



BEDFORD AREA RESOURCE COUNCIL

402 E Main St, Bedford, VA 24523

August 26, 2022

8:30 AM

Minutes

1. Welcome/Introduction
Mary Zirkle led this meeting. She began with the Action Group Report-Outs
2. Action Group Report Outs (Chairs or Designee)
 - a. Aging/Elder Care – Christy Lucy – Christy noted that a Senior Social is being planned and brought together. It will take place on October 12, at Bedrock Church, from 11:30 to 1:00pm (with volunteers arriving at 10am.) The purpose is to help the senior elder community to be aware of what resources are available to them. A lunch and entertainment, with a few select vendors available with information on the services that they provide. Volunteers are needed to help with this event.
 - b. Child Care- Holly Woods Layne – Pam Bailey reported on the most recent meeting. The most recent meeting had WDBJ7 present, who interviewed some, and made some news segments about the issue of child care, and the child care desert. The SBDC is beginning training in September on Home Child Care business.
 - c. Healthy Foods - Mary Zirkle – Mary reported that on October 8 from 10a to 12p, there will be an event based on Elba’s “grand opening” that had been originally planned in 2020, but was postponed due to COVID. There are vendors that will be there, also based on healthy eating and health. This is also the last day of the Farmers’ Market.
 - d. Housing - Angela Hill – Angela reported that there had been a landlord’s legal education seminar, courtesy of David Beidler with Legal Aid of Roanoke Valley. It was a small group, but with several good questions. One man wants to start a property management association. That’s good news, as the more we build inroads with landlords, we can have more potential housing placements through them. We have other potential grant possibilities. There is some research in the group about different types of housing models, such as the Oxford Program. These programs serve special populations such as severe mental illness or reentry.
 - e. Employment and Training – Lead to be Determined. Denny Huff said that Andy Crawford had talked to him about this group. More details to follow. Claudia Fletcher added that this is a big topic, connected to the questions planned for discussion (that we won’t get to today.) She said that Andy Crawford is looking at a model that would help people keep their jobs, when they get to crises that interferes with their work life. Another person added that this is the next step after Bridges Out of Poverty. Further discussion followed, and Tecora Johnson Davis volunteered to be a part of this group. Tim Saunders, with Virginia Career Works, reminding that this organization exists with these same goals. Someone mentioned that getting people to training is a challenge, because most of the training takes place in Lynchburg. Tim said there is training and trainers here in Bedford. He advised that help with transportation is available through Virginia Career Works. Claudia Fletcher clarified that what Andy is discussing is for people who already have jobs, rather than need training to obtain a job. Denny Huff clarified that this topic does have various aspects. Pam Bailey explained that there may need to be some sharing with existing businesses to let them know what support could be helpful for employees who are having challenges. J.D. Fedor recommended that this topic be pushed to a flash committee.
 - f. Minds Together- Jennifer Smith Ramey – Jennifer reported that Ismael Gama, with Bedford Centra Hospital was the presenter in August, and thanked Mary Buchanan Kirby for bringing more Centra partners. For September, the topic is Trauma Informed Networks, and the speaker is Decca Knight, trauma specialist, with the Roanoke Trauma Informed Community Network (TICN.) This is increasingly a vital topic across Virginia and the USA, as well. This was a broad invitation to all BARC members to join in. The group is continuing to work on increasing 211 participation, and searching out grant opportunities. Horizon was on TV, as they had been the recipients of a \$2+million grant.
 - g. Transportation - Denny Huff. Denny reported that the Otter Bus is still running, and Dept. of Transportation resources have been provided. The hours and days that the bus operates are expanding; and more stops are being planned. As more information is available, he will report to the group. There are 300-400 pickups/drop-offs happening monthly. Some of these are very regular passengers. As the programs expands, more economic issues will be discussed and planned. It’s a long-term process. At the moment, it’s free; but discussions may take place about having fees, but the way those fees are collected needs to be thought out.

3. Key Partners

- a. Bedford Area Reentry Council- Tecora Johnson. Tecora reported that the work in her area is booming. They are looking at a list of those already released, and look at issues that impact each person. Discussions on support for these reentry people are robust, and include others, such as DSS. Tecora invited any one interested in joining this committee., and thanking BARC's Housing Action Group, who is now part of the group. The next meeting is scheduled for September 15 at 1:00pm. The meeting is virtual, so send Tecora the email information. She gave reminders that all information in the meeting is confidential.
- b. Bedford Community Action Team (BCAT)- Alicia Tuck – Alicia doesn't have anything to report at this time.
- c. Bedford Get Together – Sarah Braaten reported that last Wednesday, there was a celebration where the four categories of service, who were recognized for their work. The business category winner was Little Otter Flower Farm, who works with children who have autism, and who have trouble finding jobs. They are providing job skills to those.) The person who won the individual category, is Marian Hurt, who, with her committee, was successfully able to get the Susie G. Gibson, Science and Technology Center, renamed for Susie Gibson. Bedford County Parks and Recreation, won the award for the government category., and for the Nonprofit category, the winner was Bedford Urban Gardens (BUG.)
- d. Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC)- Christy Lucy. Christy requested that we update the name of this category. The latest discussion among their Steering Committee was how to see best practices and shared outcomes for the region, Bedford, Lynchburg, Danville, Farmville. Denny Huff added that there's some great things happening in the areas of Centra's footprint. For example, BARC is a model for Farmville, as they see what is happening here.
- e. Crime Prevention Council- Todd Foreman. The new Bedford Police Chief, Ronnie Lewis, was introduced and welcomed to the group. He spoke a few words about getting settled and involved. He's been here about three months now, and is connecting to different groups. He's still developing his vision regarding community partnerships. He's excited to be here. He turned over the floor to Officer Brooke, to talk about National Night Out. Tim Brooke thanked all the volunteers for National Night Out. He mentioned the Community Meetings that the Police Department has, are on the 4th Thursday each month, at 5:30pm. They also have a Crime Prevention Council meeting on the 4th Tuesday each month, at 5:30pm. These are at 215 East Main Street, 1st floor. Update from St. John's Episcopal. Wilson has returned from sabbatical. We're celebrating the 175th anniversary, September 4. We're also discussing a warming shelter, upon meeting with Angela Hill and Susan Hughes, who came to the Vesper Meeting.
- f. Domestic Violence Coalition – Mary Buchanan Kirby – Not a lot to report, but one exciting victory. The coalition worked with Beth Robertson of the Bedford County School System. There is now an annual magnet that has the school calendar on there, and there is a Domestic Violence Hot Line number on the magnet. These were handed out at open house, and any left overs, are available for parents to request.

4. Agency Announcements – Please come prepared to present your announcements to the group; and, if you have anything that you would like shared with the group (flyers, event info, etc.) please send these to Betty Easter (barc.virginia@gmail.com).

Donna Vincent, Great Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity. Previously there was a Habitat for Humanity in Bedford. Currently, we are here to establish a presence with meeting with a Family Services committee and Steering Committee. The Family Services Committee will help to select from applicants. Right now, I'm awaiting approval from our Habitat for Humanity federal organization. There are 1,400 in the USA. There is a parent organization, Habitat for Humanity, International. They help with legal compliance, guidance, building design, etc. She's waiting on approval from HFHI for the Town of Bedford. Right now, the timeline (subject to change) is to blitz-build a house next spring. A piece of property has been identified, owned by Roanoke Habitat for Humanity. They will give that to us. We'd like to build a home on that property, which is on Crenshaw Street. At the appropriate time, after approval by HFHI, applications can be received. There are three qualifications for applying: 1) a need. Such as living in public housing. For every family we can take out of public housing, into their own house, it creates an opening for a new family to receive public housing. 2) We're looking for families who have an income to afford a mortgage. This mortgage will be at 0% interest. Right now, the HFH houses in Lynchburg are appraising at \$180,000 to \$200,000. These appraisal amounts will probably reduce as the market adjusts. We sell the home to the family, and the monthly payment is 25% of their income. This provides a good hand-up to families, enabling them to have the remainder of their income available for other essentials. If you have an interest in being part of a Steering Committee, I am seeking members. And from those, at least one person will serve on the Board of Directors.

Angela Hill – Lake Christian Ministries. We're seeing a steady increase in financial aid requests. A lot of these have to do with high utility bills. We're seeing \$5,000 to \$6,000 requests, which no single agency can cover. We have a warehouse open 3 days a week now. If you have dislocated families, send them down. The unit's there in downtown Moneta.

Vickie Craig – Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living. Right now our focus is 1) our senior social with Christy Lucy of Aging & Eldercare Action Group, and right now, we're working on Healthy Foods vouchers. This is in cooperation with community markets. It's a voucher booklet available to anyone over the age of 60. It has nine \$5 coupons. There are two markets in Forest that are participating, but not the Farmers' Market in Bedford. This was done to put fresh fruits and vegetables into the hands of older adults. These vouchers are not connected to SNAP or EBT. This is a private benefit, provided by donors.

Lisa Bailey with DSS Domestic Violence Services. We do not have an announcement. However, we want to get out into the community for community engagement. Cori Davis has asked us to find folks who may want us to give a presentation on the statistics of domestic violence, what it really looks like-beyond the black eyes and punches, there are so many other elements to domestic violence, such as

financial issues, which many may not think are signs of domestic violence. So if you are a civic group, agency, church that wants a speaker, we definitely will come and interact. Just call and ask. We posted it on Facebook yesterday.

Patty Brown, Bedford Community Christmas Station. We are now participating with USDA, via the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, and the program is year-round. We're located at 510 Blue Ridge Ave., Bedford. Bedford County residents can come, as needed, and are provided with a box of food. Thankfully, now we are able to have some perishable items, such as fresh fruit, vegetables. Blue Ridge Area Food Bank provided us with two new freezers, via grants. Once we get those freezers, we will be able to provide meat. Our fund-raising sales help us to earn money, to provide for our programs. 100% of money raised via sales goes toward the programs we provide. The fundraising sales end on September 28. On September 29, we will be calling area charities, because anything that's left in our building will go to charities. Then after that, we prepare for Christmas program, to provide our families with a shopping experience with us. Everything is given to them free – food, toys, household goods, clothing for children, etc. Earlier, we gave out 117 pairs of new shoes for children to have for school. And the families were given a box of food. Tuesdays & Wednesdays, from 10am to 4pm fundraising sales days. Tuesdays & Wednesdays are also available for donations of money or goods.

Matt Hall, Community Liaison Officer with the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia, Jason Miyares. On behalf of the administration in Richmond, Thank You. Thank you for the work you do – you are truly the hands and feet of the Lord. I want to come and be a part with you guys, and work with you. We recognize that one of the issues faced by law enforcement is that we want to help people get back on their feet. There are barriers getting them back into society, and we want to help solve those. I want to talk to each of you, especially those connected to the Domestic Violence area (speaking to Lisa Bailey.) We have a lot of great programs through the Office of the Attorney General, but the main one is partnering with Law Enforcement to provide Safer Communities for Virginians. Crime prevention is one of our focuses during the next 3.5 years. Matt also commended Chief and Sheriff Miller – as wonderful law enforcement. Especially Sheriff Miller, who is the best sheriff in the Commonwealth of Virginia. If I can do anything....(at which time, someone asked if he could get Chick-Filet to come to Bedford...) 😊

Denise Kennedy – Bedford DSS

Dawn Weeks – Supervisor, Adult Protective Services, Bedford DSS

Oasis Arslain - DSS

Tomi Turner, Family Service Manager, DSS, the drug docket that we run in Bedford is starting to expand. One of the issues we face is attaching those that are becoming sober with a more positive community. We have a couple of people working with us to help provide community, so that they can get away from their former community (usually drug addicts.) So if anyone here is interested in supporting those drug docket clients, please let me know, so that we can get you introduced and involved. Matt Hall asked Tomi if she could send him an email, as that's one of the things I need to work on for the Attorney General.

Alicia Tuck, Bedford DSS, CSA Coordinator, and also supervise our CSS and home prevention team.

Betty Easter, BARC Coordinator. We won't get to the question today, but I want to recommend a book by Malcolm Gladwell, "Outliers", about culture, background, and work, that goes along with the topic of the question.

Jill Paul, intern

Danielle Alexander, Outreach Coordinator with Good Samaritan Hospice. I'm looking for opportunities to educate our community on what hospice is, and what it is not. If anyone has communications with local EMS, please let me know.

Joshua Bengé, Good Samaritan Hospice.

Andrea Leonard, Care Connect, Virginia. We sponsor residential services, homes for adults with disabilities. I want to connect with Housing.

John Fedor, Chief Probation Officer. We're trying to build a new office. All programs are up and running. We've added three new positions. We'll have a new Senior position for sex offenders. John also updates BARC's Facebook page. Recently, "Facebook" was offended by the Revive Poster that he tried to post (announcement.) John recommends that Denny let Farmville know that they can get in touch with their own Reentry Council (which exists by Governor's Mandate.) John gave a brief recap of the origins of BARC. John welcomed the new Chief Ronnie Lewis.

Chrystal Atkins, Senior, supervising sex offenders. I will be working with Virginia Career Works.

Chelsey Simpson, intern, with Probation.

Ronnie Lewis, Bedford Police Department. Also likes Malcolm Gladwell's works. We will add a full time Community Resource Officer, that should be on-line in January or February. That person's focus is Community Relations.

Harold Scroggins – Bedrock Community Church, and also Celebrate Recovery, Thursday nights @ 6:30pm. This is a Christ-centered recovery program. He wants to connect with Tomi Tucker, regarding her need to get newly sober folks connected to a positive community. Approximately 1/3 (or less, now) of the attendees are former drug and alcohol users. We have people in recovery for anger issues, depression, all the hurts, habits, and hang-ups are touched in this ministry.

Lila Scroggins –Bedrock Community Church

Sarah Braaten, Bedford Get Together.

Tecora Davis – Deputy Chief Parole Officer.

Matt Hall, Office of the Attorney General

John Thomas, Horizon Behavioral Health, Bedford.

Ron Cordell, Agape Center. We have four trucks to pick up food, but three are sidelined, needing parts and mechanics to work on them. We're working on raising money for this. As mentioned by Lake Christian Ministries, we're also seeing more financial problems, either being evicted or having huge utility bills. We can't possibly meet all these needs, as all the agencies are finding. Housing is a huge problem. There's not much availability, and what is available is too expensive. The Church & Home Tour is our biggest fundraiser. Eastlake Church will have a free concert, followed by fireworks. SML Christian Academy opened with more than 500 students. Seven years ago, we had 50. First home football game is tonight. This is the 7th anniversary of the shooting at SML. Tonight, they're honoring Vickie Gardner, who was injured in that shooting, where two others were killed. She had a vision to open a community center for the lake, and is working to take the old Grand Piano location in Westlake.

Joe Girandola, Horizon Behavioral Health, Supervisor for Lynchburg Adult Drug Docket, has a program that will start September 30, and we hope to have referrals by the end of the year. This will help the homeless population with mental health disorders or substance use issues. We hope to serve 245 transitional age youth over the next 5 years. This will cover five counties, including Lynchburg, and Bedford.

Heather Dooley, Lynchburg Area Center for Independent Living.

Pam Bailey, Director of Bedford Economic Development. Literally everyone asks when Chick Filet will come to Bedford. I have asked Tim Saunders, with Virginia Career Works, and J.D. Fedor, Chief Probation and Parole Officer, to do a business roundtable for creative ways of hiring and recruitment. It is really geared towards companies. It's September 15, at 8:30am – 10:00a.

Mary Zirkle, Town of Bedford.

Christy Lucy, Community Access Network.

Dara Cranney, Centra Health

Aaron Watkins, Horizon Behavioral Health, Mental Health Case Manager, and also part of the Housing Coalition of BARC.

Beth Robertson, Bedford County Public Schools. If you received one of the magnets, just know that they were printed five days before we changed our graduation date. They were correct when they were printed. If you know of someone who needs a magnet, I have about 20 in my car. We have included the 211 information, and Domestic Violence hotline. We had a successful Pack-the-Bus this year. We have 9,200 students in enrollment. In our school board meeting, we had lots of discussion with law enforcement. We have had training in threat assessment. We have continued partnership with Horizon. Outpatient therapy services are in all of our secondary schools, and we are expanding that to elementary, with a grant. We have a partnership with Virginia Dept. of Health with vaping cessation. We have grief counseling, and we have opened up therapeutic day treatment in schools. We have maintained our full staff of 18 staff members in Behavioral Design Specialists. These are the front-line staff that help with the students having the most challenging behavioral needs. These are also unfunded positions, because they are not part of the Standards of Quality, so these are positions funded with local dollars. Last year, we had over 7,500 disciplinary referrals. Of these, only 17% had out-of-school suspension time. That's a victory for schools. We are making sure students are staying in school with alternative programming and therapeutic supports. Now, we're Care Portal partners.

Claudia Fletcher, Patrick Henry Family Services. We have Vision 30, and Care Portal, which is now part of the strategic plan of Bedford County. And learn more at our session following this meeting.

Rachael Seale, DSS Program of Self Sufficiency

Denise Hutton, Virginia Career Works, Career Navigator.

Jamie (Tammy?) Lawhorn, DSS.

Laura Carey, Bedford Ministerial Association, and DSS.

Pat Hogue, Prayer Outreach Ministries

Ashley Denny, DSS Domestic Violence

Last one – a gentlemen that I couldn't quite understand....

The meeting ended at this point, without getting to the question.

5. Grant Funding Announcements – if you come across any type of potential grant information, please share!
6. Question of the month! This will be a regular part of the BARC monthly meetings. This meeting's question involves two phrases: "Social Capital" and "Human Capital." Here are the definitions for these terms:

Social Capital = the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively.

Human Capital = the skills, knowledge, and experience possessed by an individual or population, viewed in terms of their value or cost to an organization or country.

With these in mind, the question for discussion among the BARC attendees is:

What are our agencies or organizations doing to help with social capital?

7. Next Meeting: The next BARC meeting will be held on the 4th Friday, September 23, 2022, at 8:30 am. The location for the meeting is at Bedrock Community Church; 402 E Main St, Bedford, VA 24523

10:00am - For those who can remain after the regular BARC meeting, Patrick Henry Family Services extends their invitation to remain and join them for their first CarePortal "Active Community Gathering" for the Bedford area. Everyone who is part of the CarePortal ecosystem is invited to join in. This includes requesters (DSS and Vision 30 partners), responders (churches and their members) Champions and Sponsors (businesses and non-profits). Or if you'd like to learn more about how to get involved, we welcome you too! We will celebrate, recognize folks, share statistics, and talk about how to make CarePortal even more effective in Bedford County.