



## **BEDFORD AREA RESOURCE COUNCIL**

402 E Main St, Bedford, VA 24523

May 27, 2022

8:30 AM

### Minutes

#### **1. Welcome/Introduction**

Today is the tornado day in Bedford. That had a lot of impact about who was at the meeting (in addition to those who had prior engagements.)

Jennifer Smith Ramey lead today's meeting, as Andy Crawford was out with a stomach bug. Jennifer introduced herself. She is with Horizon Behavioral Health, a behavioral health provider, publicly funded, working with the communities in Bedford.

#### **2. Action Group Report Outs (Chairs or Designee)**

##### **a. Aging/Elder Care – Christy Lucy**

The monthly meetings take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, at 11:00am.

Christy was not at this meeting, as she was attending a funeral.

The Aging/Elder Care is the newest of the Action Groups.

There were three members of this action group present. They have only had three meetings so far. They are beginning their focus with community awareness, with events. Other plans discussed are some type of mentor for folks – but it's still early. Christy advised via e-mail earlier, that they are still developing strategies.

##### **b. Child Care- Holly Woods Layne**

The monthly meetings take place virtually, on the last Wednesday of each month, at 1:00pm, via Zoom.

The BARC website has the March 2022 Action Group minutes posted.

Holly was not at this meeting. Other members of the group were present. The group met this week, still planning, and had a lot of new things come up. Will have a table at Bedford Centerfest (September 24.) Still learning how to navigate as an Action Group.

##### **c. Healthy Foods - Mary Zirkle**

The monthly meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, at 9:00am, at the Bedford Central Library.

The BARC website does not have Action Group meeting minutes posted.

Mary was not at this meeting. Other members of the group were present. The group met in May. Lauren DeSimone, Community Innovation Advisor, who leads Virginia Community Capital's (VCC) food access program, lead a session where she was showing some data about Bedford County food access. In a couple of weeks, she will return and have a session about what can be done, using this data.

**d. Housing - Angela Hill**

The meetings take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month, immediately following the BARC meeting, at the same location of the BARC meeting.

The BARC website has the April 2022 Action Group minutes posted.

Angela was not at this meeting. Other members of the group were present. The group is planning a Landlord Workshop in July, talking about Landlord rights, and laws that will change in July. There is some funding coming in, to help with hotel stays. Some churches have sent some money. They have a goal of reaching \$3,000 available for limited hotel stays.

**e. Employment and Training – Lead to be Determined**

No report.

**f. Minds Together- Jennifer Smith Ramey** (This group covers Mental Health & Substance Use.)

The meetings take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month, at 10:00am. They will start with in-person meetings in June. The June 2 meeting will be at the Bedford Administration Building, in the lower-level conference room. The BARC website has the May 2022 Action Group minutes posted.

They are trying to add members. Some members from Centra were in the last meeting.

**g. Transportation - Denny Huff**

Denny wasn't at this meeting.

Note: Denny attends many of the other Action Group meetings, where there are intersecting needs of Transportation to be discussed and considered.

**3. Key Partners**

**a. Bedford Area Reentry Council- Tecora Johnson Davis**

Tecora spoke about the two waves of returning, released prisoners (due to the earned sentence credit program.) These waves of returnees will occur in July 2022. The focus of this Key Partner work, has shifted to cope with these releases, as they are DOC prison releases. We are focusing on all the releases, even if they do not have a probation obligation, because they are returning to this area. Our focus will be on this until the influx ends in July.

Tecora mentioned that it would be helpful if any of the folks on the Housing committee could meet with the Reentry Council to help plan for housing. She learned that several members of the Housing Action Group are already on the Reentry council. She was invited to the Housing Action Group meeting that takes place immediately following the BARC meeting.

**b. Bedford Community Action Team (BCAT)- Alicia Tuck**

No report

**c. Bedford Get Together**

(Lady speaking?? Didn't say her name.)

We are gathering nominations for Community Service Award Nominations. She had paper copies of nomination forms to pass out. Nominees can be for a local non-profit, a local business agency, a local business, or a local individual. The deadline for nominations is June 15.

**d. Community Health Need Assessment (CHNA)- Christy Lucy**

No report.

**e. Crime Prevention Council- Todd Foreman**

[speaker??] The Episcopal Church had the white cross project, to raise awareness of overdose deaths. It was a tremendous success. We are discussing making it an annual event. Wilson is still on sabbatical, until August. From the Bedford Police Department, we are planning the Cop Camp for the first week of July. So, if you don't have your application in, I would suggest you do it today. Next on my list, is June 15, which is "Coffee With a Cop" at the intersection of Bridge & Main. This is a good chance to talk with a police officer about whatever is on your mind. We will have someone at the Clock Tower park, and have officers on the other corners, handing out coffee to people who are driving or walking by. Children can be at the Clock Tower park, or on the sidewalk, to talk to the policemen. The police hope to premier their new mascot at this event. His name is going to be PeeDee. He will come to all our community events. He will start as an officer, but will advance to a Sergeant very quickly.

The next big event, and ALL AGENCIES are invited, is: National Night Out, August 2, from 6pm to 10pm. .

The last one is Centerfest.

**f. Domestic Violence Coalition – Mary Buchanan**

No report.

4. Agency Announcements – We ask that these be sent to Betty Easter ([barc.virginia@gmail.com](mailto:barc.virginia@gmail.com)) before the meeting to be added to the BARC website. THANKS SO MUCH!!

Betty received and posted announcements to the new Events/Announcements section of the BARC website. Emails will be sent to the BARC distribution list when Events / Announcements are posted.

**5. Grant Funding Announcements**

No information

Additional announcements before the presentation:

Gabriella Smith, Horizon Behavioral Health: One Community One Voice is hosting E.N.O.U.G.H rallies, every other Tuesday, through the month of July. This is in partnership with the Sheriff, Police, and are having these in different neighborhoods throughout Lynchburg.

[Note: This was an announcement sent out by BARC, as well.]

Jennifer Smith Ramey: On behalf of Horizon, we are officially opening a new site where care will be provided for pregnant and post-partum women, as well as their family. This wraps the entire family with supportive services. This will be opening here in the summer, with a ribbon-cutting.

Celebrate Recovery continues to meet here at the Outpost (Bedrock Community Church) every Thursday night at 6:30, so if you have anyone you want to refer, let me know [didn't give his name.] This helps folks in their next step in recovery. By the way, it's not just substance abuse, the other parts covers hurts, habits, hang-ups, co-dependency. This month is also winding down on Mental Health Awareness Month, too.

Another announcement about Childcare – talking about children zero to two. Big need for this age group. Big waiting lists.

Sherry Pollard, (here are the complete details she sent by email) **Johnson Health Center:**

We are in the midst of planning our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Back to School Care Fair! This event is held in honor of National Health Center Week and is our biggest event- last year we gave out 600 backpacks to local children!

In order to help the anticipated 500 children for this year's event, we need financial help. We have multiple sponsorship opportunities available that start at \$10.00. The deadline to sponsor is 6/31/22. If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact Sherry Pollard 540-425-7910 EXT:1324

JHC is accepting new patients at all of our locations (Bedford, Lynchburg, Amherst and Rustburg). We accept all insurances and offer a slide scale for those that do not have any. Free transportation services are available for patients for all locations (advance notice needed for scheduling), as well as a home delivery option for medications through our pharmacy.

We will be partnering this summer, with Bedford Co. and Amherst Co. Public Schools, to have our medical mobile unit provide school entry exams, well child visits/immunizations and sports physicals!

We also have a dental mobile unit coming soon!! If you have questions or are interested in our dental mobile unit, you can call our Outreach Dept. at 434-929-1400 ext:1140

[speaker??] Bedford Christmas Station: Fund-raising sales. They raise their funds to sell, like a thrift store. They are accepting donations from people, so that they can be sold. Every penny made goes back to support the community. They have several programs throughout the year, their Christmas program being the biggest. The Fund Raising Sales will end at the end of September, because at that time, then the entire facility is switched to the Christmas program planning. They are looking for donations; household, clothing, etc.

[Note: more info can be found at <https://bedfordchristmas.com> for both donations & the Fundraising sales.]

6. Presentation: Tecora Johnson Davis presented an overview of Dialog. While this overview for today's meeting will take 20 minutes, Tecora is also available to present the entire training of Dialog, which would need at least 4 hours.  
Dialog is a communication tool; this overview defines the modes of communication; Dialog is an active way of talking together, where all voices have value and are necessary to have a vigorous interaction.

#### 7. Other/Next Meeting

The next BARC meeting will be held on June 24, 2022 at 8:30 am. The location for the June meeting is at Central Virginia Community College's (CVCC's) Community Room. The address of CVCC is 1633 Venture Blvd., Bedford, VA 24523.