move before the police have to destroy their camps.
 - Sherry Stull reported that Scott Hill has one (1) two-bedroom apartment available in Clifton Forge. One of the two individuals needs to be at least age 62 and combined income of less than \$1908 a month.
 - Dan Merenda reported Jake Gilmer, Workforce Investment Board Director, will be leaving his position. This will be a good opportunity to bring this position to the BRICH so they can understand our clients' needs
 - Bill Duncan said the Disability & Human Rights Service Center in Rocky Mount is searching for a new director.
- **Adjourn - The next meeting of the BRICH will be June 8, 2018**

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