



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, July 14, 2023

1. Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair
2. Approval of Meeting Notes – June 2023
3. Virginia Housing Capacity Building Grant/Updating Governance Charter
4. PSH Operations and Grant Transition – Christine Elwell, Commonwealth Catholic Charities
5. Coordinated Entry Update – Alison Jorgensen, Council of Community Services
6. Community Outcomes Report – Brian Burnette, Council of Community Services
7. Homeless Students Report – Malora Horn, Roanoke City Public Schools
8. Announcements
9. Adjourn

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BRICH will be:
August 11, 2023**

Serving the Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem and the Counties of Alleghany,
Botetourt, Craig, and Roanoke

**www.rvarc.org/homelessness
www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org**

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Friday, June 9, 2023

ATTENDANCE	-	Angela Penn	-	Dave Prosser	P	Keith Holland	P	Paula Prince
P = Present	P	Anne Marie Green	-	David Bustamante	-	Kristin Adkins	-	Sally Putnam
- = Absent	-	Annette Lewis	-	Emily Poff	P	Lee Clark	-	Sherry Stull
	-	Bill Duncan	-	Felicia Prescott	P	Leslie Leedy	P	Stacey Shepherd
	-	Brian Geiser	P	Hope Browning	P	Loretta Freeman	-	Sue Goad
	P	Bryan Hill	-	Judy Smith	P	Malora Horn	P	Tanyia Jones
	P	Christine Elwell	P	Judy Hough	P	Matt Crookshank	P	Toni McLawhorn
			-	Kathleen Talbot	-	Melissa Woodson		
GUESTS	P	Alison Jorgensen, Council of Community Serv			P	Brian Burnette, Director CHRC		
	P	Joe Cobb, Roanoke City Council			P	Jillian Moore, City of Roanoke		
	P	Chris Chittum, City of Roanoke			P	Candace Bell, RAM House		

- **Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**
 - Paula opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The agenda and May minutes were distributed to BRICH members prior to meeting. One change noted is that Emily Poff was in attendance.
 - Judy Hough motioned BRICH approve the minutes with the noted change; Anne Marie Green seconded the motion. Those members present approved the minutes.
- **Proposed AEP Rate Increase – BRICH Public Comment**
 - The Public Comment period regarding the proposed rate increase is open until mid-August.
 - It was recommended that the BRICH submit a formal comment regarding how the increase will affect low-income populations and housing stability.
 - Aaron Fallon, Marie Beebe, and Matt Crookshank worked on the draft document that was distributed with agenda. BRICH Chair, Paula Prince, can submit the BRICH's formal state as part of the public hearing in one of three ways:
 - 1) Complete a public witness form for case number PUR-2023-00002 at the State Corporation Commission's [website](#).
 - 2) Email the form found on the [website](#) to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov.
 - 3) Call the SCC at 804-371-9141 during normal business hours (8:15 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and providing your name and the phone number you wish the Commission to call to reach you during the hearing.

- Roanoke City Schools have spent \$17,000 on client utility bills. RAM has spent approximately \$14,000 since January 2023 on just utilities.
- Malora Horn motioned BRICH members agree to formally submitting the Public Comment to the State Corporation Commission under Paula Prince's name. Anne Marie Green seconded the motion. Those members present voted they agree.
- **PSH Update and Grant Transition – Brian Burnette, Matt Crookshank**
 - Council of Community services will submit the final financial report to HUD on June 12. June rents for clients have been paid by CCS.
 - CCS and Commonwealth Catholic Charities have entered into an MOU to retain the two case managers to transition two new permanent case managers into their roles. Brian is also doing consulting work with Catholic Charities regarding some clients.
 - Christine Elwell from Commonwealth Catholic Charities stated the leadership team is in place and they are interviewing for the case management positions. The manager is working on obtaining executing new master leases with landlords.
 - CCS, especially Brian Burnette, received accolades for accepting the challenge and moving it forward. Brian also received thanks from Christine for having client files neat and organized making the transition successful.
- **Strategic Plan Update – Alison Jorgensen**
 - The Strategic Plan Action Steps have been updated and can be found on the front page of www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org. Action Steps are updated quarterly.
 - Alison showed documents on screen that indicate which steps were completed and which will move over to the new year starting in July. All committees have the same document online that will show the FY 2022-2023 progress.
- **Committee Updates – Alison Jorgensen**
 - Coordinated Entry has implemented the assessment and HMIS workflow testing process. Central Intake, HAT, PATH and Family Promise are the test sites. Overall, things are progressing smoothly. Customized Reports are being developed as the test sites build data and the work flow is analyzed.
 - Brian has developed the platform for the training that will begin for the remaining access points in a few weeks.
 - Monitoring and evaluation will be very important to ensure clients are being awarded appropriate points for the resources in our system.
 - Our HMIS vendor, Bitfocus, mentioned that our CoC is the only group that developed their own Coordinated Entry process and assessment tools. Others paid large sums of money to consultants.

- “Facts & Myths” created by Community Engagement has been used in several presentations within the CoC.
 - Using the HandsOn Blue Ridge (HOBR) platform, a page (under “About” section on the CoC website: www.handsonblueridge.org/blue-ridge-continuum-of-care/) will be designed to populate with information on which agencies need volunteers and what type of donation needs are requested. The public will be given information to visit online on a regular basis.
 - Starting in July, one myth will be the focus each month of a “Call to Action” to Community Partners. The Community Engagement Committee is cultivating stories from Partners to present to neighborhood groups in order to reach the desired audience.
 - The Data Quality and Performance Committee is changing to “HMIS Steering Committee” and is continuing to update the HMIS Policies and Procedures.
- **Community Outcomes Report – Brian Burnette**
 - The May report was distributed with the agenda prior to discussion.
 - In May, there were 474 persons in emergency shelter compared to 254 the same time FY2022.
 - According to Outcome #7, the percentage of individuals exiting emergency shelter and rapid rehousing programs to permanent housing destinations has decreased by more than 50% over last fiscal year.
 - Brian provided additional information on Rapid Rehousing destinations. It shows that many exit with a housing voucher and other financial assistance.
 - The HMIS system has so much data that needs to be analyzed, but CCS does not have the staff to perform that function. CCS is anticipating \$30,000 deficit in HMIS funds for next year.
 - More veterans with animals are refusing assistance because their pet cannot be cared for while they are hospitalized.
 - Rescue Mission is in early stages of working on solution for those homeless with pets.
 - Regional Animal Control can take animals if there is an emergency (i.e. hospitalization).
 - **Homeless Students Report – Malora Horn**
 - The Homeless Students Report for May was distributed with the agenda.
 - In May, there were 25 students identified as homeless which brings the total for FY2022-2023 school year to 615 (344 families).
 - This school year, 189 students have been permanently housed (94) families.
 - Roanoke City Schools has highest rate for on-time graduations in the State of Virginia . . . a proud accomplishment.
 - As of now, there are over 200 families that are without permanent housing.



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- **Announcements**

- TAP has signed a 6-month lease with Christ Episcopal Church to rent the adjacent home of Bethany Hall for DV clients. **** please keep this information confidential **** TAP is currently cleaning and doing other repairs for 3 family rooms and 4 single rooms.
- Salvation Army has new captains arriving soon.
- Rescue Mission will be celebrating 75 years on July 2nd with an Open House from 2-4pm.
- Malora Horn is forming a Youth Advisory Council to bring awareness to what homeless students need. If interested in being on this committee, contact Malora.

- **Adjourn - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BRICH will be July 14, 2023.**

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Community Outcomes Report – July 2023 (covering June 2023) Blue Ridge Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness – July 14, 2023

System Performance Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless

	June 2023 Count (Persons)	June 2023 Average LOT	June 2023 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	425	73.27 days	46 days
	June 2022 Count (Persons)	June 2022 Average LOT	June 2022 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	248	52.17 days	22 days
	YTD FY 2022 Count (Persons)	YTD FY 2022 Average LOT	YTD FY 2022 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	1437	44.84 days	15 days
	YTD FY 2021 Count (Persons)	YTD FY 2021 Average LOT	YTD FY 2021 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	763	37.16 days	14 days

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for June 2023 & Oct 2022-June 2023)

HPC Standard: *Mean length of homelessness.* Either the mean length of episode of homelessness within the Continuum's geographic area is fewer than 20 days, or the mean length of episodes of homelessness for individuals or families in similar circumstances was reduced by at least 10 percent from the preceding federal fiscal year.

System Performance Measure 2: The Extent to which Persons who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness

YTD FY 2022			
	Total Number of Persons who Exited to Permanent Housing Destination (2 Years Prior)	Number of Returns in 2 Years	Percentage of Returns in 2 Years
Totals from all SO, ES and PH Projects	289	65	22.49%

YTD FY 2021			
	Total Number of Persons who Exited to Permanent Housing Destination (2 Years Prior)	Number of Returns in 2 Years	Percentage of Returns in 2 Years
Totals from all SO, ES and PH Projects	451	115	25.50%

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Reports [HUDX-223-AD])

HPC Standard: *Reduced recidivism.* Of individuals and families who leave homelessness, less than 5 percent become homeless again at any time within the next 2 years; or the percentage of individuals and families in similar circumstances who become homeless again within 2 years after leaving homelessness was decreased by at least 20 percent from the preceding federal fiscal year.

System Performance Measure 3: Change in Annual Counts

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Unduplicated Total Sheltered Homeless Persons	1682	901	+781 (+86.7%)
Emergency Shelter	1682	901	+781 (+86.7%)
Safe Haven	0	0	0
Transitional Housing	0	0	0

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for Oct-June FY)

Number of school-age children

Year-To-Date	FY 2022	FY 2021	Difference
Number of school-age children (5-17) in emergency shelter	163	95	+68 (+71.6%)
Single-Day Count	05/31/2023	05/31/2022	Difference
Number of school-age children (5-17) in emergency shelter	18	15	+3 (+20.0%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR [HUDX-227-AD])

System Performance Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth for CoC Funded Projects

Metric 4.6 – Change in total income for adult system leavers

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	1	9	-8 (-88.9%)
Number of adults who exited with increased total income	0	2	-2 (-100.0%)
Percentage of adults who increased total income	0.00%	22.22%	-22.22%

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for Oct-June FY. NOTE: This metric will only begin to populate when case management programs begin to fill out the “Status Update Assessment” or “Annual Assessment” found within the clients’ program enrollments that record changes in income that differ from income recorded at enrollment)

System Performance Measure 5: Number of Persons First Time Homeless

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons with entries into ES, SH, or TH during the reporting period	1448	811	+637 (+78.5%)
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, or TH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	431	256	+175 (+68.4%)
Of the persons above, count those who did not have entries in ES, SH, or TH in the previous 24 months. (Number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time.)	1017	555	+462 (+83.2%)

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for Oct-June FY)

System Performance Measure 7: Permanent Housing Placement and Retention

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons in ES, SH, TH and RRH who exited	1407	595	+812 (+136.5%)
Exited to permanent housing destinations	185	192	-7 (-3.6%)
Percentage of successful exits/retention	13.15%	32.27%	-19.12%

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for Oct-June FY)

Homelessness Prevention

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons prevented from becoming homeless through financial assistance and homelessness prevention programs	1018	925	+93(+10.1%)
<i>Persons served [Persons exited to permanent housing destinations]</i>	[394]	[349]	+45 (+12.9%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR [HUDX-227-AD] run for all prevention programs 7/1-06/30 of each fiscal year)

Rapid Re-Housing

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons placed in permanent housing through rapid re-housing programs	310	316	-6 (-1.9%)
<i>Persons served [Persons exited to permanent housing destinations]</i>	[195]	[210]	-15 (-7.1%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR [HUDX-227-AD] run for all RRH programs 7/1-06/30 of each fiscal year)

Permanent Supportive Housing

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons provided permanent supportive housing services	152	177	-25 (-14.1%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR [HUDX-227-AD] run for all PSH programs 7/1-06/30 of each fiscal year)