



Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



Friday, October 11, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

NOTE: The October meeting of the Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness will be held at the Envision Center, 2607 Salem Turnpike, NW, Roanoke, VA 24017

1. Welcome and Introductions – Lee Clark, Interim BRICH Chair
2. Approval of Meeting Notes – September 2024
3. PSH Operations Report – Courtney Fields, Commonwealth Catholic Charities
4. CoC Application – Matt Crookshank, City of Roanoke
5. Approval of Ranking Committee Recommendations – Rachel Nunez, City of Roanoke
6. Roanoke City Council Briefing – Lee Clark, Interim BRICH Chair
7. Home Safe Report – Katie Kennedy, City of Roanoke
8. Community Outcomes Report – Brian Burnette, Council of Community Services
9. Homeless Students Report – Malora Horn, Roanoke City Public Schools
10. Announcements
11. Adjourn

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BRICH will be: November
8, 2024**

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

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



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Friday, September 13, 2024

ATTENDANCE	-	Angela Penn	P	Dave Prosser	P	Kathleen Talbot	-	Machele Huff
P = Present	P	Anne Marie Green	-	David Bustamante	-	Kristin Adkins	-	Roy Hoza
- = Absent	-	Annette Lewis	P	Emily Jewett	P	Lee Clark	-	Sally Putnam
	-	Bill Duncan	-	Felicia Prescott	P	Leslie Leedy	-	Sherry Stull
	-	Brian Geiser	P	Jeff Doyle	-	Loretta Freeman	P	Stacey Shepherd
	P	Bryan Hill	-	Judy Smith	P	Malora Horn	P	Sue Goad
	-	Christine Elwell	-	Judy Hough	P	Matt Crookshank		
	-	Capt M. Trantham	P	Katie Kennedy	-	Candace Bell		
GUESTS	P	Alison Jorgensen, Council of Comm Services			P	Brian Burnette, CHRC Homeless Services Director		
	P	Crystal Williams, City of Salem			P	Melanie Morris, TAP		
	P	Rebecca Marshall, City of Salem						

- **Welcome and Introductions – Lee Clark, Interim BRICH Chair**

- Lee Clark opened the meeting at 9:05 am at the Belmont Library Community Room. The agenda and August minutes were distributed to BRICH members prior to the meeting.
- Kathleen Talbot motioned BRICH approve the minutes; Malora Horn seconded the motion. Those members present approved the minutes.

- **PSH Operations Update – Christine Elwell**

- Currently, 32 active clients out of 41 slots are in the PSH program. Two new referrals have not yet been housed. One is in the discharge process and one is currently incarcerated.
- One unit is vacant due to being repaired for extensive damage.
- CCC successfully resolved a tenant situation with unauthorized occupants so program participant could avoid eviction.
- CCC lost Heroes Haven funding for this year due to grant extensions running through the new fiscal year and is expected to be permitted to apply for funding next year.

- **Zoning Amendments – Matt Crookshank**

- A Letter outlining the proposed statement to Roanoke City Council was distributed with the agenda packet. Kathleen Talbot has offered to speak in support of the amendments on behalf of the BRICH. The public hearing and vote on the amendments will be held at the 7pm Council meeting on September 16, 2024.
- Ann Marie Green motioned for BRICH members to approve the statement as written; Bryan Hill seconded the motion. Those members present unanimously approved the statement.

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- **CoC Application – Matt Crookshank**
 - Raquel Nunez, City of Roanoke, has agreed to coordinate the Ranking Committee that will review the project applications to avoid conflict of interest with Matt Crookshank, who will be submitting applications on behalf of the City of Roanoke.
 - Project applications are due to Ms. Nunez by September 27 and the final consolidated application is due to HUD by October 30.
 - An overview of the project applications and the Ranking Committee’s recommendations will be presented to the BRICH for approval at its October meeting.
 - The full application will be posted to the Continuum of Care website for BRICH and CoC review prior to being submitted to HUD.
- **Roanoke City Council Briefing – Lee Clark**
 - The Summer PIT Count will be reviewed with Roanoke City leadership. Current efforts, challenges and opportunities will also be discussed. The goal is to present the PIT Count and related updates to City Council through a formal briefing.
 - Plans are also being established to present the Summer PIT Count to Roanoke County and Salem leadership and elected officials.
- **Community Outcomes Report – Brian Burnette**
 - The September Report was distributed with the agenda packet. Brian Burnette reviewed the highlights.
 - In August 2024, 428 individuals were homeless for an average of 89 days. The number of school-aged children in emergency shelter on 8/30/24 was 21.
 - Persons exiting programs were 1,563 for 2023 with 122 exiting to permanent housing. For YTD 2022, there were 1,739 persons exiting programs with 209 to permanent housing.
 - The number of persons placed in permanent housing through RRH programs was 274 YTD 2023 and 305 for YTD 2022.
 - The number of persons prevented from becoming homeless by receiving financial assistance through prevention programs is 212 YTD 2023 and 410 for YTD 2022.
 - The Coordinated Entry Community Queue made 40 housing referrals in August 2024.
 - Rapid Rehousing programs showed 44 days from referral to being housed (moved in).
 - With the new HUD fiscal year beginning October 1, the Outcomes report will only be presented once a quarter. The remaining months will have special reporting on areas of concern or “Deep Dives” into HMIS data.
- **Homeless Student Report – Malora Horn**
 - The August Report was distributed with the agenda packet. The school year started with 257

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students identified as homeless. This made up 151 families. As of mid-September, the number is already at 300 homeless students.

- One unfortunate note is that 30 of the students are members of families experiencing DV.
- Of the \$476,000 ARP funds, there are very little remaining funds to provide services to these children/families. Utility assistance will no longer be available.

- **Announcements**

- The City of Salem awarded the CoC \$2,500 to CCS to support the HMIS program.
- Rescue Mission has created a Welcome Center off the main dining room that will be staffed with case managers on Monday/Wednesday/Friday each week. Staff will work shifts to do intakes and answer questions to help remove barriers. Rescue Mission guests can also access the services.
- Rescue Mission has received grant funding to improve plumbing in the main building which houses the men's shelter.
- Legal Aid has moved to the first floor of the Jefferson Center.
- BitFocus (the HMIS provider for the CoC) will undergo a large interface this fall with needed improvements. CoC's will be able to determine when it will be appropriate to turn on access to the new interface system.
- Veteran's STAND DOWN Event is scheduled for October 23rd at the Salem Civic Center.
- The VA has remaining contract funds that were previously awarded to Trust House that can be used for 90-day housing/shelter services within the VA's catchment area. The program must be staffed 24 hours in a site-based facility.

- **Adjourn - The next scheduled meeting of the BRICH will be October 11, 2024.**

ROANOKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HOMELESS STUDENT REPORT

For: September Report
Submitted: October 11, 2024

BLUE RIDGE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

MONTHLY STUDENTS IDENTIFIED:	
September 2024 = 78	School began August 20, 2024
TOTALS FOR 2024-25 SY	
Students: 335	Families: 197
TOTAL PERMANENT HOUSED THIS SY:	
Students: 4	Families: 3
ACTIVE AND TEMPORARY STUDENTS THIS SY:	
Students: 330	Families: 193
NUMBER OF OTHER CHILDREN IN THE HOME: 50	

CATEGORY	SEPTEMBER	TOTAL THIS SY
Shelter	1	23
Doubled-Up	69	294
Hotel	8	18
Unsheltered	0	0

GRADE	SEPTEMBER	TOTAL THIS SY
PK-5	38	168
6-8	17	74
9-12	23	93

Submitted/Reported by Malora Horn, Homeless Student Program Coordinator
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