



BEDFORD AREA RESOURCE COUNCIL

Steering Committee

July 13, 2022

1:00 PM – Virtual Meeting

Agenda

1. Welcome/Introduction. Denny Huff provided the on-line link, and lead this meeting. Attending are: Denny Huff, Claudia Fletcher, Mac Duis, Mary Buchanan, Mary Zirkle, Todd Foreman, Betty Easter.
2. Update from Betty
 - a. Strategic Plan – I've written some draft actions that have been taken for the BARC strategic plan & sent those notes to Andy Crawford on July 5. I'll be working with each Action Group to see how I can assist them on their individual Strategic Plans. Getting the Strategic Plan in order is a focus for Andy, as he mentioned at the BARC meeting.

Claudia mentioned, in regards to Strategy Plan, on the topic of a physical hub: she presented the facts that up to now, no one has sought resources from the physical site, and asked the committee if they were ok with Betty working from home. Denny & Mac had no issues with Betty working from home.

- b. Potential grants that would help with BARC operating expenses. Betty discussed this at the Steering Committee meeting. Some discussion and questions followed. The grant search sites are all subscription sites, but Grantwatch would be approximately \$200 a year, but has categories that would cover all the areas of BARC, as well as the Action Groups. Betty also submitted an email to the action groups with some grant opportunities.

Denny brought up the idea of having a grant-writer consultant available to the action groups. He built on the idea, of creating a pool of people within our own group, who could be consultants to the action groups on grant writing.

3. Presenter for BARC meetings. Mary Zirkle advised that Donna Vincent, Exec. Director for Greater Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity has regular office hours every Tuesday in Bedford, and may be available to speak. HFH is planning on locating in Bedford. Betty will contact Donna Vincent.

Denny Huff added to this topic by recommending that the SC compile a list of folks that we could pull from to be presenters. He discussed the topic of having a list of topics that would be of value to BARC.

Think more broadly about what would be helpful to BARC, such as coalition building, etc. It is nice when we have speakers. He recommended folks to send names or topics to Betty that the Steering Committee could review & decide on.

Mac mentioned that the example that when some dockets were going to change, Judge Harrison arranged for folks to talk with other jurisdictions, doing a similar change; so looking at other jurisdictions or areas that are doing something innovative, would be great to hear. Such innovations as may come out of Liberty, etc., based on specific projects. Look at innovative things happening in other communities.

Denny mentioned he could look at things being funded by Virginia Funders Network, that may have some innovative plans that have been submitted for grants, to see what's happening around Virginia.

Mary mentioned that Danville has another health equity assessment, similar to CHNA, in their risk region. She asked if it would be helpful if someone representing that would come to speak either to BARC or to the Steering Committee about how their assessment is going? Denny said that would be a great cross-sharing experience, both sides learning from each other.

Betty mentioned Andy's recommendation for logistics for BARC meetings, that the BARC meeting could give 15 minutes, but if they have a longer presentation, it would be at the end, for those who could remain for the entire presentation.

4. Action Group Report Outs (Chairs or Designee)
 - a. Aging/Elder Care – Christy Lucy. Mary Buchanan is on this committee, and gave a brief update. They are officially planning either a monthly or quarterly senior social event, using that time as a social time, but have agencies available to share senior resources. There would be music, food, etc. They have 4 or 5 big goals. The social event is first. Denny mentioned that there has been some concern expressed as to how this social gathering would be accessible to folks who do not have transportation, or those in areas outside of this particular area. This was connecting people who are already connected, but there needs to be work to connect to folks not already being reached.
 - b. Child Care- Holly Woods Layne . Mary Buchanan is on this committee, as well. The last meeting had a lot of good activity. They are looking on how to communicate with businesses about building. Betty noted that the group has identified gaps in child care resources. Holly had sent an announcement about an organization that is providing training about Home-Based Day Care area. Denny asked if they were pushing licensed day care.
 - c. Healthy Foods - Mary Zirkle. Mary Zirkle reported that the group had a presentation from Virginia Capital about an assessment tool. The question was how and where to implement that tool. They want to add members – such as Meals On Wheels (CVACL.) CVACL indicated that 1700 meals in the town & county of Bedford combined are being provided. Denny invited them to join the Healthy Food Committee. Betty will send out the invitation. The address for this month's meeting is both in-person and virtually. Mary can make a reservation for the conference room at 215 E Main Street (Town Administration Building). (aka Town Hall)
 - d. Housing - Angela Hill. Habitat for Humanity would be a good member to add.
 - e. Employment and Training – Lead to be Determined. Denny asked if there had been ideas or conversation.

- f. Minds Together- Jennifer Smith Ramey. Jennifer provided a written report to be presented. In terms of other Minds Together report out - we are meeting monthly and working on our strategic plan items. Of note, Ismael Gama, MBA, MA Vice President of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health with Centra Health will speak at our August MT meeting.

Jennifer also sent an item for discussion and to obtain feedback from the Steering Committee: “Minds Together is exploring how Bedford can become a Trauma-Informed Community (TIC). Andy linked me to the Roanoke TIC and I met with their leader, Decca Knight. Decca also informed me that Lynchburg has a TIC. We are looking at partnering with an existing TIC. Does the steering committee have any feedback on this? Lynchburg or Roanoke?”

The Steering Committee discussed this:

Mac said most of our resources come out of Lynchburg, however, his question is, “who is doing better work?” Is one more active than the other, or more resourceful, etc? Denny asked, “why can’t we work with both, because of the broad expanse of Bedford. He said it may be more adventitious for Bedford to partner and work with both sides. Then, we could be looking at becoming a true regional TIC.

Denny gave cudos to Minds Together. Mary Buchanan added that Minds Together has formed a flash committee to ways to educate the community on emotional issues (emotional regulation, emotional intelligence), and seeing how to share those issues with the public, maybe to have some formal training of some kind.

- g. Transportation - Denny Huff. Mary Zirkle & Denny work together on this topic. It looks like Bedford is getting some funds to expand the bus system, both in days and hours of service. The state participation will reduce their financial participation year by year. Denny provided some ridership statistics: In September 2021, there were 260 riders total; in June 2022, there were 638 riders. The numbers are increasing. Walmart is the destination location. Joseph’s Dream has been added, and they increased to 24 riders. Denny was grateful to Mary & the town, as grants for Transportation needed to come from a municipality, rather than a non-profit.

5. Key Partners

- a. Bedford Area Reentry Council- Tecora Johnson. No one at today’s meeting. Todd says he’s on this committee, but hasn’t met with them recently. From the BARC meeting, it was noted that they had changed their email recently to Outlook, and may not have received their email for this meeting.
- b. Bedford Community Action Team (BCAT)- Alicia Tuck. Mac mentioned that Minds Together has assumed a lot of this work. Coming into the fall, we will be working with Judge Harrison on potentially a Juvenile Drug Docket exploration and advocacy. This is being considered because the Family Docket has done so well, and there is a need for a Juvenile one, as well.
- c. Bedford Get Together – no report
- d. Community Health Need Assessment (CHNA)- Christy Lucy – no report. Denny asked Mary Buchanan to give a report on Centra. Mary reported that Centra is getting involved in many ways. Most of their leadership team have involvement in many of the Action Groups, and in coming to the BARC meetings. From the CHNA point, they are working on their implementation plan. There are so many meetings happening at the hospital level, as they review the implementation plan and determine next steps. At the system-wide level, there are monthly meetings for everybody to combine their efforts from Farmville, Lynchburg, and Bedford. Each one is actively working its implementation plan. Locally, the hospital implementation plan is

very lucky to have a BARC here. Mary thinks that Farmville is considering forming a similar collaboration agency. Mary is going to meet with Denny and Christy Lucy, and Partnership for Healthy Communities to compare notes and see where else we can plug in. Access to healthcare will be discussed. Denny said it 's good to see Centra Corporate getting behind all of this, with their participation!

- e. Crime Prevention Council- Todd Foreman. With the transitions of Todd Foreman's retirement and the new chief coming in, the committee has not had their regular meetings. But Todd added that he will be at the next meeting, and with their enthusiastic members, it will quickly get back on track. Todd discussed some potential movie nights, etc., and Denny offered some funding from his foundation if needed.

Todd was asked about Cop Camp. He reported that there were more participants this year than last year. There were 150 kids at the 4-day-long camp. The kids had a great time, and there were officers from surrounding areas there, too.

- f. Domestic Violence Coalition – Mary Buchanan. Mary said that there are no updates.

6. Other/Next Meeting

The next BARC Steering Committee meeting will be held on August **10**, 2022 at 1:00 pm virtually.

(This is a correction to my typo on the Agenda! The correct date is the 10th of August.