



BEDFORD AREA RESOURCE COUNCIL

BARC: January 2023

Action Groups:

Aging/Elder Care:

- There are plans for an event this Spring in either March or April with some focus around Power of Attorney (POA) possibly in both the Bedford and Moneta area.
- The group is also working on a Senior Survey to identify gaps.
- The group is working with Bedford County Sheriff's Office on bringing TRIAD back to the community.

Childcare: The group is in the process of getting together with local employers regarding their needs and concerns surrounding childcare.

Healthy Foods: The group has conducted a review of the event at Elba in the fall. There are plans to conduct a similar event. The group is looking to see what they can make an impact on this year and are working closely with the Cooperative Extension. The group will be creating a strategic plan.

Housing:

- Point in time survey was held on January 25, 2023. The Town Police Department did not find anyone on that date. Numbers from the domestic violence shelter will be used. Shepherd's Table and Bedford Christian Ministries will also ask if there was anyone who did not have shelter on that night.
- CHIA needs a new hotline specialist.
- There is a warming shelter that has been open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights since January 14, 2023. To date, 15 people have spent the night and they are averaging 2 people per night. So far 262 volunteer hours have been completed. There is a need for more volunteers to work as overnight hosts especially women in order to accommodate any women that may come through. The warming shelter will operate weekends through March 19th, 2023 at 112 Center Street. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Tim Brook at St. Johns Episcopal Church at 540-586-9582. If you are interested in donating please send any checks to St. Johns Episcopal Church at 314 North Bridge Street, Bedford, VA 24523 and write in the memo line "Warming Shelter".

Employment and Training: There was a meeting in January and the notes have been uploaded to the website. The group will meet with the Chamber in February to work with businesses on their needs. The group is working with Workforce Development to expand their services.

Minds Together: The group continues to meet virtually on the 1st Thursday of each month at 10am. January the film Resilience was shown, and Jan Davis led a conversation afterwards. The group is looking to incorporate Trauma Informed Community Networks (TCIN) into the meetings. At the February Minds Together Meeting Joe Girandola will present on the Homeless Grant through Horizon for individuals aged 12-25.

Transportation: On January 23, 2023, The Otter Bus began running on Mondays so it now runs Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays from 10-4 with the possibility of extended hours in the Spring and Summer.

Key Partners:

Bedford Area Reentry Council: This group is getting back into full swing. The next meeting is February 10, 2023 at 1pm and is virtual. There will be a presentation about what Probation and Parole is and what they do. If you are interested reach out to Tecora Johnson at Probation and Parole.

Bedford Community Action Team: A meeting with Judge Harrison has occurred and a Strategic Planning meeting is being planned with Denny Huff facilitating. This will run along side the 5 year plan of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Grant.

Bedford Get Together: The ByLaws and Strategic Plan have just been finished. The group is trying to do smaller projects in the community throughout the next year.

Community Health Needs Assessment: Partnership for Healthy Communities is changing direction. They are working with Lynchburg to make a BARC like entity there.

Crime Prevention Council: This group met on January 26, 2023 and are reorganizing to update their plan, mission, and partners. Lt. Swain will be the chair and will work closely with the new Community Resource Office Travis Thomas.

Domestic Violence Coalition: The coalition did a Raffle and gave away a Moped. They raised \$1500. They are continuing to work on transitional housing.

Dannielle Tosh, Bedford County Social Services Benefits Programs Manager discussed the ending of emergency SNAP allotments and Medicaid unwinding. The last emergency allotment of SNAP will go out on February 16, 2023 and participants will go back down to normal allotments. This is not appealable. The work requirement is coming back along with time limited benefits. Medicaid unwinding will start on April 1, 2023 and will take a year to review all cases. Many who have been receiving Medicaid will no longer receive Medicaid.

Agency Announcements:

February is Child Oral Health Month. Here is the link to the American Tooth Fairy (<https://www.americastoothfairy.org/resourcesand>) some resources the community can use to prompt dental health for the month. More information is coming with a full toolkit and social media posts.

Bedford Community Christmas Station:

- The Station has a year round food pantry that is USDA. Families can come as needed not just once a month. They try to have fresh produce and meats. They are open Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Beginning February 1, 2023 they will be accepting donations just like Goodwill to sell to raise money for the Christmas season.

- The Christmas Program this year assisted 285 families. Visit the website: bedfordchristmasstation.org.

Bedford DSS:

- Child care copayments are back.
- VIEW (Virginia's Initiative for Employment and Work) is back open
- Opioid Abatement Money is possible and will have to be spent on Abatement or Treatment.

Bedrock Outpost:

- Partnership with Impact Living Services to have counseling at the Outpost in Bedford on Monday and Tuesday Evenings beginning in March or April.
- Home Repair Team: Will receive requests through Care Portal and Agape.

VA Career Works:

- Metalsa is recruiting Manufacturing Technicians for its plant in Roanoke. **Starting Pay is \$17.09 p/hr.** Applicants should have a High School Diploma/GED, basic computer knowledge, and 3-5 years of manufacturing experience.

Job seekers can apply for openings at a Hiring Event on February 6 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Bedford Central Library, located at 321 North Bridge Street in Bedford. Interviews will take place in the Bedford Room of the library.

Call 434-439-3046 to reserve an interview time slot.

- Youth Navigator can work with youth aged 16-24 providing financial resources, paid internships, and supportive services to those who work the program to become gainfully employed.

AGAPE:

- December saw 800 Families served with 1500 toys through the Angel Tree. The year end giving brought the group back into the positive.
- January has brought about a lot of concerns and there is a lot of prayers for the families being served.

Bedford County Public Schools:

- Digital vision screenings are being accomplished because of the Bedford Community Health Foundation.
- Johnson Health Center will be bringing Mobile Dental Clinics to the schools.
- Grant has been received to expand AED Devices.
- DARE is back in the schools.
- Horizon Outpatient Services have been expanded.
- Care Portal has been activated.
- IDS has served 350 students
- Reduction in Private Day.

AARP:

There is a dinner group get together on the 4th Monday of each month at 5:30pm at Charley's in Lynchburg.

Society of Saint Andrews:

Glens from farmers. In 2022 provided 11,000+ meals. Volunteers welcome.

Probation and Parole:

- Attendance at a statewide summit on co-occurring disorders.
- New contract for Inpatient Services
- Looking to hire a PT Surveillance Officer.

Bedford Memorial Hospital:

- Community events can be promoted through Centra Health Newsletter by contacting Mary Buchannan Kirby.

Next BARC Meeting: February 24, 2023 at 8:30am at The Outpost.