



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

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|---|----------|------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| ATTENDANCE | - | Angela Penn | - | Dave Prosser | P | Keith Holland | P | Paula Prince |
| P = Present | P | Anne Marie Green | - | David Bustamante | - | Kristin Adkins | - | Sally Putnam |
| - = Absent | - | Annette Lewis | - | Emily Poff | P | Lee Clark | - | Sherry Stull |
| | - | Bill Duncan | - | Felicia Prescott | P | Leslie Leedy | P | Stacey Shepherd |
| | - | Brian Geiser | P | Hope Browning | P | Loretta Freeman | - | Sue Goad |
| | P | Bryan Hill | - | Judy Smith | P | Malora Horn | P | Tanyia Jones |
| | P | Christine Elwell | P | Judy Hough | P | Matt Crookshank | P | Toni McLawhorn |
| | | | - | Kathleen Talbot | - | Melissa Woodson | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | |
| | P | Chris Chittum, City of Roanoke | | | P | Candace Bell, RAM House | | |

- Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**
 - Paula opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The agenda and May minutes were distributed to BRICH members prior to meeting. One change noted is that Emily Poff was in attendance.
 - Judy Hough motioned BRICH approve the minutes with the noted change; Anne Marie Green seconded the motion. Those members present approved the minutes.
- Proposed AEP Rate Increase – BRICH Public Comment**
 - The Public Comment period regarding the proposed rate increase is open until mid-August.
 - It was recommended that the BRICH submit a formal comment regarding how the increase will affect low-income populations and housing stability.
 - Aaron Fallon, Marie Beebe, and Matt Crookshank worked on the draft document that was distributed with agenda. BRICH Chair, Paula Prince, can submit the BRICH’s formal state as part of the public hearing in one of three ways:
 - 1) Complete a public witness form for case number PUR-2023-00002 at the State Corporation Commission’s [website](#).
 - 2) Email the form found on the [website](#) to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov.
 - 3) Call the SCC at 804-371-9141 during normal business hours (8:15 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and providing your name and the phone number you wish the Commission to call to reach you during the hearing.

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- Roanoke City Schools have spent \$17,000 on client utility bills. RAM has spent approximately \$14,000 since January 2023 on just utilities.
- Malora Horn motioned BRICH members agree to formally submitting the Public Comment to the State Corporation Commission under Paula Prince's name. Anne Marie Green seconded the motion. Those members present voted they agree.
- **PSH Update and Grant Transition – Brian Burnette, Matt Crookshank**
 - Council of Community services will submit the final financial report to HUD on June 12. June rents for clients have been paid by CCS.
 - CCS and Commonwealth Catholic Charities have entered into an MOU to retain the two case managers to transition two new permanent case managers into their roles. Brian is also doing consulting work with Catholic Charities regarding some clients.
 - Christine Elwell from Commonwealth Catholic Charities stated the leadership team is in place and they are interviewing for the case management positions. The manager is working on obtaining executing new master leases with landlords.
 - CCS, especially Brian Burnette, received accolades for accepting the challenge and moving it forward. Brian also received thanks from Christine for having client files neat and organized making the transition successful.
- **Strategic Plan Update – Alison Jorgensen**
 - The Strategic Plan Action Steps have been updated and can be found on the front page of www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org. Action Steps are updated quarterly.
 - Alison showed documents on screen that indicate which steps were completed and which will move over to the new year starting in July. All committees have the same document online that will show the FY 2022-2023 progress.
- **Committee Updates – Alison Jorgensen**
 - Coordinated Entry has implemented the assessment and HMIS workflow testing process. Central Intake, HAT, PATH and Family Promise are the test sites. Overall, things are progressing smoothly. Customized Reports are being developed as the test sites build data and the work flow is analyzed.
 - Brian has developed the platform for the training that will begin for the remaining access points in a few weeks.
 - Monitoring and evaluation will be very important to ensure clients are being awarded appropriate points for the resources in our system.
 - Our HMIS vendor, Bitfocus, mentioned that our CoC is the only group that developed their own Coordinated Entry process and assessment tools. Others paid large sums of money to consultants.

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- “Facts & Myths” created by Community Engagement has been used in several presentations within the CoC.
 - Using the HandsOn Blue Ridge (HOBR) platform, a page (under “About” section on the CoC website: www.handsonblueridge.org/blue-ridge-continuum-of-care/) will be designed to populate with information on which agencies need volunteers and what type of donation needs are requested. The public will be given information to visit online on a regular basis.
 - Starting in July, one myth will be the focus each month of a “Call to Action” to Community Partners. The Community Engagement Committee is cultivating stories from Partners to present to neighborhood groups in order to reach the desired audience.
 - The Data Quality and Performance Committee is changing to “HMIS Steering Committee” and is continuing to update the HMIS Policies and Procedures.
- **Community Outcomes Report – Brian Burnette**
 - The May report was distributed with the agenda prior to discussion.
 - In May, there were 474 persons in emergency shelter compared to 254 the same time FY2022.
 - According to Outcome #7, the percentage of individuals exiting emergency shelter and rapid rehousing programs to permanent housing destinations has decreased by more than 50% over last fiscal year.
 - Brian provided additional information on Rapid Rehousing destinations. It shows that many exit with a housing voucher and other financial assistance.
 - The HMIS system has so much data that needs to be analyzed, but CCS does not have the staff to perform that function. CCS is anticipating \$30,000 deficit in HMIS funds for next year.
 - More veterans with animals are refusing assistance because their pet cannot be cared for while they are hospitalized.
 - Rescue Mission is in early stages of working on solution for those homeless with pets.
 - Regional Animal Control can take animals if there is an emergency (i.e. hospitalization).
 - **Homeless Students Report – Malora Horn**
 - The Homeless Students Report for May was distributed with the agenda.
 - In May, there were 25 students identified as homeless which brings the total for FY2022-2023 school year to 615 (344 families).
 - This school year, 189 students have been permanently housed (94) families.
 - Roanoke City Schools has highest rate for on-time graduations in the State of Virginia . . . a proud accomplishment.
 - As of now, there are over 200 families that are without permanent housing.

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- **Announcements**

- TAP has signed a 6-month lease with Christ Episcopal Church to rent the adjacent home of Bethany Hall for DV clients. **** please keep this information confidential **** TAP is currently cleaning and doing other repairs for 3 family rooms and 4 single rooms.
- Salvation Army has new captains arriving soon.
- Rescue Mission will be celebrating 75 years on July 2nd with an Open House from 2-4pm.
- Malora Horn is forming a Youth Advisory Council to bring awareness to what homeless students need. If interested in being on this committee, contact Malora.

- **Adjourn - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BRICH will be July 14, 2023.**

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