



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, June 9, 2023

1. Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair
2. Approval of Meeting Notes – May 2023
3. Proposed AEP Rate Increase – BRICH Public Comment
4. PSH Operations and Grant Transition – Brian Burnette, Council of Community Services and Christine Elwell, Commonwealth Catholic Charities
5. Community Engagement and Coordinated Entry Updates – 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:
July 14, 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, May 12, 2023

ATTENDANCE	-	Angela Penn	P	Dave Prosser	P	Lee Clark	-	Sally Putnam
P = Present	P	Anne Marie Green	-	David Bustamante	P	Leslie Leedy	-	Sherry Stull
- = Absent	P	Annette Lewis	-	Felicia Prescott	P	Loretta Freeman	-	Sue Goad
	-	Bill Duncan	P	Hope Browning	P	Malora Horn	-	Tanyia Jones
	-	Brian Geiser	-	Judy Smith	P	Matt Crookshank	P	Toni McLawhorn
	P	Bryan Hill	-	Judy Hough	P	Melissa Woodson		
	-	Brian Geiser	P	Kathleen Talbot	-	Captn Russell Clay		
	P	Bryan Hill	P	Keith Holland	-	Captn Jamie Clay		
	-		-	Kristin Adkins	P	Paula Prince		
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		

- **Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**
 - Paula Prince opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The agenda and April minutes were distributed to BRICH members prior to meeting.
 - Lee Clark motioned BRICH approve the minutes as written; Anne Marie Green seconded the motion. Those members present approved the minutes.
- **2023 Winter Point-in-Time Presentation – Matt Crookshank, Alison Jorgensen**
- The PIT count was on January 25, 2023 and the results have been finalized. The full report will be posted online next week (<https://www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-Point-in-Time-Report.pdf>).
 - The PIT covered 7 localities within the CoC, consisted of 6 outreach teams and PA students assisting with the unsheltered count and surveys. Data from HMIS was collected for the report.
 - There were 334 persons experiencing homelessness; an increase of 54.6%. Children under the age of 18 were 15.9%. There were 18 unaccompanied youth.
 - Homeless veterans (30), a 57.9% increase over 2022.
 - Per the survey results, three primary reasons for homelessness were:
 1. Relationship conflicts
 2. Loss of job
 3. Lack of affordable housing

- **PSH Update and Grant Transition – Brian Burnette, Matt Crookshank**
 - Brian stated they are assisting clients in looking for alternative housing due to the Notice to Vacate requests from landlords.
 - CCS has started the transition and discussed challenges with Catholic Charities staff. The full-time case manager positions are being posted. Brian anticipates working closely with Catholic Charities to ensure a successful program transition.
 - Brian is working on a Transition Notice to landlords that should go out next week.
- **Coordinated Entry Update – Alison Jorgensen**
 - Coordinated Entry Committee has been working with the HUD technical assistance representative to assess, refine and implement the updated coordinated entry process.
 - The CES stakeholder committee has developed a localized assessment tool and anticipate six-month reviews to ensure the most vulnerable are being served.
- **Committee Updates – Alison Jorgensen, Brian Burnette**
 - Community Engagement is chaired by Marie Muddiman Beebe. The committee is trying to reach multiple audiences, including landlords. Certain pocket neighborhoods are causing misleading chatter.
 - The committee would like to take one “homeless myth” each month and address on social media.
 - The Data Quality and Performance Committee would like to change its name to the HMIS Steering Committee.
 - As the Data Quality committee is starting to meet more frequently, they will continue updating the policy manual. The User Agreements will be updated and additional training provided.
 - The Rhode Island CoC has a HMIS Policy and Procedures Manual that is very informative and portions may become part of our new manual.
- **Community Outcomes Report – Brian Burnette**
 - The April report was distributed with the agenda prior to discussion.
 - In April, there were 455 persons in emergency shelter compared to 335 the same time FY2022. Even though there is an increase in homelessness, the “Return to Homelessness” rate is decreasing.
 - Year-to-date, the number of school-aged children in emergency shelter is 144 compared to 79 the same time last year.
 - Persons prevented from becoming homeless through prevention programs was 1,009 YTD compared to 837 the same time last year.
 - Persons placed in permanent housing through Rapid Rehousing programs was 300 YTD compared to 261 the previous year.

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- **Homeless Students Report – Malora Horn**
 - The Homeless Students Report for April was distributed with the agenda.
 - In April, there were 21 students identified as homeless which brings the total for FY2022-2023 school year to 590 (327 families).
 - This school year, 171 students have been permanently housed (85) families.
 - Malora would like to get a group together to discuss the high AEP bills and funding resources. They have paid over \$14,000 in utility bills and will not be able to continue at this rate before funds are diminished.
- **Announcements**
 - The Summer PIT is scheduled for July 13, 2023.
 - The BRICH members chose to continue meetings during the summer due to various agenda items needing attention during the next few months.
 - Joe Cobb will be temporary director at Family Promise while Marie Muddiman takes a two-month sabbatical. She has been director for 12 years.
 - TAP's funding guidelines will no longer allow them to place Veterans in hotels.
- **Adjourn - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BRICH will be June 9, 2023.**

[date]

Andy Farmer
Director, Information Resources Division
Virginia State Corporation Commission
1300 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Mr. Farmer:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed rate increase from Appalachian Power. On behalf of the Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness (BRICH), we wish to inform you that the proposed rate increase will further exacerbate housing insecurity and add another barrier to stably re-housing families experiencing homelessness, and thus we vigorously oppose the measure.

The BRICH is composed of twenty-one members from the public, local governments, mental health professionals, state and federal programs, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and colleges/universities from throughout the Roanoke region of Virginia. The BRICH represents the region's collective efforts to understand and eliminate homelessness. While rent increases in recent years and the lack of affordable housing have done much to exacerbate homelessness, high utility costs (and debt associated with past utility bills) is a key barrier to preventing homelessness and/or swiftly addressing homelessness—and one for which there are significantly fewer mainstream resources to assist. Many funding sources are extremely limited in their ability to address previous utility debts or associated fees.

We wish to highlight and applaud the efforts by Appalachian Power's Neighbor to Neighbor program, which represents a huge step forward in addressing the destabilizing forces of utility debt. The proposed rate increase, unfortunately represents a larger step backward. It will place additional burden on families with limited resources, which will affect housing stability, food security, and the ability of families to weather the already challenging inflationary environment at the same time as many mainstream supports are being phased out.

Put simply, it is the wrong time for a rate increase, and proceeding with the proposed increase will put immense pressure on struggling families across the region. Working families have stretched their budgets to the breaking point—and the recent increase in housing instability and families experiencing homelessness is a reflection of the economic pressures on low income families. Public concern about homelessness has been extremely high in recent months. The additional burden of the proposed rate adjustment will lead to more instances of homelessness, will further cost-burden already struggling families, and will further tax the few sources of relief that the community relies upon to assist struggling households.

We urge you to consider the very real consequences of imposing additional costs on the families struggling to maintain homes for their families in a moment of high inflation. The proposed increase represents a double blow to these vulnerable families, as expiring COVID-related public funds to address such problems will further reduce available supports.

We recognize that Appalachian Power is aware of the need to support low-income households at this time and, again, applaud their efforts through the Neighbor to Neighbor program; however, the proposed measure will have a profound impact on our most vulnerable neighbors. On behalf of the agencies and advocates working tirelessly to end homelessness in the Roanoke region, I strongly urge you to deny the proposed rate increase.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Paula Prince, Ph.D,
Chair, Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness
and Radford University – Carilion School of Medicine

Community Outcomes Report – June 2023 (covering May 2023)

Blue Ridge Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness – June 9, 2023

System Performance Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless

	May 2023 Count (Persons)	May 2023 Average LOT	May 2023 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	474	64.53 days	37 days
	May 2022 Count (Persons)	May 2022 Average LOT	May 2022 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	254	49.13 days	23 days
	YTD FY 2022 Count (Persons)	YTD FY 2022 Average LOT	YTD FY 2022 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	1,351	44.07 days	15 days
	YTD FY 2021 Count (Persons)	YTD FY 2021 Average LOT	YTD FY 2021 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	668	37.70 days	16 days

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for May 2023 & Oct 2022-May 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	259	57	22.01%

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	409	104	25.43%

(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	1,577	807	+770 (+95.4%)
Emergency Shelter	1,577	807	+770 (+95.4%)
Safe Haven	0	0	0
Transitional Housing	0	0	0

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

Number of school-age children

Year-To-Date	FY 2022	FY 2021	Difference
Number of school-age children (5-17) in emergency shelter	152	85	+67 (+78.8%)
Single-Day Count	05/31/2023	05/31/2022	Difference
Number of school-age children (5-17) in emergency shelter	24	14	+10 (+71.4%)

(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	6	-5 (-83.3%)
Number of adults who exited with increased total income	0	2	-2 (-100.0%)
Percentage of adults who increased total income	0.00%	33.33.00%	-33.33%

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for Oct-May 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	1,341	705	+636 (+90.2%)
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, or TH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	413	234	+179 (+76.5%)
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.)	928	471	+457 (+97.0%)

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for Oct-May 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	1,190	563	+627 (+111.4%)
Exited to permanent housing destinations	168	174	-6 (-3.4%)
Percentage of successful exits/retention	14.12%	30.91%	-16.79%

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

Homelessness Prevention

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons prevented from becoming homeless through financial assistance and homelessness prevention programs	1,023	869	+154 (+17.7%)
<i>Persons served [Persons exited to permanent housing destinations]</i>	[390]	[265]	+125 (+47.2%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR [HUDX-227-AD] run for all prevention programs 7/1-05/31 of each fiscal year)

Rapid Re-Housing

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons placed in permanent housing through rapid re-housing programs	304	293	+39 (+14.9%)
<i>Persons served [Persons exited to permanent housing destinations]</i>	[178]	[198]	-20 (-5.8%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR [HUDX-227-AD] run for all RRH programs 7/1-05/31 of each fiscal year)

Permanent Supportive Housing

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons provided permanent supportive housing services	151	176	-25 (-14.2%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR [HUDX-227-AD] run for all PSH programs 7/1-05/31 of each fiscal year)

Rapid Re-Housing Exit Destinations

Q23c. Exit Destination		
Program Applicability: All Projects		
	FY 2021	FY 2022
Permanent Destinations		
Moved from one HOPWA funded project to HOPWA PH	0	0
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	4	1
Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	1	0
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	88	52
Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy	27	30
Rental by client, with GPD TIP housing subsidy	0	0
Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy	1	7
Permanent housing (other than RRH) for formerly homeless persons	0	0
Staying or living with family, permanent tenure	18	9
Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure	6	0
Rental by client, with RRH or equivalent subsidy	1	1
Rental by client, with HCV voucher (tenant or project based)	47	77
Rental by client in a public housing unit	5	1
Subtotal	198	178

ROANOKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HOMELESS STUDENT REPORT

For: May Report
Submitted: June 9, 2023

BLUE RIDGE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

MONTHLY STUDENTS IDENTIFIED:	
May 2023 = 25	School began August 23, 2022
TOTALS FOR 2022-23 SY:	
Students: 615	Families: 344
TOTAL PERMANENT HOUSED THIS SY:	
Students: 189	Families: 94
ACTIVE AND TEMPORARY STUDENTS THIS SY:	
Students: 350	Families: 212
NUMBER OF OTHER CHILDREN IN THE HOME: 73	

CATEGORY	MAY	TOTAL THIS SY
Shelter	4	64
Doubled-Up	18	455
Hotel	3	96
Unsheltered	0	0

GRADE	MAY	TOTAL THIS SY
PK-5	14	344
6-8	4	125
9-12	7	146

Submitted/Reported by Malora Horn, Homeless Student Program Coordinator
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