



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, April 14, 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	P	Kathleen Talbot	P	Paula Prince
	P	Annette Lewis	-	Debbie Brown	-	Keith Holland	-	Sally Putnam
	-	Sgt Martin	-	Felicia Prescott	-	Kristin Adkins	-	Sherry Stull
	-	Bill Duncan	P	Hope Browning	P	Lee Clark	-	Stacy Shepherd
	-	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	Joe Cobb, Roanoke City Council			P	Emily Jewett, Legal Aid		
	P	Mathew Wasikewitz, Va Department Health			P	Chris Chittum, City of Roanoke		
	P	Jillian Moore, City of Roanoke			P	Ben Bristoll, Council of Community Services		

- Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**
 - Paula opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The agenda and March minutes were distributed to BRICH members prior to meeting.
 - Judy Hough motioned BRICH approve the minutes as written; Anne Marie Green second the motion. Those members present approved the minutes.
- New PSH Recipient Recommendation – Matt Crookshank**
 - Two organizations applied for the PSH Programs. The Funding Review Committee scored the applicants: Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) (816 points; 102 average out of 110 total possible points) and Project Support (550 points; 69 average out of 110 total possible points).
 - CCC has no local leadership but have PSH programs in Richmond and Petersburg. CCC also has experience managing HUD-funded PSH grants.
 - One noteworthy fact is CCC retained 94% of their clients during the COVID pandemic.
 - CCC will need adequate client support to stabilize Roanoke’s PSH Program. CCC plans on hiring two full-time case managers.
 - Leadership will hopefully participate in BRICH meetings. Supervisors from either Richmond or Petersburg will virtually participate in CoC meetings. Their local case managers will be in monthly BNL case conferencing meetings.

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- A suggestion was to have a written report provided to BRICH each month to monitor the progress of the program and avoid having another situation like with ARCH.
- Through an MOU, ARPA funds may be used to support a local supervisor position for six months or longer.
- Anne Marie Green motioned BRICH approve Commonwealth Catholic Charities as the new PSH Provider; Tanyia Jones second the motion. Those members present approved the motion unanimously.
- **PSH Update – Brian Burnette**
 - Brian provided a written detailed report on the recent progress made with the PSH program. There are currently 25 clients in the programs, with 2 recent discharges.
 - One residence containing two apartments has approximately \$25,000 in damages. Brian reviewed various barriers the case managers are experiencing with clients.
 - Council of Community Services is asking for partner agency assistance in relocating clients who are losing their residence due to landlords not renewing leases. There is a possibility of 5 to 7 clients needing to relocate.
 - One landlord placed 10-day vacate notices on apartment doors and attached a note from Roanoke City Police stating they will seize the property due to numerous emergency calls regarding drug activity.
 - It was suggested that a Landlord Outreach Program be initiated to introduce CCC to landlords and open the line of communication for future meetings, address current issues, and discuss the support available from other agencies.
- **Coordinated Entry Refinement – Alison Jorgensen**
 - The committee initiated a soft launch with HAT and found several areas that need attention.
 - The new system should be fully implemented in the next few months.
- **Capacity-Building Grant Opportunity – Matt Crookshank**
 - Matt spoke with Virginia Housing and expressed our interest in applying for up to \$25,000 in Capacity-Building Grant for the next round that begins July 1.
 - Half of the grant funds can be spent on consultants and half is for the actual implementation.
 - Going to send a list of consultants with Capacity-Building experience for us to choose from.
 - The next step will be to speak with consultants and to complete Virginia Housing's online application for grant funds.

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- **FY2022 HUD CoC Award Announcements – Matt Crookshank**
 - A handout that listed the CoC awards was provided to BRICH members prior to today's meeting. Due to time constraints, it was not reviewed during the meeting.
- **HOME-ARP – Hope Browning**
 - Hope confirmed that City of Roanoke was receiving \$6.6 million in ARP funds.
 - Plans are to build 50 units for low income rental housing; several of them for PSH clients from the Veterans, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare and/or CCC PSH programs.
 - They are currently defining what supportive services will look like and plan on releasing a RFP in the coming months.
- **Community Outcomes Report – Brian Burnette**
 - The March report was distributed with the agenda prior to discussion. Due to time constraints, discussion was not held during the meeting today.
 - In March, there were 469 persons in emergency shelter compared to 181 March 2022.
 - Returns to Homelessness is down again from the previous year in March.
- **Homeless Students Report – Malora Horn**
 - The Homeless Students Report for March was distributed with the agenda.
 - In March, there were 42 students identified as homeless which brings the total for FY2022-2023 school year to 569 (314 families).
 - This school year, 150 students have been permanently housed (75) families.
- **Announcements**
 - The RRHN Symposium, "The War on Housing", will be May 10 at the Vinton War Memorial. Registration is open; cost is \$40. Refer to CCS Facebook page for more details.
 - Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare has a new program, "Fathers Initiative", that provides parent training to current fathers, incarcerated fathers, or even those with no children. Contact Kathleen Talbot for more information.
 - RAM House is going through a capital campaign for their new building and is currently working on a commercial with some well-known individuals.

Adjourn - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BRICH will be May 12, 2023

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