

Bedford Housing Coalition Meeting Notes

9:45 a.m. on Friday, June 24, 2022

Central Va. Community College, Bedford Campus

Attending were Denise Kennedy with Bedford Dept. of Social Services; Angela Hill with Lake Christian Ministries; Heather Dooley with Lynchburg Area Center for Independent Living; Aaron Watkins, case manager for Horizon Behavioral Health; Dara Cranney, site coordinator at Bedford Memorial Hospital; and Betty Easter, coordinator for Bedford Area Resource Council.

Betty shared that nonprofit bank Virginia Community Capital Bank may be a good resource for assistance with a county-wide housing study.

In discussing home ownership options, Denise shared that Blue Ridge Mortgage can assist with USDA Rural Development Loans.

Angela has again called Blue Ridge Community Church about a cooling shelter for the homeless and her call has not been returned. She will move on to asking other area churches.

The Coalition circulated a BARC work plan, but it was not the latest version. The newer version will go out via email.

The coalition discussed inviting David Beidler of Blue Ridge Legal Aid to again present a landlord legal update and informational seminar in August. Angela will ask him about dates. The advertisement for the seminar will go out to those on the housing coalition's landlord list.

Denise utilized Google to locate a housing study done in 2014.

Denise recommended the housing coalition devise a flowchart for agencies and organizations who work on housing issues.

The coalition discussed exploring local ways to bring in specialized national housing programs such as McGurk House and Oxford House; or others that house only those struggling with particular barriers such as mental health and substance abuse.

No one has received any requests for trailer repairs.

Denise has not received any additional donations for temporary lodging.

Tecora Davis with BARC's re-entry working group and with the Dept. of Corrections would like to work with the housing coalition on housing for recently released inmates. Angela will follow up.

Angela's request to attend Board of Supervisors work session was converted to meeting with Robert Hiss, Bedford County Administrator on June 30. Denise will attend with Angela.

Action Items:

Denise and Angela to meet with Robert Hiss, Bedford County Administrator, on June 30

Betty to provide contact info and Angela to reach out to Lauren DiSimone of Healthy Foods Committee; Lauren is Community Impact Advisor at Virginia Community Capital Bank

Denise and Angela to begin a flow chart for housing services referrals; Betty can help with layout

Dara to reach out to Oxford House of Lynchburg to invite a representative to come share more about the national program

Angela to email David Beidler with Blue Ridge Legal Aid about dates for a landlord seminar

Angela to send the Lake Christian Ministries' Community Resource List to coalition members

Angela to email Mary Zirkle for an update on Habitat for Humanity

Angela to research Liz Nicely and the McGuirkin House

Angela to redistribute the newest version of the work plan

Angela to speak with Tecora Davis on recently released inmates and housing