



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

March 9, 2017
Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions: Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. She introduced the following new attendees: Sue Raymond and Barry Cooney (Brighton Rehab & Wellness Center); Rev. Moreland (ROOTS/BC-HOMES); Tracy Irwin (BCBH); and Chief DeLuca (Beaver Falls Police Department)

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 February Meeting Minutes: No changes noted.

Archived Coalition Meeting Minutes are available at www.bccan.org and www.bchmis.info

OPEN DISCUSSION

Angela Abbiati (Head Start) announced Head Start Day (to apply for services) on 3/16/17 from 10-6 pm at the Head Start Office in the Mall. Documentation is required for program registration, but this requirement can be waived for homeless families. Homeless families will be given preference. See attached for more info.

Lynell Scaff (BCCAN) announced a free Opioid Epidemic training on 5/11/2017 at CCBC in the Library Resource Room from 8:30-12pm. Registration should be submitted by 5/5 and emailed to lscaff@bccan.org

Kate Bosomworth (Southwest PA Legal Aid Services) announced that she is planning a round table discussion on Fair Housing in April. She will forward details to Dina to blast to the Coalition.

Linda Ogden (Project 3MP) asked for guidance on what to do for a homeless woman who does not qualify for the Women's Center. Dina stated that The Cornerstone (TC) would be able to assist with this case and that TC staff could speak with her after the meeting.

Lisa Smith (Duquesne Light CAP) announced that Dollar Energy is now open. Contact Lisa at The Cornerstone to apply (724.846.6400). She reminded the group that folks have to apply for LIHEAP and Crisis before they can apply for Dollar Energy.

Gianna Wright (Urban League) announced that LIHEAP will be closing at the end of March. She can assist with applications via phone and she can be reached at The Cornerstone – 724.846.6400.

Charlie Crawford (Red Cross) announced that the free smoke detector installation program is still in effect. She also asked for help in identifying a place that could be used as a temporary group shelter in the face of natural disaster. She states that the building needs to be an accessible building for people of all abilities. Further she states that they need volunteers to be on the shelter teams to assist with setting up cots, registration, and general assistance with the temporary shelter operations. Interested folks can call 412.263.3100 or they contact Charlie directly at 724.581.3473.

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Sandi Hutchison (Crossroads Shelter) announced that they need volunteers to assist with shelter operation. She states that the hours can be flexible but help is most needed from 7pm to 9pm. If interested, contact Sandi at 724.714.6203.

Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator) The Homeless Outreach Team is in need of volunteers and donations such as non-perishable food, toiletries, sunscreen, chap stick, rain ponchos etc. Volunteers are needed to assist with outreach to ensure good coverage of the county. If interested in donating items or time contact hacbspeaker@comcast.net or ciabattonidina@gmail.com

Linda Ogden (Project 3MP) announced that she also needs volunteers and travel sized toiletries for her outreach efforts. She reports that they have a Certified Forensic Peer Specialist on their team.

Barbara Lowenhill (Lowenhill Home Care Services) announced that they provide in-home support to adults 18+ who have a disability. They provide non-medical support that recipients can either pay for out of pocket (she reports their rates are affordable) or through the waiver program. She states that they hope to be able to accept insurance soon. She explained that what sets their services apart from others is that they offer spiritual care as well. She is looking for patient referrals as well as interested staff. She states that they can train potential staff.

AGENDA

Green Diamond Place - Low-income Senior Housing

Ashley Kimball

Ashley introduced herself as the service coordinator for Green Diamond Place (GDP). She reports GDP is low income housing for adults 62+ and who earn below \$25,000/yr. Ashley states that they have resources to help tenants age in place. She states that she offers educational and social programs. And she can assist folks with accessing a variety of resources. GDP has 29 units and they are anticipating 2 vacancies coming up soon. To apply contact Ashley at 724.869.0535 or akimball@srcare.org

Ashley also shared that she will be hosting a service coordinators round table discussion on 4/12 from 1-3 pm at Green Diamond Place. In addition to collaborating with other service coordinators, she noted that this would also be a good opportunity to see Green Diamond Place. RSVP to Ashley.

Beaver Falls Drug Diversion Program

Tracy Irwin & Chief DeLuca

Chief DeLuca explained that the Beaver Falls Drug Diversion Program (DDP) developed in response to the significant increase in drug overdoses in 2016. He explained the target population are people who overdose in a public place and are successfully treated with Narcan by first responders. The person is then encouraged to seek medical attention at the hospital due to continued risk for overdose. If the person refuses, the Beaver Falls police will then arrest the person for public intoxication and take them to their holding cell for observation. The person will then be offered the option to participate in the DDP which would suspend the arrest and waive the fines which could cost up to \$1,500. If the person agrees to participate in the DDP then they will go BCBH for a substance use assessment and assistance with accessing the appropriate level of care as determined by the assessment. Tracy Irwin from BCBH stated that most likely after an overdose the person will require detoxification treatment and/or rehab. Her team will work with the person's insurance or access county funds and secure an available treatment bed. Once treatment is in place, Tracy's team will work with the person on their other needs, for example, arranging on-going outpatient treatment upon discharge, assessing financial needs and employment skills, and securing stable housing. Cassie

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Mutkus from ABC Associates explained that after discharge they will continue to support the person in his or her recovery on an outpatient basis. They conduct weekly drug screens to monitor progress. She explained that as part of the DDP the person agrees to sign a Release of Information so that all partners in the program can discuss the person's progress. Cassie states that she reports to the BCBH case manager who then reports weekly to Chief DeLuca. Cassie also mentioned that folks can access the Office of Vocational Rehab for employment assistance. Dina then mentioned that she will help the DDP program access housing resources through the CoC. She states that the first gentleman who enrolled in the DDP is currently working on his housing needs with a CoC partner and will likely be stable housed soon. A question was posed about where do homeless folks stay while they wait for a detox/rehab bed. Chief DeLuca explained that sometimes family will allow the person to stay with them since they are waiting on treatment. Dina noted that a person could possibly access BC On-Call or the Emergency Lodging Program if they do not have any other supports. Also if the person is a man he could stay at Crossroads. Dina acknowledged that the time between the person committing to detox and the bed becoming available is a critical time for folks with substance use disorder. She said that because a high level of support is needed in addition to housing during this time, it is a difficult need to fill and she is open to any suggestions or ideas folks may have. Another question was posed about if a person could complete the program more than once. Chief DeLuca explained that because this is a new program there is not a hard and fast answer. He would likely consider the circumstances and review the case with BCBH to make a determination. Chief DeLuca explained that this program does not apply to folks who overdose in a private setting due to the Good Samaritan law. He also explained that a person does not immediately start to withdraw but this inevitability is why the BCBH team works to link the person to treatment as quickly as possible. Linda Ogden offered her Certified Peer Forensic Specialist to possibly assist in some cases. Several Coalition members thanked Chief DeLuca for his leadership and hard work. Chief DeLuca reported that he initially thought they might serve 5 people in 2017 through the DDP. Currently there are 4 people already enrolled and he thanked all of the DDP partners for their contributions.

Point In Time survey results

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina passed out charts with the PIT results. She pointed out that the charts reflect the numbers for 4 categories: Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Outreach. She stated that Outreach submitted 201 surveys and 18 of those were literally homeless. There were no questions at this time and Dina stated that she can field questions after folks have time to further review the results. She will also leave time at the next meeting for any questions or comments on the PIT results.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reported back that the Subsidized/Section 8 section of the Bed Availability Chart has been partially updated this month but she is still waiting to hear back from a few landlords. She reminded everyone to call the programs to inquire about availability as the census can change from day to day. Also Dina pointed out a new program on the chart – The 811 Program. She described it as a subsidized housing program with 4 units at Riverview and 4 units in Koppel Terrace. Folks must be: disabled and at risk of institutionalization, Medicaid eligible, income at or below 30% of the AMI, and eligible for the Housing Authority. Dina provided a Basic Eligibility form (see attached) to help determine if someone is eligible. Referrals and questions can be directed to Lisa Kessler at hacblk@comcast.net

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Cornerstone Board Update

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina announced that The Cornerstone Board selected an Executive Director! Marie Timpano from Life Beaver will be assuming the Executive Director role on March 27th. Dina stated that Marie will be officially introduced at the April Coalition meeting.

Dina then read words of thanks from Board President Carmen Wilkerson to Darcy Casey “for all she has brought to and done for The Cornerstone.” Dina then extended thanks to Darcy as well and presented her with a thank you gift from everyone at the Cornerstone. Darcy thanked everyone and made sure everyone had her updated contact information, as she will continue to run the Crescent Commons program and her office will be at the Housing Authority (see attached).

NEXT MEETING: April 13, 2017

SAVE THE DATES!

Most Fridays 3/3-6/23 Greenbriar Co-Occurring Disorders Training Series For more info, contact Ken Montrose at: kmontrose@greenbriar.net Trainings to be held at Greenbriar at 701 4th Ave. New Kensington

3.23.17 Free Hiring Event for Veterans From 11 am – 3 pm at Heinz Field. Register at: <https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/pittsburgh-veterans-job-fair-march-23-2017>

3.25.17 Roadmap Conference for Entrepreneurs and Job Seekers 10am-4pm Sponsored by Ambridge Rotary at Ambridge High School. Interested sponsors & registrants email: felicia@ambridgeconnection.com

4.6.17 Maximizing Reintegration for Person Who Have Sexually Offended 9-4pm at Fairfield Inn, Monaca Register at: <http://www.bc-systemofcare.org/training/>

4.13.17 Re-Entry Conference “Eliminating Barriers to Employment – Preparing Today for Tomorrow’s Success” 9:00-3:30 at CCBC Library Resource Room. To register, call: 724.728.4860 ext. 2056

4.20.17 Teen Social Media Training 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Fairfield Inn (Monaca) To register, email: jennifer@etc-pa.com

4.24.17 Fair Housing Discussion hosted by Southwestern PA Legal Aid Services 10 am -12 pmin the CYS Conference Room (1080 8th Ave, 3rd floor). RSVP to: jaime@splas.org

FYI – **The PA Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Program has established a 24 hour, 7 days/week hotline** for individuals and/or their loved ones who are seeking D&A treatment services. The phone number is 1.800.662.4357.

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