



## BEDFORD AREA RESOURCE COUNCIL

Workforce Employment and Training

Action Group

January 11, 2023

3:00 pm

- Introductions

In attendance were the following:

Andy Crawford, Bedford DSS	Christian Wiscovitch, Dept of Aging and Rehab (DARS)
Claudia Fletcher, Patrick Henry Family Services	Jason Ferguson, CVCC
Denise Kennedy, Bedford DSS	Patrick Gatti, CVCC
Tammy Lawhorn, Bedford DSS	Beth Robertson, Bedford County Schools
Mary Jo Boone, YMCA and Chamber of Commerce	Denny Huff, Bedford Health Foundation
Greg Modzelewski, citizen member	Keith Cook, Virginia Career Works
John Fedor, Dept of Corrections	Mary Zirkle, Town of Bedford Economic Development
Tecora Davis, Dept of Corrections	Tim Saunders, Virginia Career Works
Contessa Broadus, Adult and Career Education (ACE)	Amanda Powell, Bedford DSS
Angela Hill, Lake Christian Ministries.	

- The Group approved the following Mission and Vision for the Action Group:

Mission: To develop a community network focused on connection and support for citizens who are trying to improve employment and training opportunities.

Vision: Citizens of Bedford will have access to resources that will empower them to secure and retain employment.

- List of Tasks:

- Improve awareness and utilization of the Virginia Career Works System. (Keith Cook and Tim Leads)
- Focus groups - What is it like for those we are trying to help? Citizen Feedback Loop (Angela Hill lead for LCM)
- Citizen support and Identification (Agape, LCM, BCM)
  - Support Teams for identified citizens.(Amanda, Andy and Ministry organizations)
  - 2Gen Screening Tool (Pilot Intake Assessment) can DSS share with Ministries. (Amanda)
  - CVCC, Career Works, Self Sufficiency Center, Contessa with ACE, Christian with DARS, to do presentations to ministry organizations.
- Church involvement (Patrick Henry Family Services) Ideas on how to expand are welcome.

- Volunteer Support (Patrick Henry Family Services) There is a meeting held monthly after BARC at Bedrock Church.
- Care Portal Champion Development (Patrick Henry Family Services, Bedford Chamber)
  - Andy and Claudia need to meet with Kayla Waller (new Chamber CEO) and executive team of the Chamber. Include Career Works and Economic Development town and county in this process.
- Employee Resource Network (ERN) Employer/Employee Support
  - Chamber Discussion for Future development. (Pam Bailey and Andy)
- COPE (Cost of Poverty Experience)
  - Claudia is researching ways to fund (50, 80, 100 people)
- Bridges out of Poverty – Ongoing – Goal of 4 times a year for full day and half days as appropriate.
- Legacy Education Center – Have a presentation in the future