



# Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

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



## Friday, May 10, 2019

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	-	Amanda Sparks	<b>P</b>	Carol Tuning	-	Johnathan Meredith	-	Mike Patterson
<b>P = Present</b>	-	Angela Penn	<b>P</b>	Dan Merenda	-	Jo Nelson	-	Monica Seiler
<b>- = Absent</b>	-	Annette Lewis	-	Dani Poe	-	Judy Smith	-	Pamela Hall
	-	Lt. Jennings Tardy	-	Dave Prosser	<b>P</b>	Judy Hough	<b>P</b>	Paula Prince
	<b>P</b>	Ben Bristoll	-	David Bustamante	-	Keith Holland	-	Sally Putnam
	<b>P</b>	Bill Duncan	<b>P</b>	Dawn Riddle	-	Kristin Adkins	-	Sherry Stull
	-	Brian Geiser	<b>P</b>	Debbie Brown	-	Leah Gibson	-	Sheryl Walters
	-	Bruce Phipps	-	Felicia Prescott	-	Lee Clark	<b>P</b>	Tanyia Jones
	<b>P</b>	Bryan Hill	-	Isabel Thornton	<b>P</b>	Leslie Leedy	-	Tracy Kochel
	<b>P</b>	Carla Wallace	-	Jim Weber	<b>P</b>	Malora Horn		
	-	Carly Villarreal	-	John Garland	<b>P</b>	Matt Crookshank		
			-	Joyce Earl	<b>P</b>	Kathleen Guilliams		
<b>GUESTS</b>								

- **Welcome and Introductions – Paula Prince, BRICH Chair**
  - Introductions by those in attendance.
  
- **Approval of Meeting Notes – April 2019**
  - April meeting notes were distributed and there were no changes. Paula Prince motioned to approve the April 2019 minutes; Dawn Riddle seconded the motion. Those present voted to approve.
  
- **Letter of Approval of Support for ARCH Services – Jeanne McCormack**
  - ARCH is applying for a grant for intense case management through the VA to help veterans retain housing. Arch offers Housing Stability Case Management and served 48 clients this past year (most are veterans) with a 90.5% success rate. Another case manager will be hired to serve only veterans if the proposal is funded.
  - Dan Merenda motioned for the BRICH to provide a Letter of Support for ARCH Services; Bryan Hill seconded the motion. Those present voted to approve.
  
- **Roanoke City Schools – Homeless Student Report – Malora Horn**
  - In April, 52 students were identified as homeless. Total for the school year from August through April is 702.

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- Paula Prince suggested a footnote on the educational definition of homelessness. The school year total of those served is important; however, it would be nice to have the number that are “currently” homeless.
- So many dynamics affect this report, it is difficult to satisfy what everyone wants. The report is written to satisfy grant requirements.
- Carol Tuning has worked with a new Roanoke City Council member who looked at the BRICH website and wants to understand the number of homeless kids in Roanoke.
- This year, 28 kids were affected by losing residence to house fires.

- **System Performance Report – Matt Crookshank**

The April performance report was distributed.

	<u>YTD 2018</u>	<u>YTD 2019</u>
Avg length of stay	38 days	50 days
Total Sheltered Homeless Persons	1,576	1,712
First-Time Homelessness Persons who entered ES, SH, or TH during the period	1,518	1,659
Persons who exited program(s)	899	1,238
Exited to Permanent Housing	184	188

- Dan Merenda suggested the Prevention numbers should be highlighted more to the community to “change the conversation” around homelessness and our work. The number of persons prevented from becoming homeless are far greater than the actual homeless numbers. Think what it would be like if we (BRICH agencies) were not here?
- There are many resources available for preventing homelessness. Now that HMIS data is available for RAM House and Rescue Mission, we need to let the community know what their programs do to prevent homelessness.
- **Summer 2019 PIT Count – Paula Prince**
  - The Summer PIT is scheduled for July 17. The Radford University-Carilion (RUC) PA’s will assist with the count again this summer.
- **2019 CoC Symposium**
  - The Symposium will be Tuesday, August 6 at Greene Memorial.
  - Salem Mayor Foley will provide the Welcome.
  - Morning Session topics are: System Modeling, Affordable Housing, Dive Into Homelessness,

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Closed sessions for youth and adults for their input, Charity Tracker System.

- Lunch Speaker is Linda McNutt-Foster, Cortex Leadership, on growing staff with professional development.
- Afternoon Session topics are: Inclusion of Disabled Persons, Fair Housing, Trauma-Informed Care.

- **Other Business**

- Healthy Roanoke Valley, Data & Quality Improvement Committee, has determined the data previously collected for the Community Health Survey no longer answers current questions. Paula Prince and Carol Tuning are going to ask a member of the Healthy Roanoke Valley Steering Committee to attend BRICH meetings.
- The VA 2k Walk will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 12-1:30 pm (starting at Bldg 12). Cookout with Chef T will be afterwards. Donations of toiletry items will be accepted.
- Blue Ridge Independent Living Center's "Independent Living Expo 2019" is May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Salem Civic Center.
- Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare was awarded a PSH grant for pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorders through Project Link.
- Roanoke City Council is going to pass a resolution at their May meeting to have Roanoke become a site for the Needle Exchange Program through the Drop In Center. Matt is working with Pam Meador to determine how HMIS can be used for the program.
- Matt Crookshank reported that CHRC has been awarded \$35,000 from Virginia Housing Trust Fund to expand Rapid Rehousing services.
- Dan Merenda will be retiring July 1<sup>st</sup> and was presented with a small token of appreciation for using his expertise to support the BRICH.
- Captain Monica Seiler has been re-posted to Italy. Jamie and Russell Clay from Shawnee, Oklahoma, will be the new captains.

- **Adjourn - The next meeting of the BRICH will be September 13, 2019.**

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