Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) Board on April 23, 2020 and 2020 Virginia General Assembly legislation H29 enacted April 24, 2020, **the September meeting of the Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness will be held virtually via GoToMeeting on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**

Under the current State of Emergency, and until further notice, it has been deemed unsafe to assemble a quorum of a public body in one place. All materials made available to the members will be made available to the public at the same time by posting on the RVARC website

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AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair

2. Homeless Data Integration Project Presentation – Andriea Ukrop, Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)

3. Update on Isolation Facility and Hotel Work – Jeanne McCormack, ARCH Roanoke

4. Roanoke City Schools Homeless Students Report – Malora Horn, RCPS

5. System Performance Report – Ben Bristoll, CHRC

6. Announcements
   - Virginia Governor's Housing Conference: virtual; November 18-20

7. Adjourn

In accordance with adopted procedures, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) Regional Planner III, Bryan Hill will provide public notice of this by posting it on the Commission's website https://rvarc.org/community/homelessness. Matthew Crookshank, Blue Ridge Continuum of Care Coordinator, will be the host for the virtual meeting. Members of the Board and the public will be able to access this meeting through GoToMeeting, either by clicking on the web link below (preferable) or by dialing in using the phone number (for listen-only participation). Access information is as follows:

For computer, tablet or smartphone users:
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/344145973

For dial-in access only:
Phone: (571) 317-3122
Access Code: 344-145-973

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

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

Blue Ridge Continuum of Care
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

ATTENDANCE							
P = Present	X	Aaron Fallon	X	Helen Ferguson	X	Leslie Leedy	
- = Absent	-	Alyce Dantzler	X	Hope Browning	-	Lisa Kemble	
	X	Amanda Holcomb	X	Jeanne McCormack	X	Matt Crookshank	
	-	Anne Marie Green	X	Jo Nelson	-	Marie Muddiman	
	-	Bill Duncan	-	Kim Gembala	-	Malora Horn	
	X	Ben Bristoll	-	Karen Mason	X	Kristin Gibson	
	-	Brittany Huffer	-	Karen Michalski-Karney	X	Mariam DiPasquale	
	-	Elizabeth Pentecost	-	Kathleen Guilliams	X	Melissa Woodson	
	-	Jaimie Goodman	X	Tasha Evans	-	Raquel Conn	
	X	Captain Jamie Clay	-	Jennifer Diehl	X	Stacy Shepherd	
	-	Jeff Crooke	-	Kym Carroll	X	Susan Price	
	-	Geralynn Trellue	-	Kristin Moses	X	Tanya Jones	
	X	Reagan Costello-White, CCS Intern					
	X	Kristin Adkins, VDH					

- **Welcome and Introductions – Matt Crookshank**
  - Matt Crookshank opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. via conference call. Roll call was taken.
  - Minutes from previous meeting on August 11, 2020 were distributed via email. There were no changes to the minutes.

- **July Outcomes Report – Ben Bristoll**
  - The report reviewed today excludes hotel clients. Ben is going to make the change to include those numbers.
  - The graph on the last page shows the primary reasons why clients are returning to homelessness.
  - It is likely that the state moratorium on evictions is reducing the homeless numbers.
  - Over the past several months, it has been difficult to get landlords to show properties to clients.
  - The July performance report was reviewed:

	YTD 2019	YTD 2020
Avg length of stay	47 days	57 days
Total Sheltered Homeless Persons	1,951	1,326
First-Time Homelessness Persons who entered ES, SH, or TH during the period	2,063	1,396
Persons who exited program(s)	2,063	1396
Persons prevented from becoming homeless through financial assistance	853	756

	YTD 2019	YTD 2020
Persons placed in permanent housing through Rapid Rehousing programs	312	280
Persons provided Permanent Supportive Housing services	223	189
Single-Day count of homeless school-Aged children	July 31 23	July 31 3

- **State Rent/Mortgage Relief Program– Jo Nelson, Total Action for Progress**
  - Anywhere from 30-50 new applications are received each week.
  - Last week, approximately $90,000 was paid in back rent. Since July 1, $245,000 has been authorized in back rent/mortgage payments.
  - The State changed the rules, effective today. TAP can now pay 100% of arrears; landlord does not have to agree to forgive a certain number of months' rent.
  - With the new guidelines, funds may last to mid-October.
  - Since TAP has additional CARES Act funds for SSVF, they are primarily serving Veterans through SSVF instead of the RMRP.

- **Isolation Facility and Hotels – Jeanne McCormack**
  - Staff are still receiving early morning/late night calls regarding drug activity and behavioral issues at the hotels.
  - Trust House Veterans need to be moved to a different hotel. Jeanne, Matt and Hope are working to resolve this issue.
  - Trust House will be open Monday-Friday to Rescue Mission clients who are waiting on test results from the clinic in order to facilitate more efficient placement of clients into the Rescue Mission shelter prorams.
  - The VA is mandating any veteran who stays in hotel during Covid19 to participate in treatment programs.

- **Agency Updates**
  DSS has CARES Act Funds available for utility and other assistance for those at 80% median income. The online application is found on the Roanoke City: https://www.roanokeva.gov/2606/Recovery-Funds
  - Central Intake Services has an online application to apply for assistance through the Water Authority. The application can be found on the www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org site.
  - RAM still has FEMA funds that can be used for utility assistance.
  - Salvation Army has school supplies available. Contact Jamie Goodman to make an appointment.
  - Salvation Army is also providing some utility assistance and food boxes.
  - The Salvation Army volunteers have prepared over 12,000 meals to the hotel clients so far this

year. Thank you!

- Christmas Store will not be operating this year, but Salvation Army will have the Angel Tree. The online registration process for the Angel Tree will begin in September.
- Turning Point has housed 2 families recently. Operations are currently running normal.
- Family Promise shelter is now open with families being sheltered at duplexes. Partner congregations are helping with meals and gift cards.
- RAM will have its new website revealed on PBS Tuesday, August 25, at the Grandin Theatre, along with several other nonprofits.
- VA Harm Reduction Coalition continues to offer free Covid19 and Hep C testing in the community.

The next conference call will be Tuesday, September 8 @9am.

The Virginia Homeless Data Integration Project

The Homelessness Data Integration Project (HDIP) will pull data from the HMIS systems of all CoC's in Virginia and combine all of that data into one data warehouse for the entire state. This will allow users to run reports spanning the entire state, and there will be security measures in place to protect individual client data.

Overview

The Homeless Data Integration Project (HDIP) is an extension of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HDIP is implemented using Open Path, which is a Health Insurance and Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant online data integration platform that supports in-depth analysis of homeless services as well as, care coordination, and coordinated entry processes. Data analysis is possible at the state, Continuum of Care (CoC), and project-level. Agencies that participate in HDIP have access to a common set of tools and agree to uphold standards of privacy and confidentiality as a condition of use.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is a state executive office that contracts with Green River, Open Path vendor. DHCD partners with the 16 Continuums of Care (CoC) located in the commonwealth. Through competitive funding opportunities, technical assistance, and data collection and analysis, DHCD works collaboratively to make homelessness rare, brief, and one time. DHCD is accessing Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) to fund the HDIP at no cost to the CoCs.

In 2019, DHCD established the homeless data integration project (HDIP) coordinator position to facilitate the use of Green River's Open Path software application. To help guide this work, the HDIP Advisory Council was established.

Purpose/Goals/Governing Principles

The **purpose** of HDIP is to have the:

Access of near real-time data at a statewide, local, or project level that enables responses to trends in a timelier manner;

Ability to drilldown on populations and projects to address important and timely questions;

Ability to match data with other CoCs and systems of care to generate support and the maximization of resources;

Improvement of partnerships with other service providers;

Access of flexible reporting tools at the project, CoC/Local Planning Groups (LPGs), and state- level;

Improvement to understand community needs; and

Identification and documentation of community successes.

The **goal** of the HDIP is to access a homeless data integration warehouse that allows state policy makers, DHCD, and other stakeholders (specifically, CoCs and LPGs) the ability to use comprehensive and timely data to end homelessness.

All parties are committed to the following **Governing Principles** in using the HDIP:

      a. Support the purpose and goals

      b. Interpret, analyze, and assimilate to support actionable decisions

      c. Standardize (when feasible) to promote interoperability and integration

      d. Manage to maintain quality, integrity, and reliability

      e. Access with appropriate security controls

      f. Disseminate to promote usage

Community Outcomes Report – September 2020 (covering August 2020)
Blue Ridge Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness – September 11, 2020

System Performance Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless

	August 2020 Count (Persons)	August 2020 Average LOT	August 2020 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	266	109 days	68 days

	August 2019 Count (Persons)	August 2019 Average LOT	August 2019 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	483	65 days	29 days

	YTD FY 2020 Count (Persons)	YTD FY 2020 Average LOT	YTD FY 2020 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	1414	58 days	25 days

	YTD FY 2019 Count (Persons)	YTD FY 2019 Average LOT	YTD FY 2019 Median LOT
Persons in Emergency Shelter	2067	45 days	19 days

(Source: ART Report 700)

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 2020			
	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	631	189	30.0%

YTD FY 2019			
	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	816	206	25.2%

(Source: ART Report 701)

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.

Submitted by Ben Bristoll

System Performance Measure 3: Change in Annual Counts

	YTD FY 2019	YTD FY 2020	Difference
Unduplicated Total Sheltered Homeless Persons	2121	1454	-667 (-31.4%)
Emergency Shelter	2121	1454	-667 (-31.4%)
Safe Haven	0	0	0
Transitional Housing	0	0	0

(Source: ART Report 702)

Number of school-age children

Year-To-Date	YTD FY 2019	YTD FY 2020	Difference
Number of school-age children (5-17) in emergency shelter	189	114	-75 (-39.6%)
Single-Day Count	8/31/2019	8/31/2020	Difference
Number of school-age children (5-17) in emergency shelter	18	12	-6 (-33.3%)

(Source: Combined CoC APR)

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 2019	YTD FY 2020	Difference
Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	11	16	+5 (+45.5%)
Number of adults who exited with increased total income	7	10	+3 (+42.9%)
Percentage of adults who increased total income	63.6%	62.5%	

(Source: ART Report 703 – metric only pulls in income increases for participants in SH, TH, PH-RRH and PH-PSH project types that are CoC-funded)

System Performance Measure 5: Number of Persons First Time Homeless

	YTD FY 2019	YTD FY 2020	Difference
Persons with entries into ES, SH, or TH during the reporting period	2243	1548	-695 (-31.0%)
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, or TH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	791	689	-102 (-12.9%)
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.)	1452	859	-593 (-40.8%)

(Source: ART Report 704 – Metric 5.1)

Submitted by Ben Bristoll

System Performance Measure 7: Permanent Housing Placement and Retention

	YTD FY 2019	YTD FY 2020	Difference
Persons in ES, SH, TH and RRH who exited	1932	1275	-657 (-34.0%)
Exited to permanent housing destinations	365	256	-109 (-29.9%)
Percentage of successful exits/retention	18.9%	20.1%	

(Source: ART Report 706 – Metric 7b.1)

Homelessness Prevention

	YTD FY 2019	YTD FY 2020	Difference
Persons prevented from becoming homeless through financial assistance and homelessness prevention programs *Persons served [Persons exited to permanent housing destinations]*	919 [657]	796 [456] 3129 [1289] RAM	-123 (-13.4%)

(Source: Combined APR)

Rapid Re-Housing

	YTD FY 2019	YTD FY 2020	Difference
Persons placed in permanent housing through rapid re-housing programs	325	286	-39 (-12.0%)

(Source: Combined APR)

Permanent Supportive Housing

	YTD FY 2019	YTD FY 2020	Difference
Persons provided permanent supportive housing services	224	189	-35 (-15.6%)

(Source: Combined APR)

Submitted by Ben Bristoll

Primary reason for returns to homelessness - FY 2019

■ Count