

Bedford Housing Coalition Meeting Notes

10 a.m. on Friday, April 22, 2022

Bedrock Church, Town of Bedford

Bedford Housing Coalition welcomed new member Dara Cranney, site coordinator at Bedford Memorial/Centra Health, who attended in person. Also attending were Denise Kennedy, Bedford Dept. of Social Services; Lisa Bailey, Bedford Domestic Violence Services housing services; Angela Hill, Lake Christian Ministries; Lisa Bailey, Director of Economic Development for Bedford County; Mary Zirkle, Economic Development Coordinator for Town of Bedford; and Healthy Dooley with Lynchburg Area Center for Independent Living.

The coalition discussed mailing letters inviting Bedford area landlords to join us. Bedford DSS has agreed to cover the \$61 in postage. Angela will provide the letters and envelopes once the letter is finished.

Angela shared that Trevor Hoss, supervisor for CTE at Bedford Schools; and Sam Morgan in Susie B. Gibson's construction program tentatively agreed to have student volunteers help with trailer repairs. The housing coalition will need to ensure insurance and safety guidelines are met.

Waymaker Church did agree to donate \$500 toward a hotel lodging program for the unsheltered; to be managed by Bedford DSS. Denise has not had further donation offers from churches in town.

Va. Rent Relief Program application cut off is May 15.

Bedford DSS Director Andy Crawford requested that Bedford Housing Coalition provide a proposal on a rotating cooling/warming shelter and he will circulate among area churches that were previous hosts in a pre-COVID arrangement.

The coalition is looking for additional contacts in law enforcement, reentry and the business community. Denise mentioned she already attends the BARC reentry committee meetings so there's no need for us to have two coalition members there.

Pam recommended that if we are to introduce ourselves to the Board of Supervisors to start with a work session. She emailed Angela contacts for scheduling a conversation. She also recommended the Smith Mountain Lake Chamber of Commerce roundtable discussions but this posed a scheduling conflict.

The coalition also discussed reaching out the McGurk House and Elizabeth Nicely for ideas on transitional housing; and whether Liberty students may be of assistance with clean-outs when residents move but are unable to haul discarded items away by themselves. Dara shared that the hospital is struggling with homeless residents who can't be discharged because they do not have a safe, healthy place to live upon discharge.