



# **BEDFORD AREA RESOURCE COUNCIL**

March 22, 2024

1. Andy welcomed everyone.
2. Andy stated the Strategic Plan update and review was completed by the Steering Committee December 1, 2023. The revised plan is in draft and needs more work. The Steering Committee will focus on this again in the near future.
3. Grant Funding Announcements
  - a. AmeriCorps Service VA Grant – Horizon is applying for a planning and peer support grant for our community.
  - b. United Way Grant – Karen Wesley applying - childcare focus
  - c. AARP Grant – closed.
4. Action Group Report Outs (Chairs or designee)
  - a. Aging/Elder Care – Dawn Weeks will take over as action leader of this group.
  - b. Childcare – No update.
  - c. Healthy Foods – met in March, June 29<sup>th</sup> is the Fresh Food Festival, and they are planning an Elba Fall Food event.
  - d. Housing – CVPD housing study is complete. Housing action group will meet today.
  - e. Employment and Training –Job Fair was a success. They are planning to meet with Cintas and Smyth soon.
  - f. Minds Together – Virtual meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month.
  - g. Transportation – Otter Bus Phase II has been approved with extended hours 9-5 M, W,F and S, seeking approval for Phase III and exploring micro transit idea.
5. Key Partners
  - a. Bedford Area Reentry Council –new office building is behind the Super 8 and will have a community room for meetings.
  - b. Bedford Community Action Team (BCAT) – No update.

- c. Bedford Get Together – Fundraiser for Mureal ongoing, community service award nominations are open - lifetime achievement award and story project continues.
  - d. CHNA – survey continues until the end of the month.
  - e. PACE Team – PACE Meeting next Thursday at 5:30pm Municipal Building, cop Camp Registration April 1<sup>st</sup>, Community Pop Up April 12 at Rec Field beside Health Department, Coffee with a Cop April 25<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon Bridge St. Café, National Drug Take Back April 27<sup>th</sup> Tractor Supply.
  - f. Domestic Violence Coalition – No update
6. Agency Announcements
- a. *Bedford Co. Public Schools* – The Bedford Area Education Foundation received a grant to purchase a curriculum for children at the Elementary School and Middle School level for coping and counseling.
  - b. *Bedford County GED and Adult Ed* – classes beginning, flyer was passed out.
  - c. *Bedford Area Family YMCA* – Strategic Planning is in process.
  - d. *DSS* – promoting Safe Family Grant for next 5 years, April is Child Abuse Prevention month, DSS displaying a pinwheel for each victim reported.
  - e. *U of L/Claytor Nature Center* – Jennifer Willis introduced herself to the group.
  - f. *Bedford Rotary* – celebrating 100 years this year.
  - g. *Bryan Zach* – citizen commended community leaders on being a part of the BARC and was impressed on how our community supports one another and collaborates to improve the lives of the citizens of Bedford.
  - h. *CVACL* – Vicki Craig Tuck spoke about the Farmers Market Fresh Program.
  - i. *Bedford County Sheriff's Office* – Shred Event tomorrow, Drug Takeback is April 20<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson Forest High School, 5/18 at Staunton River High School, working on schools and churches to be emergency shelters.
  - j. *Agape Center* – announced their Getting Ahead Class has completed its fourth week, successful SML gives fundraiser last week, May 18<sup>th</sup> is their Golf Tournament, Mental Health First Aid class on May 8<sup>th</sup> for volunteers.
  - k. *Horizon* – submitted AmeriCorps planning grant last week. This is a one-year planning grant to develop capacity/infrastructure to bring on 10 peer volunteers across our programming. If funded, this grant will begin in September, Drug court going well working with family treatment docket with DSS, thanks to Kevin at Bedrock, Dr. Kerry and Wilson Brown, Need incentives for good behavior.
  - l. *BMH* – Walk with a doctor event will be held quarterly on 4/20, May 17<sup>th</sup> is Hospital Week and Parade.

- m. *VCE* – Susan Prillaman announced Balanced Living with Diabetes, Suppers Made Simple Program, Service Safe Food Sanitization Course and Chop Day for Venison Stew project is March 25<sup>th</sup> 1-4 at VCE Office.
  - n. *Kevin with Bedrock* – announced events and programs at the church and gave a handout with everything listed.
7. A reminder was given to complete the CHNA survey.
  8. Denny Huff gave the presentation about the BCHF Venison Stew project. Denny introduced the partnerships that have been created with the project. Partners include VA Cooperative Extension, VA Department of Health, Hunters for the Hungry, The New London Cannery Staff, BUG, BARC Healthy Foods Committee and many other volunteers. The first canning yielded 173 cans of stew. The next canning prep day is planned for 3/25 with canning to follow the next day. These cans will be placed on local food pantry shelves for consumption.
  9. The meeting adjourned at 9:40am. Next BARC Meeting will be held on April 26, 2024, at 8:30am.