



BEDFORD AREA RESOURCE COUNCIL

Steering Committee

August 10, 2022

1:00 PM – Virtual Meeting

Agenda

1. Welcome/Introduction. Andy Crawford led the meeting. Attendees: Jennifer Smith Ramey, Mary Buchanan Kirby, Denny Huff, JD Fedor, Christy Lucy, Claudia Fletcher, Betty Easter.
2. Update from Betty
 - a. Strategic Plan – Betty has notes on the 4 steps of the Strategy Plan, to update for the action groups. As a matter of clarification, Andy mentioned another portion of the Strategy Plan—a 90-day revolving version, where the Action Groups determine the actions for the next 90 days, and then update on what was done on that plan, plus determine the next 90-day plan. Betty will send the Strategy Plan, completed with the text showing the completion or progress on the first four goals of the Strategy Plan.
 - b. Betty updated about the 211-project, to get more Bedford agencies added. Kenita Withers provided me a listing of the Bedford agencies. The Actions Groups have received this, and can begin letting me know agencies that can be potentially added. (This is answering the Hub strategic plan goal.)
 - c. Further discussion covered grants to help with BARC operating expenses and salary expenses. BARC is not a registered 501c3, so applying for a grant in the name of BARC is probably not possible. A couple of agencies, such as Denny Huff's Bedford Community Health Foundation 501c3 could act as a pass-through agency for any grant funds. Different agencies within BARC may have funds that could help BARC, and others, such as state government agencies, cannot. An upcoming expense is Weebly annual subscription renewal of \$200+. Denny Huff thinks that the original cost was paid from his funds. Mac Duis reminded the group that Denny offered to be the “receiver and distributor” of funds. Andy asked the Steering Committee if there are any grants that can be used for BARC (payroll) or how could we gather funds. The idea of a Centra grant was discussed. Denny mentioned that, in terms of sustainability, to learn if it is possible to get a multi-year grant. Jennifer Ramey agreed, that a Centra grant would be good. It's not a difficult grant to write, because Centra wants grants that would align with Health Needs Assessment, which really matches BARC's activities. Centra has no cap on their grant requests. Centra's cycle is May 15 through July 15. Jennifer said Centra is one good avenue, but practically, should not be the only source. Jennifer explained that showing the human time donated to BARC services are a good way to show in-kind matches to Centra dollars. Denny advised that his agency also puts dollars into the system (via Otter bus), as well as time (in-kind.)

Mary Buchanan responded to Andy's question as to Centra maybe being willing to support on a continuing basis, rather than just year-by-year. She thinks that because Bedford is unique, in that there is a BARC. She thinks, too, as Jennifer, that Centra grant would be a perfect fit. She thinks the Community Health Needs Foundation would be the best 501 organization to use to submit the grant. Andy recommended that we think of who could provide funds to cover the gap between the ending of PHFS funding and the grant cycle of Centra. Mary said she may could see if Centra would be able to have an exception to being able to provide a grant outside of the grant cycle. Mary says Centra makes decisions by August, but the funds may be provided possibly in September. JD mentioned that, not for funds, but as far as personnel, they will have a couple of people that could help out. Jennifer mentioned that if there is any carryover from their grant year, she could check on providing possibly up to \$5,000. As Andy is looking at the timing of funds, possibly using the Horizon Funds first, Claudia said PHFS could extend their funding to be used after that.

3. Presenter for BARC meetings. The discussion covered the best way to use the time at the BARC meeting, following the agency updates. It was agreed among the group that the verbal announcements are a valuable feature of BARC. As far as presenters, the discussion covered Claudia Fletcher's recommendation for a very strategic way to use this time. Claudia recommended using this time with possibly a question of the month. Put the question on the agenda and then have open discussion among the group. This helps with collaborative thinking among the attendees about a topic of interest. The Steering Committee all agreed that this is an excellent idea.
4. Rather than have Action Group Report Outs (Chairs or Designee) and Key Partners Reports, Andy introduced Bedford County's Strategic Plan, Objective 1.8 – [To implement a process to measure efficiencies throughout the organization. The initiative that is under that is: Support evaluation of social programs to increase independence and reduce poverty.] Andy was made the lead of this part of the plan. He says that BARC is the avenue to help answer most of this. The Steering Committee agreed. And, to tie this to the previous discussion, Andy thinks this topic would be a great question for this month. In linking this to the training he has provided on Bridges out of Poverty, he mentioned that there are four reasons for poverty. The one part that we could possibly have control over is, "How do we build social capital in order to expand people's human capital?" Andy mentioned that straight-line thinking is: to end poverty, you want people to get jobs. So economic development is advertising job training classes, but if that worked, the classes would be full—but they're not. Therefore, there are probably other barriers that are preventing people from entering the workforce successfully. So – what could we do, as BARC or the community, to think about what social capital it would take to connect to people who are in the mental model of poverty, whose drive is connections or relationships with their family?

The discussion that followed was about why this was a county objective and how it could be interpreted. Some wondered if this could be interpreted as a budgeting topic. Andy looked at this as what is going on to help reduce poverty, because each Action Group is developing their individual actions that addresses the situations of people in poverty, etc. In conversations that Andy had with someone, his understanding was that there was the possibility if BARC had a way to move the needle, then the county may help fund it.

Jennifer has some information that she can provide a copy of their Qualitative Program Evaluation that they compiled for a grant speaking about world health disparities. This is a nice narrative write up on a qualitative analysis about poverty.

As far as BARC monthly question: Betty proposes to provide the background and the question on the BARC Agenda.

To give the BARC audience a background in the terms used in the question:

“Social Capital” and “Human Capital,” - here are definitions:

Social Capital = the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively.

Human Capital=the skills, knowledge, and experience possessed by an individual or population, viewed in terms of their value or cost to an organization or country.

With these in mind, the question for discussion among the BARC attendees is:

What are our agencies or organizations doing to help with social capital?

Andy asked JD and Tecora if it is in the area of Social Capital where their people struggle?

Tecora said this is definitely a struggle, as one of the major criminogenic needs relates to peers. The reentry people have a social network, but those tend to be more negative, which edges them back into the criminal justice system. So, one of their struggles is identifying pro-social networks. JD added to this, saying that it's important to get this quickly, to prevent them falling back into old habits.

Andy responded that the primary groups that could help this would be the area churches, but how would we get them trained, supported, and comfortable enough to be able to do this type of work.

5. Other/Next Meeting

The next BARC Steering Committee meeting will be held on September 14, 2022 at 1:00 pm virtually.

Deliverables:

Betty will provide the updated Strategic Plan to the Steering Committee by next week.

Betty will provide the grant search site information and costs to Denny, and the Steering Committee by next week.

Betty will send the BARC expense information to the Steering Committee.