



BEDFORD AREA RESOURCE COUNCIL

Workforce Employment and Training
Action Group
February 8, 2023
3:00 pm

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	Pam Bailey, County Economic Development
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
Luke Saechao, Adult and Career Education (ACE)	Holley Scheffel, County Economic Development
Angela Hill, Lake Christian Ministries	Brittany Cooper, Bedford DSS
Amanda Powell, Bedford DSS	Kayla Waller, Bedford Chamber of Commerce

Update on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) data since January work requirement started.

Follow up on Goals:

- Improve awareness and utilization of the Virginia Career Works System. (Keith Cook and Tim Saunders)
 - Career Works is providing Career Essentials Classes for DSS VIEW participants. This will be ongoing.
 - Work still being done to advertise the Work Force System which includes all of the partners.
- Focus groups - What is it like for those we are trying to help? Citizen Feedback Loop (Angela Hill lead for LCM)
 - Angela is working with Denny Huff on a plan. They are looking at related groups of people for example 1) reentry to include criminal history, 2) single parents or grandparents, 3) disability or significant physical issues who want to seek work, 4) mental health and substance abuse. They plan to spread out locations for groups within the County. These groups may cross reference.
- Citizen support and Identification (Agape, LCM, BCM)
 - Support Teams for identified citizens. (Amanda, Andy and Ministry organizations)

- We are waiting for the end of all VIEW assessments in March 2023 to evaluate the time available.
- 2Gen Screening Tool -Pilot Intake Assessment and Teaming. (Amanda)
 - Virginia Department of Social Services came for a site visit January 28, 2023. Bedford County is a pilot for these new tools.
 - CVCC, Career Works, Self Sufficiency Center, Contessa with ACE, Christian with DARS, to do presentations to ministry organizations.
Present to a Getting Ahead Class. Angela will let us know when classes occur.
- Church involvement (Patrick Henry Family Services)
 - Always looking for Churches to bring onto CarePortal.
- Volunteer Support (Patrick Henry Family Services)
 - Tier two is for relationships so if you or your church is interested, please contact Claudia.
- Care Portal Champion Development (Patrick Henry Family Services, Bedford Chamber)
 - A meeting has been set with the Chamber for February 24, 2023.
- Employee Resource Network (ERN) Employer/Employee Support. (Pam Bailey and Andy)
 - A meeting has been set with the Chamber for February 24, 2023.
- COPE (Cost of Poverty Experience)
 - Claudia is researching ways to fund (50, 80, 100 people)
 - Patrick Henry and LCM is working on a plan. LCM is working to become a requestor in CarePortal. Once this is done, they are looking to write a grant for COPE funding and CarePortal fees for LCM.
- Bridges out of Poverty – Ongoing – Goal of 4 times a year for full day and half days as appropriate.
 - A training was held on February 2, 2023. 40 people were trained. There was a waiting list. Another training needs to be scheduled.
- Legacy Education Center – Have a presentation in the future

Updates:

Christian from DARS reported that substance use can be a condition that opens citizens up to DARS Services.

Holly Scheffel from Economic Development reported that the SML Chamber Commerce Leadership class has started. Poverty is one of the topics of the course. Holly and Pam wonder if Bridges Training would be helpful.

Kayla at the Bedford Chamber reported that the Bedford Leadership will be April to October.

Economic Development reported that they are doing a round table with employers and citizens in March to discuss Child Care issues in Bedford. It will be at the Welcome Center on March 7, 2023, at 8:30-10:00. This will be a hybrid meeting.