



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, March 10, 2023

1. Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair
2. Approval of Meeting Notes – February 2023
3. PSH Update –Brian Burnette, Council of Community Services; Matt Crookshank, City of Roanoke
4. ESG Funding – Keith Holland, City of Roanoke
5. Capacity-building Opportunities – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair
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
April 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**

Friday, February 10, 2023

ATTENDANCE	-	Amanda Sparks	-	Dave Prosser	-	Judy Smith	-	Captain Russell Clay
P = Present	-	Angela Penn	-	David Bustamante	P	Judy Hough	-	Captain Jamie Clay
- = Absent	P	Anne Marie Green	-	Dawn Riddle	-	Kathleen Guilliams	-	Paula Prince
	P	Annette Lewis	-	Debbie Brown	P	Keith Holland	-	Sally Putnam
	-	Sgt Martin	-	Felicia Prescott	-	Kristin Adkins	-	Sherry Stull
	-	Bill Duncan	P	Hope Browning	-	Lee Clark	-	Stacy Sheppard
	-	Brian Geiser	-	Helen Ferguson	P	Leslie Leedy	-	Steve Martin
	P	Bryan Hill	-	Jeffery Doyle	P	Loretta Freeman	P	Sue Goad
	-	Chelsea Pardue	-	John Garland	P	Malora Horn	P	Tanyia Jones
	-	Dani Poe	-	Joyce Earl	P	Matt Crookshank	P	Toni McLawhorn
			-	Jo Nelson	-	Ashleigh Bowman	P	Melissa Woodson
GUESTS	P	Alison Jorgensen, Council of Community Serv			P	Brian Burnette, Director CHRC		
	P	David Dantzler, Rescue Mission			P	Emily Jewett, Legal Aid		

• Welcome and Introductions – Matt Crookshank, City of Roanoke

- Matt Crookshank opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The agenda and January minutes were distributed to BRICH members prior to meeting. Page 2, under Council of Community Services, 10th item, should read, “ . . .most GPD veterans are at the end of their 12-month period in the program.” It was confirmed Stacey Sheppard was not in attendance at the January 2023 BRICH meeting.
- Judy Hough motioned BRICH approve the minutes as written with changes; Annette Lewis second the motion. Those members present approved the revised minutes.

• ARCH and PSH Update – Matt Crookshank, Brian Burnette

- All but two veterans were housed from Trust House when the shelter closed on 1/31/2023. Those two Veterans were placed in a hotel by TAP SSVF and have since moved into permanent housing.
- Letters were submitted to HUD field office that CoC, CCS, and ARCH were in agreement with the PSH grants transitioning temporarily to CCS during the RFP process.
- Brian Burnette reported February rent was paid for all PSH clients, and he has made contact with two thirds of the landlords. Brian has had difficulty in obtaining keys to all units.
- Both of the ARCH PSH case managers are now part-time contract employees of CCS.

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- Anne Marie Green noted that the PSH grant does not cover the administrative work done during the transition.
 - Tommy Oliver with the ARCH Board has been a great resource and helps mediate with landlords on client issues. ARCH has taken responsibility for back rent and damages done by clients prior to 2/1/23. Several units will remain empty until the new agency takes over the program.
 - Brian wants to review tenant rights with those living in current PSH units. Emily Jewett will provide pamphlets to assist with the understanding of rights.
 - When clients have been homeless for years, it is difficult getting them acclimated to living in a residence. Substance use and mental health issues are also a barrier. It was suggested that a transparent review process be developed before a client is discharged from the PSH programs.
 - Tanyia Jones suggested more training needs to be in place to support case managers. Some clients can be extremely psychotic during home visits.
 - It was suggested that there needs to be a clinical component to the organization that takes over the PSH program.
 - TAP and SERCAP are sponsoring a Fair Housing Community Conversation on February 22nd at the Roanoke Higher Education Center.
 - RAM has experienced an increase in bad behaviors due to large number of clients sleeping outdoors.
 - The BRICH Funding Committee will review RFP PSH applications when it closes March 3.
- **ARCH Funding Discussion – Matt Crookshank**
 - Matt provided a handout for discussion, listing the ARCH funding sources. It was suggested that the Trust House SSO Case Management grant be reallocated to PSH.
 - Trust House emergency shelter operation funds (ESG) have been reallocated to CCS to expand their RRH program.
 - The ARCH HUD case management funds need to be reallocated soon. Possibly combining it with the two PSH grants to cover the administrative expenses and other activities under Supportive Services.
 - Annette Lewis motioned to re-allocate the ARCH HUD SSO case management grant to PSH dedicated to the chronically homeless; Tanyia Jones seconded the motion. Those BRICH members present unanimously approved. Anne Marie abstained from the vote.
 - The PSH Manual ARCH created years ago needs to be updated. The program needs to be more structured to assist clients in becoming more self-sufficient and graduating out of the program.
 - **ESG and HOME ARP – Keith Holland**
 - The City Manager has approved the reallocation of ESG, ESG-CV and CDBG funds. Amendments have been sent to the City Attorney's Office.

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- HOME-ARP allocation plan is out for a 30-day public comment period. City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00 pm. Comments from the community are encouraged.
- Between the two funding sources (ARP dedicated to homelessness response and HOME-ARP), 40 new units of affordable housing will be created. Funding for supportive services has also been included in the plan.
- **Strategic Plan Update – Alison Jorgensen**
 - The Community Engagement Committee, chaired by Marie Muddiman Beebe, is communicating with partners in the community about dispelling the myths of homelessness.
 - Research has been conducted to see how other communities have dispersed information to the general public. Visit <https://www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org/facts-myths-about-homelessness/> and hover over each of the statements for a drop down menu to appear.
 - The Data & Performance Committee is revisiting the CoC Release of Information, reviewing HMIS policies and procedures, along with monitoring data quality.
 - Coordinated Entry process is being updated with partner agencies to make sure most vulnerable are prioritized within the community. VISPDAT will no longer be used. The committee has developed a localized assessment to replace the VI-SPDAT.
 - If BRICH members are interested, Keith Holland can potentially utilize CDBG funds to hire consultants to provide organizational development and to assist with updating the BRICH Governance Charter to fit our current operations.
- **PIT Count and Resource Fair – Matt Crookshank, Alison Jorgensen**
 - There were 41 persons counted in the early morning street count. Data will be finalized and presented in April or May.
 - Resource Fair received great feedback and improvement suggestions for the next event. Approximately 80 individuals participated, had lunch and visited a donation area. There were 30 vendors displaying services that are available in the community.
 - One barrier is being able to follow up with individuals who were interested in services. They are not responding back for help.
 - Church Women United raised \$2,000 in a short period of time to cover the cost of lunch. It was a great asset to provide lunch for individuals.
 - Several individuals spoke with Legal Aid regarding poor housing conditions.
- **Community Outcomes Report – Brian Burnette**
 - The January report was distributed prior to discussion.
 - In January 2023, there were 478 persons in emergency shelter compared to 164 January 2022.
 - Even though the number of persons permanently housed was smaller than the previous year, a much larger group of individuals is being currently served.

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- On a positive note, the Percentage of Returns to Homelessness was lower than the previous year.
- **Homeless Students Report**
 - The Homeless Students Report for January was distributed with the agenda.
 - In January, there were 39 students identified as homeless which brings the total for FY2022-2023 school year to 481 (271 families).
 - Malora Horn discussed issues regarding families that have electricity cut off. Not many agencies will assist with large utility bills. She has often split costs with other agencies. Malora wants to meet with partner agencies that can assist families with utility cut offs.
 - Malora referred Denise Tucker, who has raised her grandchildren, about talking to BRICH about her thoughts on affordable housing. Information on the City Council meeting will be provided to Denise if she can attend.
 - One barrier for families to obtain housing, landlords are asking for a double deposit or a “holding fee”. Malora received three calls in one week about the holding fee. Emily Jewett offered to assist in resolving issues related to “holding fees”.
- **Announcements**
 - Keith Holland proposed using the EOC room at the City Municipal Building. One concern was limited parking. Discussion will be held at the next meeting.
 - Bryan Hill noted BRICH, being a committee of the Regional Commission Board, cannot hold virtual meetings unless requested in advance or there is a medical reason for not attending. Public board meetings are limited to two virtual meetings per year.
 - The BRICH Bylaws need to be discussed and updated.
 - The Veterans Homeless Team has housed 125 veterans in 2022, exceeding their goal of 103. They were recognized by local media this week.
- **Adjourn - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BRICH will be March 10, 2023.**

BRICH PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING REPORT - March 10, 2023

Current Program Status (as of March 1, 2023)

Healing Haven – 20 active clients

- 2 clients in eviction process
- 1 client who may need to be evicted
- 1 client who will not stay in his unit (has already been moved multiple times)
- 1 client in good standing whose lease will not be renewed after 5/31/2023 & will need to be relocated (needs accessible or first floor unit).

Heroes Haven – 7 active clients

- 1 client in eviction process
- 1 client in good standing whose lease will not be renewed (Date TBD) & will need to be relocated.

Two open units at 540 Jefferson Ave #1, Vinton 24179 and 1410 Westside Blvd NW #2 24017 (not accessible because they are below ground level).

Both ARCH case managers have been hired as PT temporary staff of the Council and are providing support services to the clients. I have been doing home visits with them to identify current living conditions and having clients sign updated ROIs.

Program Challenges and Concerns

Past Due Damage Charges & Utility Overage Payments - ARCH is still working to pay damage costs and utility overages incurred prior to February 1, 2023. Bills and statements continue to come in and they are being forwarded to Tommy Oliver.

Master Leasing

- The organization as lessee is liable for damage costs minus the security deposit when clients leave a unit. ARCH has been incurring thousands of dollars in repair costs
 - Example 1: ARCH paid \$9742.68 for an extensively damaged unit which doesn't include replacing appliances.
 - Example 2: A landlord evicted client for a non-renewal of lease and ARCH still had to pay for the repairs to the unit \$2572.68.
- Damages are only reimbursable by HUD funds up to one month of rent.

Utility Overages - Utility overage limits are usually set around \$75-\$100 (based on HUD guidelines), but monthly utility bills are in the \$200-\$600 range depending on the unit which makes overages a significant expense.

Community Outcomes Report – March 2023 (covering February 2023) Blue Ridge Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness – March 10, 2023

System Performance Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless

	February 2023 Count (Persons)	February 2023 Average LOT	February 2023 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	428	62.64 days	39 days
	February 2022 Count (Persons)	February 2022 Average LOT	February 2022 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	169	54.59 days	28 days
	YTD FY 2022 Count (Persons)	YTD FY 2022 Average LOT	YTD FY 2022 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	965	43.80 days	17 days
	YTD FY 2021 Count (Persons)	YTD FY 2021 Average LOT	YTD FY 2021 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	295	39.43 days	21 days

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for Jan 2023 & Oct 2022-Feb 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	176	36	20.45%

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	310	85	27.42%

(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	1174	375	+799(+213.1%)
Emergency Shelter	1174	375	+799 (+213.1%)
Safe Haven	0	0	0
Transitional Housing	0	0	0

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

Number of school-age children

Year-To-Date	FY 2022	FY 2021	Difference
Number of school-age children (5-17) in emergency shelter	110	39	+71 (+182.1%)
Single-Day Count	02/28/2023	02/28/2022	Difference
Number of school-age children (5-17) in emergency shelter	31	12	+19 (+158.3%)

(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	2	-1 (-50.0%)
Number of adults who exited with increased total income	0	1	-1 (-100.0%)
Percentage of adults who increased total income	0.00%	50.00%	-50.00%

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for Oct-Feb 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	900	362	+538 (+148.6%)
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, or TH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	318	148	+170 (+114.9%)
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.)	582	214	+368 (+172.0%)

(Source: HMIS System Performance Measures Report [HUDX-223-AD] for Oct-Feb 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	853	179	+674 (+376.5%)
Exited to permanent housing destinations	140	79	+61 (77.2%)
Percentage of successful exits/retention	34.38%	43.75%	-9.37%

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

Homelessness Prevention

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons prevented from becoming homeless through financial assistance and homelessness prevention programs	972	744	+228(+30.6%)
<i>Persons served [Persons exited to permanent housing destinations]</i>	[337]	[163]	+174 (+106.7%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR [HUDX-227-AD] run for all prevention programs 7/1-02/28 of each fiscal year)

Rapid Re-Housing

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons placed in permanent housing through rapid re-housing programs	284	227	+57 (+25.1%)
<i>Persons served [Persons exited to permanent housing destinations]</i>	[153]	[115]	+38 (+33.0%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR [HUDX-227-AD] run for all RRH programs 7/1-02/28 of each fiscal year)

Permanent Supportive Housing

	YTD FY 2022	YTD FY 2021	Difference
Persons provided permanent supportive housing services	148	170	-22 (-12.9%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR [HUDX-227-AD] run for all PSH programs 7/1-02/28 of each fiscal year)

ROANOKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HOMELESS STUDENT REPORT

For: February Report
Submitted: March 10, 2023

BLUE RIDGE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

MONTHLY STUDENTS IDENTIFIED:	
February 2023 = 46	School began August 23, 2022
TOTALS FOR 2022-23 SY:	
Students: 527	Families: 293
TOTAL PERMANENT HOUSED THIS SY:	
Students: 133	Families: 66
ACTIVE AND TEMPORARY STUDENTS THIS SY:	
Students: 351	Families: 204
NUMBER OF OTHER CHILDREN IN THE HOME: 56	

CATEGORY	FEBRUARY	TOTAL THIS SY
Shelter	7	55
Doubled-Up	23	382
Hotel	16	90
Unsheltered	0	0

GRADE	FEBRUARY	TOTAL THIS SY
PK-5	31	295
6-8	6	102
9-12	9	130

Submitted/Reported by Malora Horn, Homeless Student Program Coordinator
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