



## BEDFORD AREA RESOURCE COUNCIL

402 E Main St, Bedford, VA 24523

September 23, 2022

8:30 AM to 10:00 AM

### Minutes

1. Welcome/Introduction – Andy Crawford opened.. He said the Steering Committee had met and discussed that the meeting focus will be on more than just announcements. Announcements and introductions are valuable. He gave a brief overview of the Bridges Out of Poverty’s description of the four causes of poverty, one of which is the Human/Social Capital part. Andy defined Human Capital is what each person has within him/herself. Each person’s Human Capital helps in their areas of personal growth (temper control, reading, ability to do work, etc.) There are parts of society that help with building Human Capital. Research shows that families that do not have a lot of Social Capital struggle. And that struggle can impede their Human Capital growth. And if you don’t have good Human Capital, that could impede your Social Capital. What we’re trying to focus on in some of our committee work is seeing what we have. In BARC, we have agencies that focus on one or the other of these Capitals. Some may focus on both, but predominately, the agency focus is on one or the other. So, as we go around today, let us know if your agency is focusing on Human or Social capital, or both. The purpose of all this is to start connecting the dots. What the Steering Committee and I think, is that if we start spending more time on building Social Capital, the Human Capital will improve.
2. Action Group Report Outs (Chairs or Designee)
  - a. Aging/Elder Care – Christy Lucy – Christy sent an update. They are sponsoring a Senior Social on October 12, at Bedrock Community Church, with a luncheon and some vendors to share information pertinent to Senior Citizens. Anyone who wants to include their flyers at this Senior Social, can provide their information to Denise Scruggs at the Beard Center on Aging (University of Lynchburg.)
  - b. Child Care- Holly Woods Layne – Holly sent an update. The Child Care Action group will be at Centerfest tomorrow, with a table at 107 North Bridge Street and activities in front of Main Street United Methodist Church. They will be sharing information with families on choosing quality care, give them an opportunity to sign up for Bright By Text, an app that sends families information on child development based on the child’s age.
  - c. Healthy Foods - Mary Zirkle – Will have a Fall Festival at Elba, on October 8. Different agencies will have tables to share information with the community.
  - d. Housing - Angela Hill – Meeting after this BARC meeting.
  - e. Employment and Training – Lead to be Determined. Andy is doing work on this group. He has sent a doodle poll to different people, who could be good for this category.
  - f. Minds Together- Jennifer Smith Ramey. Jennifer shared that this is the Mental Health and Substance Use Action Group, meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, from 10am to 11. The last meeting was for Decca Knight, who gave a great presentation on Trauma Basics. We are exploring having our community become a Trauma Informed Network. We had lots of good feedback from this. We meet again next week.
  - g. Transportation - Denny Huff. No specific report, but that the bus is going around town. The ridership is increasing. Andy advised that Denny is having focus groups with riders.
3. Key Partners
  - a. Bedford Area Reentry Council- Tecora Johnson. Tecora advised that the meetings are going well. They meet regularly, virtually, on Thursday. They review actual cases, and reach out to community partners who are making a difference and are able to meet some of the needs that are out there. Some of our upcoming activities will include learning about what probation is. There are a lot of myths about probation. We will have a session to talk about what Probation and Parole really provides. We have some cards with a QR code about Reentry Services that are available. Andy added that in the last 10 years, Probation and Parole have totally changed. Tecora added that it is an amazing journey, not what a lot of people think it is.
  - b. Bedford Community Action Team (BCAT)- Alicia Tuck. They are scheduled to meet next month.
  - c. Bedford Get Together - Sarah Braaten shared more about their celebration honoring people in four categories of service, for their work. These are demonstrations of both Social and Human Capital, topics of today’s meeting. This group is

also encouraging Bedford Bulletin to show some of the positive aspects of the Bedford Community. She summarized the focus of their group is to help bring together the large divides in Bedford,

- d. Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC)- Christy Lucy. No report.
- e. Crime Prevention Council- Tim Brooke. Tim reported that Chief Lewis came to the Crime Prevention Council meeting last night. We are going to take a step back and do some mission analysis, and name change. More to follow.
- f. Domestic Violence Coalition – Mary Buchanan Kirby – No report.

4. Agency Announcements –

**Sarah Braaten**, Bedford Get Together. She has nothing else to report; but expressed her appreciation of the announcements from BARC, that she can share with members of Bedford Get Together.

**Nichole Campbell**, Director of Human Resources for Bedford County. She came to learn more about BARC and see how the agencies are working together to achieve community goals.

**Dan Link**, Volunteer Coordinator with Patrick Henry Family Services. Nothing to announce; but will be having the Active Community Gathering right after this meeting. There will be updates about Care Portal and other things.

**Lila Scroggins**, Celebrate Recovery. They have a growing group. Many times people think Celebrate Recovery is just for people with chemical addictions, but we have had people making great progress on family relationships, depression, personal development-how to improve their lives. This is a network of people working together and reach out from their area of need, to grow.

**Harold Scroggins**, Celebrate Recovery. At the Outpost, every Thursday night at 6:30pm. If you have contacts with people who need to step into recovery, they are certainly welcome to come. It's non-denominational, open, for "hurts, habits, and hang-ups" of all kinds. We have from 25 to 35 people coming recently. One of the local companies suggests this group for their employees.

**Tim Brooke**, Police Department. Also, Senior Warden with St. John's Episcopal Church. The announcement from the Police Department is police provides training for Active Shooter Training, or Business Security Assessments, contact Lt. R. Kimball at the Police Department. For St. John's, they are celebrating their 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary all year.

??? couldn't hear her very well – neither name nor organization. Sponsorships are open, and will close off ???

**Lori Moorman**, Co-President with **Bedford Community Christmas Station**. They now have a Food Pantry open all year, and approved by the FDA to provide fresh fruits and vegetables. They have a final Fund-Raising sale. From these sales, from which the proceeds goes to purchase new merchandise that they distribute through their programs. After these sales, we gear up for our Christmas Program. See their flyer on the BARC announcements.

**Stuart Saunders, Program Coordinator, Bedford County Parks and Recreation**. We took Seniors to the Shenandoah Caverns this month, and other 55 Seniors went yesterday. Our Senior Picnic is October 5 at Falling Creek Park, with a Blue Grass band and some prizes. This is a free event. We are also coordinating with the Aging/Eldercare Action Group for their Senior Social on October 12. And, on Saturday, October 29, for kids, from 4pm to 6pm – "trick-or-treat" style. If any organization wants to be a vendor, see Stuart, who can help set you up.

**Denise Kennedy, DSS**. Two announcements, two hats. (1) With Bedford Christian Ministries, we will be open from 9am – 12 noon for the October 8 event (Fall Festival at Elba, from Healthy Foods Action Group.) Citizens can come in for financial aid, housing department, clothing department, and for the food pantry. We will also have board members at the Elba area, for people who want to volunteer, or get a tour, or ask about services. (2) For SEAC – Special Education Advisory Committee, on October 29, we have partnered with Campbell County SEAC to have a Sensory Friendly Trunk or Treat at Brookville High School, from 9am to 12 noon.

**Angela Hill, Lake Christian Ministries**. We held a successful SML Walk to End Poverty on September 17. We have a new warehouse manager. We don't have a ton of goods, but we have more than we did a year ago. We have people needing mattresses, people who are transitioning from couch-surfing or homelessness to apartments. We are still getting a lot of requests for financial aid. We had the largest ever Getting Ahead class this fall.

**Shannon Zimmerman, Bedford Sheriff's Office**. No announcements.

**Tim Saunders, Virginia Career Works**. We have a hiring event on Monday, in Lynchburg. Denise Hutton has flyers to pass around. It's a face-to-face event, and it's free. There are 14 employers signed up, with a good range of diversity: manufacturing, food service, healthcare. While this event is not specifically targeting reentry people (as our event in July), this event does have employers who can work with individuals with the types of issues that reentry folks have. We also will be having a virtual hiring event, on October 5, sponsored by VEC, and will post information on Virginia Career Works Facebook page. While this hiring event is virtual, the majority of the jobs are face-to-face jobs – not work from home.

**Linda Brake, Program Manager, Bedford Ride**. We provide emergency medical transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities that live in the Town and County of Bedford. We are on the SML Charity Home Tour this year. Our house is located on Patmos Church Road (Huddleston.) We need volunteers to help direct traffic for October 7, 8, 9. We have parking available across from the property. Visitors will be shuttled from Parking to the home. Our house is the Gauger Home.

**Laura Carey, Minister, Prayer Outreach Ministries, and Ministerial Association**. The Ministerial is looking at ways to open up opportunities that may come about from any of these agencies, in order to be of assistance, whether it be for goods, financial. We are revamping and have a lot more new ministers coming in. We look forward to being a blessing or help any way that we can – but we need to know. So if any opportunity is available through any of BARC's agencies, get in touch with us, come and meet with us, let us know what we can do to better assist.

**Tecora Davis, Deputy Chief Probation and Parole Officer, Bedford, District 20**. I don't have any further announcements.

**Terry Ore, Probation and Parole Officer, District 20**. This is my first BARC meeting.

**Betty Easter, BARC Coordinator**.

**Tammy Lawhorn, DSS, Self-Sufficiency Unit**.

**Kathy Williams, DSS.** I recently moved from Prevention to CSA where I am a coordinator.

**Alicia Tuck, DSS, CSA Coordinator, and Supervisor.**

**Tomi Turner, DSS, Services Manager**

**Lisa Bailey, DSS, Domestic Violence.** In regard to the question of today, we are able to use so many connections that we have made through BARC. There are so many connections available to us. Coming to BARC to gather, and give back to the community has been so good. Thank you all.

**Denise Hutton, Virginia Career Works, Career Navigators.** We are here for the unemployed, the underemployed, or those in need of training to get employment. With the question of today, and building on what Lisa said. There are so many connections made here, and a support system of agencies. There are a lot of variables and barriers that we work with, and just staying connected to other agencies, and providing references, is helping us through this. I have the flyers Stuart mentioned. There's another flyer, Honest Jobs. This is for the fair employers that are out there, willing to be a "second chance" employer to folks with legal issues.

**Jill Paul, DSS Intern**

**Deon Matthews, Virginia AR National Guard Counter Drug Task Force.** This is my first BARC meeting. I work with many coalitions in different areas. My part is to come to this and learn what resources are available. This is the largest coalition I've seen – with so many agencies together in one room. My question is, "How are you getting all of this information out to the public?" Andy responded that BARC has a website and a Facebook Page, as well as word of mouth. Andy also mentioned that we have a huge distribution list, that we distribute announcements.

**Kim Dooley, sitting in for Denny Huff, Bedford Community Health Foundation.** The only announcement is that our October 1 grant deadline is soon approaching.

**Kelly Thomas, Supervisor of Health Services for Bedford County Public Schools.** I have replaced Patricia Knox, who is retired.

**Dammy Onafowokan, Horizon Behavioral Health.** I work along with DSS for people who have lost custody of their children. Speaking of Social Capital, these types of meetings are great. Speaking for myself, as someone who was not born in the United States, I love seeing what resources we have available. Sometimes it's hard for people to know what to draw upon. Sometimes we have not because we ask not. This group has made a positive and tangible impact in the lives of some of our participants. I'll take a moment to thank Pastor Carey, to thank Tecora, and Rev. Baum (??) has helped our clients. Jennifer just informed me that we can announce our AA services. I want to learn what is the best time to schedule our meetings, so that we do not clash with other existing meetings. We want to add to the options, rather than compete. One of the participants said that Friday is a "dead zone" for meetings, and that would be a good time, as it does not class with other meetings, but also, it's leading into the weekend, when people need extra encouragement.

**Jennifer Smith Ramey, Horizon Behavioral Health.** Dammy did a great job in presenting. We work very hard at helping our clients build their Social Capital, to help our clients build resilience. We have a Women's Recovery Residence, on Longwood Ave. These are women in early stages of substance abuse recovery. This is a former group home. We have had many reentry women, and really agree with the Probation & Parole's theme of restorative justice.

**Kevin Cloran, Community Care, Bedrock Community Church.** We have many services available to the community, through Agape, Care Portal, Celebrate Recovery, Grief Share, Proven Man. As many others have mentioned, we see the value of connecting to people. Last year, for the first time, we had a "trunk or treat" event in our parking lot. The Bedford Sheriff's Office participated, and some other agencies as well. If any of your agencies would like to decorate a space, and compete. The winning team last year was Bedford Hillbillies. They had farm animals and goats. You can dress up, share information with the community, family-friendly fun. October 31<sup>st</sup>, from 5pm to 8pm @ the Outpost. Last year 2,000 people came through the parking lot.

5. CentraHealth contacted Andy this week, to mention Unite Us. Unite Us is a platform that the State of Virginia (probably through the Health Department) where different agencies can sign up to give each other referrals. Centra wanted to know if they can take about 30 minutes in October to go over this platform, and this is a topic that many here would be interested in hearing about. Also, the October meeting is the last one for the year. Social and Human Capital is something that we will continue talking about. For example, in our Self-Sufficiency Division of DSS is re-opening soon the old "Simple Solution" at 204 E Main, which will be headed up by Tammy Lawhorn. Some of our clients are not work force ready, but are in need of Social Capital. Care Portal is connected with the Bedford County Strategic Plan, and is a great bridge to help meet some of this Social Capital. Care Portal has a category called "Champions", and this may be the best way to connect businesses. There will be ways that businesses could contribute funds, and churches could then access funds to meet the needs of the people; OR, the businesses could see on the Care Portal and choose the specific need that they wish to meet.
6. Next Meeting: The next BARC meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, October 28, 2022, at 8:30 am. The location for the meeting is at Bedrock Community Church; 402 E Main St, Bedford, VA 24523. The October meeting is the last one for 2022, but will resume in January 2023.