



# Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



## Friday, March 8, 2019

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	Amanda Sparks	<b>P</b>	Carol Tuning	<b>P</b>	Johnathan Meredith	Mike Patterson
<b>P = Present</b>	Angela Penn	<b>P</b>	Dan Merenda		Jo Nelson	Monica Seiler
<b>- = Absent</b>	Annette Lewis		Dani Poe		Judy Smith	Pamela Hall
	<b>P</b> Lt. Jennings Tardy		Dave Prosser	<b>P</b>	Judy Hough	<b>P</b> Paula Prince
	<b>P</b> Ben Bristoll		David Bustamante	<b>P</b>	Keith Holland	Sally Putnam
	Bill Duncan		Dawn Riddle	<b>P</b>	Kristin Adkins	Sherry Stull
	Brian Geiser	<b>P</b>	Debbie Brown	<b>P</b>	Leah Gibson	Sheryl Walters
	Bruce Phipps		Felicia Prescott		Lee Clark	<b>P</b> Tanyia Jones
	<b>P</b> Bryan Hill	<b>P</b>	Isabel Thornton	<b>P</b>	Leslie Leedy	Tracy Kochel
	<b>P</b> Carla Wallace		Jim Weber		Malora Horn	Robin Salo
	Carly Villarreal		John Garland		Matt Crookshank	
<b>GUESTS</b>						

- **Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**
  - Introductions by those in attendance.
- **Approval of Meeting Notes – February 2019**
  - February meeting notes were distributed prior to today’s meeting and there were no changes. Bryan Hill motioned to approve the February 2019 minutes; Isabelle Thornton second the motion. Those present voted to approve.
- **Roanoke City Downtown Initiative – Lt. J.W. Tardy**
  - Lt. J.W. Tardy provided details of Roanoke City’s initiative to reduce bad behaviors and assaults in the downtown area. Once a person receives four convictions for a “quality of life” offense or a single offense for a crime of violence, they have the opportunity to avoid going to jail. They may be given a 12-month suspended sentence and banned from the downtown area during that period. At the end of 12 months, they can come back downtown.
  - The Commonwealth Attorney and local judges reviewed the initiative before it was implemented. The intent was to reduce bad behaviors downtown (homeless persons, college students, Market visitors, residents, etc.) and not target a specific group of people. BRICH members were concerned about how to intervene at the third “quality of life offense” and provide case management to avoid the fourth offense.
  - After discussion, the group decided it was going to take more time to review the initiative and how to measure the outcomes. Paula Prince requested a written copy for BRICH members.

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



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- **Roanoke County Ordinance – Sleeping in Vehicles**

- Judy Hough researched the new Roanoke County ordinance that became effective February 12, 2019 regarding sleeping in vehicles.
- Peter Lubeck, Roanoke County Attorney, reviewed the ordinance. This does not affect a person taking a nap due to being tired of driving. The ordinance is for the health and safety of people living in their personal vehicles in place of having a residence or hotel room. It will be a misdemeanor offense and a \$250 fine. The ordinance will be driven by public complaints.
- Here is a link to the ordinance:

<http://roanokecountyva.ig2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=2418&MeetingID=1087>

- WSL-10 News did an article on March 7 and the link is:

<https://www.wsls.com/news/virginia/roanoke/roanoke-county-bans-sleeping-in-cars>

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

- Malora Horn was unable to attend the meeting. To date, 579 students have been identified as homeless, up from 534 in January. A request has been made to provide the BRICH with the monthly detailed report.

- **System Performance Report – Ben Bristoll**

The February performance report was distributed.

	<u>YTD 2018</u>	<u>YTD 2019</u>
Avg length of stay (February)	33 days	53 days
Total Sheltered Homeless Persons	1,243	1,371
First-Time Homelessness Persons who entered ES, SH, or TH during the period	1,212	1,333
Persons who exited to permanent housing destinations	632	806

- Ben Bristoll has been working with WellSky (HMIS Software Company) to determine a solution to the increase in monthly System Performance Measure outcomes. There are persons in the system that should not be included in the count because they are not “homeless”; they are program staff working at the mission. Outcome Measures for March should be more accurate with the software fix.

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- **Letter of Support**

- Restoration Housing is applying for a DHCD construction grant for affordable housing and has requested a Letter of Support from the BRICH that will identify the need for the project. Keith Holland motioned the BRICH provide a Letter of Support; Ben Bristoll second the motion. Those present unanimously voted to provide the Letter of Support.

- **Built for Zero Initiative – Chronic Inflow Project**

- There are more than 80 persons who have aged into chronic homelessness. Five communities will be selected to participate in a partnership agreement to share the previous two years of HMIS data which will show 80% of our chronically homelessness aged into the category. The goal is to determine why they are homeless or housing challenged.
- Dan Merenda motioned the BRICH approve the data sharing agreement and participation in the Built for Zero program. Debbie Brown second the motion. Those present voted and agreed.

- **Other Business**

- Freedom First and the Roanoke City Manager are participating in financial empowerment centers managed by City of Roanoke. Financial education would become a service provided by the city in the future. The curriculum and training of the financial empowerment centers would be provided to case managers of various programs to assist clients increase their income. Another option would be to have three full-time positions specifically trained to assist clients. Members expressed the desire to have financial planning at separate level from case management due to the skills involved and the time required for successful outcomes.
- The Fair Housing Seminar is on April 25 at the Jefferson Center. The second session has a special topic on hoarding and fair housing rights. (See Attached Flyer)

- **Adjourn - The next meeting of the BRICH will be April 12, 2019 at the Rescue Mission.**