

## BARC COMMITTEE MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Committee Name: Employment and Training

Month/Reporting Period: Dec-23

*Please provide an update of your committee's goals, activities and accomplishments for the month. Report due last day of each month.*

Goal	Activities	Resources Used (Outputs)	Partners/Agencies	Outcomes
Community Engagement and Education	Community Information Sessions		Community Partners	No updates at this time.
	Improve awareness and utilization of the Virginia Career Works System.		Virginia Career Works	Tim Saunders (VA Career Works) stated that he is noticing an improved awareness of Virginia Career Works in Bedford. This is due to the number of referrals that are coming in. As BARC providers learn more, progress is being seen.
	Citizen support and Identification – How can the Community Support Agape, LCM, BCM neighbors		Community Partners	The Action Group decided today to have case staffings at the beginning of these meetings. DSS or DOC can bring cases that seem to be struggling to gain employment and training to the action group for feedback. Release of Information will be needed before cases can be staffed. Another meeting is planned for November 30, 2023 with AGAPE and LCM.

	Bridges out of Poverty Training		Trained Trainers	<p>Andy Crawford (DSS) stated that he and Denny Huff recently recertified their instructor's license for Bridges Out of Poverty. Andy will be training the Virginia Society of Clinical Social Workers (VSCSW) at Carillion January 12, 2024. He also noted that one thing that we are missing in our area is the "Staying Ahead" program. This program focuses on accountability and relationship building. Lastly, he shared that currently there are only 25 open Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cases that don't need an exemption in the entire county. Lake Christian Ministries just finished a 16-week "Getting Ahead" class and the Agape Center was starting one in February. DSS will start holding Bridges Out of Poverty Training next year. Participants will need to purchase the book prior to attending the training.</p>
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	Church involvement		Patrick Henry Family Services	Claudia Fletcher (Patrick Henry Family Services) she discussed “wholesale and resale” and how we approach families. She also needs our help continuing to share Care Portal with others. Care Portal is a technology that unites the community. Please remember to share this resource when speaking with churches, businesses, or those in the community who may need assistance. Patrick Henry is continuing to look for churches to provide CarePortal. Jenae Atnip is the Bedford Contact.
	Volunteer Support		Patrick Henry Family Services	PHFS is still working to build this concept and it may flow well with the ERN when we can get those started.
Barrier Identification	Focus groups - What is it like for those we are trying to help? Citizen Feedback Loop		Angela Hill lead for LCM	Tecora and Angela continue to work on this goal. They have decided to kick off dates to meet in January.
	2Gen Screening Tool - Pilot Intake Assessment and Teaming.		Amanda Powell at DSS	VDSS has moved the start date for VIEW participants no new date has been provided.
	Getting Ahead Class		Lake Christain and Agape	Agape starts a class in February and LCM just finished one.

Employer Human Capital Building	Employee Resource Network (ERN) Employer/Employee Support.		County Economic Development and DSS	Holley Scheffel (Economic Development) had started researching Employee Resource Network's (ERN's) in the spring, but more time and attention would need to be given to identifying businesses willing to participate. The group suggested VA Linen, Hooker Furnishings, Smythe, and Fostek as possible companies that may want to participate. The group suggested that maybe ERN's could be the focus for 2024.
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	COPE (Cost of Poverty Experience)			<p>The group wants to do another “Cost of Poverty Experience” C.O.P.E. The Bedford Health Foundation has agreed to fund this and Angela will have volunteers from Lake Christian Ministries (LCM) but a venue is needed. Holley will check out the meeting space in Downtown Moneta. Agape volunteers will also be invited. After the meeting, Holley followed up with Jen Foust who is in charge of meeting space in Downtown Moneta in the Plaza across from Lake Christian Ministries and underneath Bull Docks Restaurant. Jen’s number is 908-328-9136. The space is 2,300 square feet and accommodates up to 150 people, has a stage (which the Art Council owns and permission is needed from them to use it). There are two single-stall restrooms and a bar area with a sink, ice machine, etc. available. Room rental rates are on a case-by-case basis. It’s located in Suite 101.</p>
	Care Portal Champion Development		Patrick Henry Family Services and Bedford Chamber	<p>The need for more churches continues. PHFS is working to bring more on.</p>
Education Human Capital Building	Central Virginia Community College			No Update

	Adult Career Education		Kathy Smith	Kathy Smith (BCPS/Adult Ed.) shared that a new program has been developed for Adult Education and starts January 8th. Three hospitality certifications can be earned through the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute offered through BCPS. They are: Front Desk Representative, Guest Attendant, and Maintenance Employee. All classes and study materials are free. Adult Ed. has partnered with the Peaks of Otter, Runk & Pratt, and Hooker Furnishings for this course offering. Anyone interested in learning more should contact Kathy at 540-586-1270, option 4 or Kathryn.smith@bedford.k12.va.us.
	Bedford County Public Schools			No update
Data Collection	To collect monthly data to track progress.		VCW, LCM, DSS, DARS, Bedford County Schools and Bedford County DSS	Beth Robertson with Bedford County Public Schools did a presentation to BARC in October. The data was well put together.

Recap				<p>The meeting began with a discussion about how the group was progressing. It was mentioned that this time last year there was a larger presence from partners. Some group members expressed that they like receiving updates from other members so that no duplication of services occurs. Others noted that while the information sharing has been beneficial, we are lacking actionable items once the meeting is over. It was suggested that meeting quarterly (as in a community informational type setting) might be more beneficial and may attract more attendees. The group also discussed picking ONE area to focus on next year and everyone work towards that dedicated action item. At the end of the meeting it was decided to focus on the ERN and connecting our work more to business and the Chamber.</p>
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Submitted By: Andy Crawford

Members Present

- Andy Crawford      Social Services
- Greg Modzelewski      Citizen
- Tecora Davis      Department Of Corrections
- Tim Saunders      Virginia Career Works
- John Fedor      Dept of Corrections

Claudia Fletcher	Patrick Henry Family Services
Kathy Smith	Adult Education Services
Kayla Waller	Bedford Chamber of Commerce
Sherie Fulcher	Dept of Labor and Industries
Holley Scheffel	County Economic Development
Christian Wiscovitch	Dept of Aging and Rehabilitation
Mary Zirkle	Town Economic Development