

Good afternoon everyone. Below are notes from our December meeting held last Friday, and info on the upcoming unsheltered homelessness count slated for January 27. BCH will meet again on Friday, January 28, at 10 am.

Also, I've attached an updated membership list and a starter list of Bedford town and county landlords. Please email me additions -- these are only those I've worked with in the past 2 years. I'm working to access our LCM database for more here in Moneta, Hardy and Goodview. The plan is to split off landlords who only want to work with BHC on landlord-tenant education from those who don't mind being part of a call list agencies can use or hand directly to clients seeking housing.

Friday, Dec. 10, meeting:

Attending were Denise Kennedy, DSS; Pam Bailey, Economic Development Director for Bedford County; Angela Hill, Lake Christian Ministries; and Sarah Fuentes, Miriam's House and Central Va. CoC.

Angela is awaiting data and will circulate a draft of FAQs to use in soliciting donations for hotel rooms for the unsheltered homeless. DSS will handle donations and room payments.

Angela will send out a preliminary list of landlords (see above and attached).

There is a great possibility that Redwood United Methodist Church will serve as a warming shelter in early January thanks to the work of Susan Hughes, associate pastor at Bethlehem United Methodist Church and LCM's New Tomorrows Director. While Redwood is in Franklin County, they will accept Bedford residents.

Angela has not heard back from Pastor Woody at Blue Ridge Community Church (Bedford and Forest). If anyone out there attends or has a connection with him and can facilitate an introduction, please let her know.

Pam and Angela will meet next week with Jay Salmon of MoveUP regarding a mobile app that will eventually connect low-income residents to volunteers and independent drivers for low-priced and free rides to food pantries, homeless shelters, doctors appointments, etc. The app includes ecommerce and delivery functions. Stay tuned.

Angela reports increased success and support from Blue Ridge Legal Aid, who has either represented or provided legal advice to four LCM clients struggling this fall with landlord-tenant issues. All have had positive outcomes.

Denise is seeking housing for a registered sex offender who is working full-time but has stayed in a hotel for over a year because no landlord will rent to him. If anyone knows of a landlord who might, please reach out to her.

Sarah shared info on the Point in Time homeless count, tentatively scheduled for the night of January 27. Denise said Shepherd's Table may be able to continue the count the following morning during food service hours. Lisa Bailey has coordinated Bedford's participation in the PIT in previous years. If anyone would like to volunteer for the actual count or help organize, please reach out to Lisa or Sarah. The forwarded email with more info on the PIT is pasted below.

Sarah spoke to how unsheltered homeless staying in overnight shelters are finding warmth on cold days at Lynchburg libraries. This is something Redwood will want to plan for - where to send shelter residents during the day.

Thanks and I wish all of you a wonderful holiday!

Angela

From CVaCoC:

Each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires every community to complete a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of all persons experiencing homelessness on a specific night. [What is a Point-in-Time Count?](#)

If you are interested in participating on the PIT Count Committee and/or the day-of count, please reach out to Sarah Fuentes, francis@miriamshouse.org.

Please plan on joining us for our next virtual CoC Community Meeting on Tuesday, January 18th at 9am. More details to follow.

If you are homeless or will lose housing in the next three days, call our 24/7 homeless hotline, CHIA, at (434) 427-CHIA.

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