

# Minds Together Team Meeting

Thurs., November 4, 2021

10:00 am

Zoom

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**Meeting called by:** Jennifer Smith Ramey      **Type of meeting:** Video Conference

**Facilitator:** Jennifer Smith Ramey      **Note taker:** Karen Riddle  
[Karen.Riddle@HorizonBH.org](mailto:Karen.Riddle@HorizonBH.org)

**Timekeeper:** Jennifer Smith Ramey

**Attendees:** Lesli Sedwick, Jerry Avila, Wilson Brown, Lisa Wade, Joe Girandola, Tony Powell, John Thomas, Nikki Thomas, Robert Harrison, John Fedor, Mac Duis, Amanda Rider, Januwaa Davis, Gabriella Smith, Dammy Onafowokan, Jimmy Thompson, Christy Meeks, Tecora Johnson Davis, Ellen Smith, Carl Mack, Maurice Ponder, Angie Vaughn, Jennifer Smith Ramey, Karen Riddle

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## Minutes

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**Agenda item:** Prevention      **Presenter:** Januwaa Davis

**Discussion:**

Due to unforeseen circumstances two recent events had to be cancelled. The Zoom event will be rescheduled for next month, and the Hidden in Plain Sight training will be rescheduled for next week. Please keep an eye out for emails with new dates and times for these events.

Upcoming event **High in Plain Sight** with **Jermaine Galloway** will be in person September 2022 locally. More info will be forthcoming.

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**Agenda item:** Strategic Planning      **Presenter:** Minds Together Members

**Discussion:**

**Strategy 1:** Strengthen the structure of BARC for impactful collective action

Dammy Onafowokan—suggested the team pull in more people and continue to follow through with actions and that the Care Portal may be a good way to pull in more Faith-based community partners

Gabriella Smith—suggested the team could measure outcomes with an annual year end meeting

Mac Duis—mentioned there is a need for the team to be stretched to do things we have not done and there is a need for more small Mental Health private providers to be involved

Wilson Brown—mentioned other faith-based partners from the community may be interested in plugging in as he has representing the Episcopal Church (Bedford) as their Priest

Jimmy Thompson—asked if there is a comprehensive list for Bedford community agencies/providers and suggested the team could somehow make more people aware that they can register on any available lists

John Fedor—provided the website for 211 – <https://211virginia.org/> and added helpful hint to add or update agency info by clicking on tab at top right corner of this site

Lisa Wade—added that the BARC website has list of resources as an additional place to find a comprehensive list of Bedford community agencies/providers

Joe Girandola—mentioned that a YouTube video could be made advertising the resource hub

**Strategy 2:** Build a firm foundation that allows agencies to financially collaborate to serve community needs

Carl Mack—mentioned there is an opportunity to apply for the grant High Intensity Drug Trafficking and made mentioned that there is an Overdose Response Project (team of peers) in the works

Lisa Wade—mentioned the UniteUs.com hub and suggested that when a referral is plugged into the site that referral is open to all agencies on the hub that can provide relevant services and that Andy Crawford\*\* or Tomi Tuner\*\* may have more info about the UniteUs.com hub. (\*\*See emails in Resources section).

Joe Girandola—asked, “Who would draft financial proposals for meeting associated with Strategy 2?”

Jennifer Smith Ramey—mentioned that BARC is looking to hire a part-time at 20 hours/wk Coalition Coordinator who might could take on the task of drafting these financial proposals

**Strategy 3:** Create centralized resource hub(s) for community solutions

Joe Girandola—mentioned concerns about overlapping resources and it was also added that too many hubs could dilute the info

Carl Mack—mentioned promoting the UniteUs.com and 211 would be his recommendation

Januwaa Davis—mentioned multiple ways to get out or promote the hub(s) such as, direct mail but it is too expensive, adding an insert to Bedford water bill but not all Bedford residents get water bills, and another option could be sending a flyer home with students from school

Mac Duis—mentioned maybe the team could set a goal to encourage 10 new providers to add their info to the 211 site

Joe Girandola—mentioned using marketing strategies to encourage new providers to add their info to the hub(s) such as Social Media like Facebook; it was added that BARC is already using Facebook.

John Thomas—added that if someone does a search for Therapist in Bedford such as “Therapists near Bedford VA 24523” the top results is “Psychology Today” and the providers listed is more extensive than the 211 site offers

Wilson Brown—proposed a physical site for a call center should be considered

John Fedor—offered space in his agencies facility for a physical call center

Joe Girandola—mentioned the generation that is coming up has not known life without the internet and may not utilize a call center as effectively as prior generations

**Please see “attached” for a collaborative Action Group Plan**

**Agenda item:** Agency Updates

**Presenter:** Round Robin

**Discussion:**

Lesli Sedwick—Horizon School-Based services are currently in 6 Bedford County schools and there are multiple referrals

Angie Vaughn—Horizon Bedford has IOP openings in person and there is also an evening virtual IOP offered

Lisa Wade—CPS Bedford has hired new staff and is currently getting them trained

Dammy Onafowokan—Horizon FTDC Bedford is hoping to induct new participants into the Family Treatment Drug Court soon and Horizon is also currently interviewing for a new Peer Support Specialist with the FTDC program

Joe Girandola—Virginia Career Works has a space at Liberty High School where they can meet with youth clients. Youth are deemed to be age 14 to 24 years. VCW-Youth can assist with such services as job seeking, etc.... Virginia Career Works also support clients who are adults ranging from age 25 years of age and older with job seeking services, etc... Please see Joe Girandola’s contact info in the Resources section below.

Mac Duis—Schoolboard elections have still not been finalized at this time

John Fedor—Probation and Parole District 20 is still looking to fill a Parole Officer position

Tecora Davis—Re-entry Sub-committee’s next meeting is going to be held virtually on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am

Jerry Avila—announced his agency has been given approval one more Probation Officer

Wilson Brown—Bedford Episcopal Church has discretionary funds available (below \$1000) to assist with financial needs for those in the community and the church willingly offers the use of their kitchen space for meetings

Karen Riddle—shared excitement and enjoyment in new role as Administrative Associate with Horizon Outpatient Services and in supporting the Minds Together Team; reach out with inquiries at [Karen.Riddle@horizonbh.org](mailto:Karen.Riddle@horizonbh.org).

## ***Other Information***

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### **Resources:**

<https://211virginia.org/>

\*\*Andy Crawford's email address is: [andrew.crawford@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:andrew.crawford@dss.virginia.gov)

\*\*Tomi Turner's email address is: [tomi.turner@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:tomi.turner@dss.virginia.gov)

Joe Girandola with Virginia Career Works

[Joe.girandola@vcwcentral.com](mailto:Joe.girandola@vcwcentral.com) Phone: 860.514.8072

### **Special notes:**

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 2, 2021 virtually at the Zoom link below beginning at 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82463529688?pwd=dTlnc241RHc4RGorKzJkazRCODc4QT09>

Meeting ID: 824 6352 9688

Passcode: 122268