Welcome and Introductions: Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm and welcomed new attendees: Jack Winters (CRS); Don Wilson (Red Cross); Jack Lyden (Pittsburgh VA); Major Hopping (Salvation Army); Ashley Hairston (NHS).

The Housing & Homeless Coalition is open to the public and welcomes new members to all monthly meetings. Meetings take place the 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:30 pm in the CYS Conference Room.

Review of June Meeting Minutes: No changes or issues were noted. Archived Coalition Meeting Minutes are available at www.bccan.org and www.bchmis.info

OPEN DISCUSSION

Herta Madder (BCBH) announced that PHFA is looking for a local speaker to present on conflict resolution at a half day training. Interested parties should apply to PHFA using the attached form. Herta also mentioned that the Artisan Beauty Academy in Baden is offering free haircuts, color etc on 7/17 and 7/21. For more information call: 724.242.5834.

Lynell Scaff (BCCAN) announced that BCCAN is hosting a free training on Human Trafficking on 9/14/17 in the CCBC Resource Library Room from 9am-12pm. The Pittsburgh FBI and Sisters of St Joseph will be presenting. Registration is open to 130 attendees. You can register at www.bccan.org

Beth Ann Patricelli (Good Samaritan Hospice) announced that the Senior Olympics are taking place on 8/2/17 at CCBC. Also on 8/27, Good Samaritan Hospice will host a Memorial Butterfly Release at 2 p.m. at the Four Seasons Pavilion at Brady’s Run Park. This event is open for anyone who wants to honor and celebrate the memory of their loved ones. If interested in releasing a butterfly for your loved one call: 724.591.2022

Kevin Huwe (Self Determination Housing Project) introduced himself as the Regional Housing Coordinator – replacing Ashley Mancine. She will be covering the Pittsburgh area now. He reports that Regional Housing Coordinators can help with any housing concern, fair housing, eviction, durable medical equipment, accessibility. He states that he is looking forward to working with our Coalition. Kevin can be reached at kevin@sdhp.org. See attached brochure.

Judy Stonfer (HACB) reported that Brian Yaworski’s mother passed away. The viewing will take place at Sykes Funeral home in Ambridge from 2-4 and 6-8 today (7/13) and the funeral is tomorrow (7/14).

The mission of the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County is to provide support, direction, and collaboration in effectively addressing the issues of homelessness and affordable, sustainable housing in Beaver County by identifying and utilizing all available resources.
Jaime Milligan (Southwestern PA Legal Services – Fair Housing) passed out Fair Housing flyers, posters, and magnets. Email Jaime if you need more materials: jalme@splas.org

Sandi Hutchinson (Crossroads Shelter) reports that she is still looking for volunteers to cover any parts of the evening, to help with mailings, and other tasks. She states that you can call the shelter line for more information. Also she passed out a flyer with information pull tabs. See attached. She asks that you please post these at your agencies. And she announced the Potluck for a Purpose fundraiser on 8/6 from 2pm-5pm at Faith Luther Church located at 100 Center Grange Road in Aliquippa. She is looking for attendees as well as donations for raffle. See attached flyer for more details.

Colleen McKenzie (MHA - Consumer/Family Satisfaction Team) announced that the CFST is conducting a satisfaction survey and is asking for your input and your help with distributing the survey. The survey is attached to these minutes. Colleen also stated they are seeking new members for their advisory committee. Members can be consumers, family members, or professionals. She states that the committee meets every second Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm. Contact Colleen if you are interested: colleen.mckenzie55@gmail.com

Harry Angelo (Job Training of Beaver County) announced they are hiring a Job Search Specialist. It is a full time position with benefits. Interested folks should contact Rich Strother at 724.728.2020 or rstrother@jobtaining.org

Dianne Funkhouser (CareerLink) announced a Veteran’s Appreciation Event on 9/6 from 10am-12pm at CareerLink at the Beaver Valley Mall. Agencies will be on hand to discuss veteran benefits and services and how to access those benefits. To register contact Dianne at dfunkhouser@washingtongreene.org See attached CareerLink flyers

Marie Timpano (The Cornerstone) reported that The Cornerstone is hiring a part time Housing Coordinator to work with youth and families. The position is in partnership with Children & Youth Services. It is 20 hours a week and experience working with families is required. She also reminded everyone about the Warming/Cooling Centers available on extreme weather days. See attached flyer for details.

UPDATE: The Family Housing Coordinator position has been filled.

Darcy Casey (Crescent Commons) announced that The Housing Authority’s charity golf outing to support the Help House is scheduled for 8/21. Contact Kathy Walter with any questions at 724.630.2017.

AGENDA

Fair Housing Report  Tom Kaminsky
Tom stated that a report was completed on the last 18 months of fair housing testing completed in Beaver County. He reports that of the 60 tests completed, 11 discrimination practices were discovered. 6 of those were due to disability and lack of reasonable

The mission of the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County is to provide support, direction, and collaboration in effectively addressing the issues of homelessness and affordable, sustainable housing in Beaver County by identifying and utilizing all available resources.
accommodation – particularly relating to service animals. Tom stated that he feels we need
do more education for landlords on what constitutes reasonable accommodation. Jaime
clarified that service animals include emotional support animals and that they are also
covered under the Fair Housing Act. She stated that there are no limits on the weight or type
of animal. It is legal for the landlord to request documentation of the need for the animal. A
question was asked about what can landlords do if the tenant is not taking care of the animal.
Jaime stated that they should work with the tenant on seeking solutions to the problem.
Another issue was raised about what supports are available to tenants who cannot afford
care and services for their emotional support animal. Someone suggested calling Animal
Friends but after some group discussion it was apparent that this is a gap in our system of
services. Tom stated that he can come to agencies to do Fair Housing Trainings. Both he and
Jaime are available for any of your Fair Housing questions.

VA Pittsburgh Health System
Jack Lyden
Jack introduced himself and stated that he works for the VA Department of HealthCare for
Homeless Veterans. As of Monday, he reports that the Pittsburgh VA has 554 veterans in
their various homeless programs. Their homeless programs include:
Domiciliary Program: This program is located on the Heinz Campus off of Rt 28. It is a 5
month program with 48 beds. The goal is to assist veterans with obtaining employment and
transitioning into permanent housing. He reports a 50% success rate in attaining these goals.
He stated that this program serves a high number of veterans with addiction related issues.
Grant Per Diem Program: This program can provide housing to homeless veterans for up to 2
years although they aim to transition veterans into permanent housing within 8-14 months.
Goals of this program are for the veterans to obtain employment, establish some savings, and
secure permanent housing at exit. The VA does expect veterans in this program to attend
recovery meetings and agree to drug testing.
HUD VASH: This is a permanent housing program where veterans obtain a housing voucher.
Currently the Pittsburgh VA is supporting about 4 veterans through this program in Beaver
County. Veterans in this program have an assigned social worker who they can utilize for
support as needed. As veterans stabilize in their housing, the social worker will taper contact
to once a month. The social workers can transport veterans in this program if he/she needs
assistance accessing services.
Jack stressed that if you are working with homeless individuals, always ask if they are a
veteran as they likely are entitled to the VA’s broad services. You can call 1.877.424.3838 to
determine what services a veteran may be entitled to. Jack also announced several upcoming
events:
11/3/17 The annual CHALLENGE event is an opportunity for anyone to come hear about VA
homeless programs and updates. Attendees can also provide feedback. Past CHALLENGE
events led to improved dental services and the Grant Per Diem Program. Jack will forward
information closer to the event.

11/18/17 The Stand Down is an event where homeless veterans can visit with a variety of
homeless service providers to meet their unique needs. All homeless people are welcomed

The mission of the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County is to provide support, direction, and
collaboration in effectively addressing the issues of homelessness and affordable, sustainable housing in
Beaver County by identifying and utilizing all available resources.
at the event. The Stand Down will take place at Stage AE. Jack will forward information closer to the event.

Jack also mentioned the new location for the Beaver County Community Based Outpatient VA clinic. It is now located at the old Kmart site in Rochester. He reports there is a staff person who can assist with completing 1010 VA Benefits Application.

**Cornerstone Update**
Marie Timpano
Marie reports that The Cornerstone (TC) did not win the technical assistance DigitalBoost competition. She reports that TC secured 2nd place with 6,500 votes and she thanked all of our partners for voting and spreading the word on their agency Facebook pages. She highlighted that the competition did result in raising awareness around the county about TC.

Marie also announced that TC transitioned 5 staff into official Cornerstone employees on 7/3/17. She states that Tanya Sutton continues to be the welcoming face when you come into TC. Tom Kaminsky, Christy Miles, and Bryan Shannon are now Housing Coordinators and they will conduct intake, assessment, and service provision. The idea is that no homeless person walking into TC will be turned away. Ashley McLaughlin is serving as the Compliance Coordinator.

Marie also stated that she has bus tickets and food vouchers that other agencies can access for their participants as well. Reach out to Marie if you need these items.

And finally, Marie states that as the transition continues to unfold that she is looking for feedback from referring agencies and participants so that TC team can work to improve their processes for the best outcomes. If you have any feedback, please let Marie know.

**Outreach Committee**
Renee Speaker
Renee announced that the Outreach Committee will be meeting on 7/25 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm at The Cornerstone to coordinate an outreach event in August. Volunteers will be needed to conduct outreach as well as to help with collecting and organizing donations. Anyone interested in supporting the outreach effort should attend the 7/25 meeting. Please bring your ideas!
Renee stated that the Outreach Committee is also in need of summer items to hand out such as lip balm, sunscreen, rain ponchos, bottles of water, wash cloths, and hand towels. Items can be dropped off at the Cornerstone or contact Renee or Dina to arrange for pick up.

**UPDATE:** The next Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for 8/17 at 1:30 at The Cornerstone. The Outreach Event is scheduled for 8/29/17.

**2017 NOFA Update**
Dina Ciabattoni
The mission of the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County is to provide support, direction, and collaboration in effectively addressing the issues of homelessness and affordable, sustainable housing in Beaver County by identifying and utilizing all available resources.
Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

Dina reported that HUD has not announced the funding competition yet. She states that the CoC did put out an RFP for new Rapid Rehousing Project ideas ahead of the NOFA. She states that we have received two proposals and they are currently being reviewed and rated by the Rank & Review Committee. Dina reminded the group that the selected project will be included with the CoC application and that HUD will have the final say on whether the project will be funded.

**UPDATE:** Aliquippa Salvation Army was selected to apply for funding in the 2017 CoC Competition with their Rapid Rehousing project idea. HUD announced the NOFA and the completed CoC Application is due on 9/28/17. It will be publicly posted from 9/18-9/22 for input and feedback ahead of the final submission.

**Bed Availability**
Dina handed out the bed availability chart. She mentioned that Crescent Commons is anticipating 2 openings coming up. Also Sandi provided an update that Crossroads was currently full. Dina also mentioned that BC On-Call is temporarily not available while funding issues are worked out.

**Dina Ciabattoni**

**NEXT MEETING:** August 10, 2017

---

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**7/25/17 Outreach Sub-Committee Meeting** from 1:30 – 2:30 pm at The Cornerstone (1217 7th Avenue Beaver Falls).

**8/6/17 Potluck With a Purpose** (Crossroads Fund Raiser) from 2 - 5 pm at Faith Lutheran Church 100 Center Grange Road Aliquippa. Bring a covered dish and/or wine and make a donation of what you would pay for a meal if you went out. All proceeds benefit the shelter.

**8/6/17 Stand Up for Homeless Vets Motorcycle Run** 10:00 am – 3:30 pm 1928 E. Washington Street New Castle, PA Tickets $25/rode, $10/passenger. Register at: www.facebook.com/lawrencecountystanddown

**8/18/17 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Training** from 9am-4pm at ABC Associations (1122 7th Avenue Beaver Falls, PA). To register contact Cassie Mutkus at cmutkus@abc-associates.org

**8/11/17 Lawrence County’s Veterans Stand** Down from 1pm to 3pm at 1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery (820 Frank Avenue New Castle) For more info contact Missy Russell at 724.658.7258 ext. 1414

**FYI – The PA Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Program has established a 24 hour, 7 days/week hotline** for those seeking D&A treatment services. The phone number is 1.800.662.4357.

---

The mission of the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County is to provide support, direction, and collaboration in effectively addressing the issues of homelessness and affordable, sustainable housing in Beaver County by identifying and utilizing all available resources.