



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, November 9, 2018

ATTENDANCE	-	Amanda Sparks	-	Carly Villarreal	-	John Garland	-	Pamela Hall
P = Present	-	Amy Shirkey	P	Carol Tuning	-	Judy Cusumano	P	Paula Prince
- = Absent	-	Angela Penn	P	Dan Merenda	-	Judy Hough	-	Sally Putnam
	P	Annette Lewis	-	Dani Poe	P	Keith Holland	-	Sherry Stull
	P	Lt. Jennings Tardy	-	Dave Prosser	P	Lee Clark	-	Sheryl Walters
	-	Ben Bristoll	-	David Bustamante	P	Leslie Leedy	-	Tamy Mann
	P	Bill Duncan	-	Dawn Riddle			-	Tanyia Jones
	-	Brian Geiser	P	Debbie Brown	P	Malora Horn	-	Tracy Kochel
	-	Bruce Phipps	-	Felicia Prescott	P	Matt Crookshank	-	Robin Salo
	P	Bryan Hill	P	Isabel Thornton	P	Mike Patterson	-	Pete Clark
	P	Carla Wallace	-	Jim Weber	P	Monica Seiler		
GUESTS	P	Nicole Ross, Goodwill			P	Vicky Smith, Goodwill		
	P	Melissa Gish						

- **Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**

- Introductions by those in attendance.

- **Approval of Meeting Notes – September 2018**

- Bryan Hill motioned to approve the May and September meeting notes as written; Lee Clark second the motion. Those present voted to approve.

- **Partner Agency Presentations**

Nicole Ross, Regional Coordinator of Youth Services for Goodwill, and Vicky Smith, Manager of the Youth & Teen Center on Melrose Avenue were present. Nicole Ross made a presentation on the Goodwill programs offered to Youth:

- Community School to Work Transition Program provides the opportunity for disabled students to participate in work-based learning experiences.
- Youth to Work program provides work experience and vocational activities to at-risk youth between 14-21.
- Reality Check gives students the chance to make decisions regarding the direction their life will take and how far a paycheck will go to pay expenses.

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- Science Club provides opportunities for skill building, tutoring and science experiments for 5th – 8th graders.
- YouthHQ is the new Youth & Teen Center on Melrose that features activities for middle and high school students.

Captain Monica Seiler and Melissa Gish provided a Power Point presentation on the Salvation Army's New Day Center. The Center serves an average of 15 persons a day. It offers:

- Lazy Lounge
- Suds n Duds Laundry Room
- Rusty Spoon Café
- Think Tank
- Situation Room
- Shower/locker room w/toiletries
- Case Management "Coaches"

Since opening on July 23, 2018, there have been 80 intakes (72 single, 8 families) which has far exceeded expectations. Hours are now 9-3:30 to accommodate for the colder weather. A significant number of participants (92%) have a need for mental health services; 95% have used drugs or alcohol. Many of the participants have not been identified by the Youth By-Name-List and do not have VISPDAT completed. Other barriers to housing are employment, transportation or bus passes, inability to remain drug/alcohol free and overall lack of life skills.

- **Strategic Planning Session Update – Dan Merenda**

Information from the planning session resulted in a single goal: To become a high-performing community. HUD's performance measures were used to establish one and three-year goals. The Committee is mimicking the State of Washington's plan format to have a plan ready for January 1.

- **System Performance Report – Matt Crookshank**

Matt distributed the October performance report that provided the following information:

- October 2018 – 613 persons in Emergency Shelter, Avg length of stay 59 days.
- October 2017 – 457 persons in Emergency Shelter, Avg length of stay 51 days.

Total Number of Persons Exiting to Permanent Housing – FY2019 is 766, 25.07% return in 2 years. FY2018 was 658, 22.19% return in 2 years

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- **Roanoke City Schools Homeless Student Data – Malora Horn, RCPS**
 - For school year 2017-2018, a total of 568 kids have been identified as experiencing homelessness.
 - For August through October 2018, there have been 350 students identified: 61 in shelter, 262 doubled up and 27 in hotels.
 - Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for Saturday, December 8 at William Fleming High School. This is a fundraiser for the Star Council.

- **Other Business**
 - Roanoke City Council Meeting on December 3 at 9:00 am. Lee Clark will update the Council on the Rescue Mission; Matt Crookshank will provide updates on HMIS and data; Carol Tuning will discuss the Strategic Plan.
 - Homeless Persons Memorial Service is December 19 at 11:00 am at Greene Memorial UMC.
 - 2018 PIT Community Infographic will be provided at our next meeting.
 - Debbie Brown reported that Charity Tracker is being reviewed for the Faith Community Data System. A free software demonstration is being planned.
 - The Wanda Emory Housing Fund has been proposed to provide funds for older women who experienced situations like Wanda Emory. Paula Prince will discuss options with Dave Prosser.
 - The CDBG and ESG fund applications are due January 14, 2019. Keith Holland noted an information meeting will be held November 15, 2018 at the City Municipal Building.

- **Adjourn - The next meeting of the BRICH will be January 11, 2019.**

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