



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

February 11, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Norah Miller

Norah called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. Norah introduced new members: Jodi Toogood - Keystone Wellness Certified Recovery Specialist; Felix Guilford - Friendship Homes; Tannis & Ron Fox – Table of Grace; Susan Winters - Chippewa United Methodist; Dina Ciabattoni - new CoC Coordinator
For a full list of attendees see attached.

Review of January Meeting Minutes

Norah Miller

Norah received no corrections from last month. Please remember to review and verify accuracy.

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

The Beaver County Housing and Homeless Coalition Meeting takes place the second Thursday of every month.

It is open to the public and welcomes new members to all monthly meetings.

PLEASE NOTE - NEXT MONTH THE MEETING WILL BE MOVED TO THE 3rd THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Dana Bucci - Beaver County Children & Youth Services- asked when the results of the Point In Time Homeless Survey will be available. Tentative results will be reported today per the Agenda and a full report will be given at the March meeting. You can email George Beegle georgebeegle22@gmail.com or Renee Speaker hacbspeaker@comcast.net if you have any questions prior to full report next month.

Lisa Smith - Duquesne Light CAP – reminded everyone we are coming into shut-off season. Dollar Energy will open 3/1/16. Individuals must apply for LIHEAP first, before they can get Dollar Energy. If you are 62+, you must pay \$100 on your bill over 90 days prior to applying. If under 62, must pay \$150 over 90 days before applying. Contact Lisa with questions 724-846-6400 x32.

Gianna Wright - Urban League SNAP/LIHEAP representative at The Cornerstone - Reminded everyone to please be mindful of SNAP changes becoming effective 3/1/16. Handouts were provided at the January meeting and can be found attached to the archived minutes. Call Gianna at 724.846.6400 with questions.

Carl DeChellis – Housing Authority of the County of Beaver - has available market rate units in Pulaski for \$650 per month. No income guidelines. The Housing Authority also has one house located at 702 Penn Ave, New Brighton for lease to rent program. Rent is \$650 per month. Housing escrow is \$50 per month. The individual or family will be able to work with the Housing Opportunities Program to improve their credit. The Housing Authority is also collaborating with LIFE Beaver on Melrose Place. They will be utilizing some apartments in Sheffield Towers for this program.

Ashley Mancine – Self-Determination Housing Project of PA - suggested posting available units on www.pahousingsearch.com, which is a statewide database. PA Housing Search also has a call center with a toll free number (1.877.428.8844) for people who do not have access to the internet. Carmen Wilkerson works with a landlord association and requested brochures from Ashley to share with the association.

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

Carmen also asked about the recent Landlord/Tenant webinar. Ashley shared this was a statewide webinar for Landlords developed by the Housing Alliance. The Housing Alliance is targeting various topics for future webinars for landlords. Ashley will relay the request to do Landlord/Tenant Law again and the request for it to be after 4:30pm, as many landlords also have daytime jobs. Ashley is willing to work with anyone who wishes to coordinate a training for landlords.

Norah Miller also mentioned the rental housing database that was developed through the Rapid Rehousing Grant. This housing database is located on www.bccan.org, under Resources - Housing Then select: Beaver County Private Rental Housing Resources or Beaver County Subsidized Apartment or Beaver County Comprehensive Housing Resources.

Michelle Rockwell - PA Link - There is an upcoming partner meeting/free training on 2/19/20126 at CareerLink (Beaver Valley Mall) from 1-3. Ashley Mancine (Regional Housing Coordinator) will be presenting a basic overview of the resources that RHCs can offer. See attached flyer. Also on March 30th, at CCBC there will be an ADA training in the morning and guardian ships and estate planning in the afternoon. More info to come. Also, see attached flyer for trainings targeted to RN's to assist them with getting geriatric specialization. Associated fees primarily cover cost of your meals and are nominal.

Sally Ricci - Stone Harbour - shared that there is a new Drug & Alcohol Outpatient Treatment Facility at 1122 7th Avenue Beaver Falls, PA 15010 (across the street from Family Practice). It is called ABC Associates. Many of the professionals are old staff from D&A in Vanport. They offer traditional outpatient and an Intensive Outpatient Program, which is available up to 3 days per week, based on medical necessity. The phone number is 724-843-0129.

Rosalyn Johnson - Franklin Center – reported there are HAP funds available for individuals who are homeless or near homeless. Please contact Ros at the Cornerstone (724.846.6400) with questions or referrals.

Darcy Casey – The Cornerstone – shared information about the Warming Centers at New Brighton Municipal Bldg, Aliquippa Franklin Center, and The Cornerstone Bldg in Beaver Falls. They will be open when the temperature and/or wind chill is 20° or less. Darcy clarified that over the weekend Crossroads will act as the Warming Center- on Sat from 7-10 and Sunday all day. She acknowledged Jim Sherwood for all of his efforts to ensure that Crossroads will be staffed over the weekend. Funding for snacks was made available by a generous donation from the Board of Realtors in Beaver Co. Rebecca Salopek -HACB- suggested putting signs in HACB community centers. Darcy will provide flyers. Norah Miller reminded everyone of the resource card which has a schedule of community meals. She also noted it may be helpful to notify those who run those meals about the warming centers so they can share with people they serve.

Norah Miller - NAMI is sponsoring monthly coffee talk which will occur on the 2nd Friday of the month. The NAMI office is located at 1229 3rd Street Beaver, PA 15009 (across from McDonalds). Tomorrow's topic is Valerie McElvey from RSVP. On Saturday 2/27/2016, there will be a re-enactment of the Freedom Marches from 9am to noon at Townsend Park across from the New Brighton Municipal Bldg (610 3rd Avenue, New Brighton).

Renee Speaker - CARL Program – shared she has several women/children's coats, gloves, hats from the PIT Survey. Feel free to refer individuals who are in need to her at the Cornerstone.

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

Carmen Wilkerson – Fair Housing - shared Fair Housing posters from Fair Housing Law Center which was formerly known as Southwest PA Legal Services.

Tannis & John Fox - Table of Grace Food Ministry – shared a little about their non-profit agency, Table of Grace. They pick up donated breads and baked goods and deliver them to local shelters, food pantries, and soup kitchens. They have provided meals at the Crossroads Men’s Shelter. In fact, Jim Sherwood praised the good work they do and the assistance they have provided the shelter. They also will assist with basic needs for individuals. See attached brochure.

Susan Winters - Chippewa United Methodist – is working to start a backpack food distribution program for kids in need of food for the weekends. She is looking for funding resources to cover cost of the food. She will be able to purchase the food through the school. She is currently working with Patterson Elem and Northwestern in Darlington.

If you are working with someone homeless or precariously housed - call The Cornerstone who will sift through options and help to connect that person to resources. 724-846-6400. You can also call Jim Sherwood at the Homeless Hotline number after hours. 724-480-6667.

PLEASE NOTE - NEXT MONTH THE MEETING WILL BE MOVED TO THE 3rd THURSDAY. MARCH 17, 2016.

AGENDA

Dina Ciabattoni, Continuum of Care Coordinator

Norah Miller

Dina Ciabattoni will be the Continuum of Care Coordinator, which is a new full-time position. She has an extensive history working in Beaver County including working at Friendship Homes and other providers. Dina will have an office at The Cornerstone. Welcome back Dina!!! Her contact information is: 724-846-6400 ext16 or ciabattонidina@gmail.com. The Housing and Homeless Coalition distribution list currently contains approximately 150 individuals. Dina will be syncing these contacts into her account and sending out a test email in the coming days to ensure that all coalition members receive the message.

January 27, 2016 Point in Time Homeless Survey

Renee Speaker and George Beegle

The Continuum of Care conducts a Point in Time survey per HUD requirements. This is a national survey to count sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals. The Beaver County Continuum of Care expands this survey to include individuals who are precariously housed, in need of heating oil, etc.

Renee Speaker spearheaded the unsheltered survey. She reports: Crossroads - 3, Broadcast - 5 TRAILS - 11, Center for Hope - 2, Street Outreach - 6, Soup kitchens - 5, Women's Center - 1, and BCCYS - 45 for total of 78. Renee expressed thanks to all who volunteered and made donations. She is hoping to collect donations earlier next year.

124 surveys were completed by sheltered homeless individuals - 33 from jail & Penn Pavilion with only 8 who would have no place to go that night. Numbers were lower than last year, which is good. There were

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

a few Veterans in the group. This is of interest because if the survey shows Beaver County has unsheltered veterans, the county could be eligible to receive HUD VASH vouchers.

George Beegle shared the sheltered preliminary count, which includes emergency shelters, transitional, and permanent supportive housing programs that are designated for people who are homeless. He reports: 71 in emergency shelters, 53 in transitional housing, and 220 in PSH for a total of 344. This is an increase from last year most likely because the CARL program increased bed availability by 84. Of note, CYS has emergency shelter for families - in 10 houses, the survey counted 38 individuals. See attached.

Beaver County On Call Homeless Apartment Program

Lisa Signore and Rosalyn Johnson

Lisa Signore – Community Development Program of Beaver County – explained the BC on-Call program is funded through Homeless Assistance Program from the Human Services Block Grant through the Department of Human Services. Tentative opening day will be 3/1/2016. There are two, 2-bedroom apartments in College Hill apartments, Beaver Falls owned by the Housing Authority. The Franklin Center will hold the lease and the Mental Health Association will act as the payment agent. Ros Johnson will be the contact. This program primarily assists individuals with lodging who have been displaced due to fire, flood, or other natural disaster. The Red Cross will provide initial lodging assistance for 3 days. (The Red Cross gives displaced individuals a credit card for immediate needs. If they have no place to go that night, they will also add funding for lodging assistance). If the affected individuals still are unable to secure housing, they will be referred to Ros for continued lodging assistance in the apartments. Ros will either meet those needing assistance at the apartment or provide transportation to the apartment and review the rules/regulations. If the units are not filled with individuals referred by the Red Cross, they will accept referrals for individuals who are homeless until a Red Cross referral comes in. Projected length of stay is 1 week, but will be on a case by case basis.

SOAR Training

Norah Miller

SOAR Training - SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery Program to assist people with accessing benefits. The person must be homeless - on the streets or in a shelter. They cannot be in transitional or permanent supportive housing. Herta Madder asked that if you opt to become SOAR trained, please make sure you are registered with Michelle Baxter. See attached.

February 2016 Housing Availability

Norah Miller

If they have an asterisk, that means the prospective tenant must be homeless and have a disability. Renee Speaker's email address on the back of the list is incorrect. It should be hacbspeaker@comcast.net. Darcy Casey's is also incorrect...it should read darcycasey@att.net. Dina will make the corrections and send the amended document with the minutes. See attached.

DATE CHANGE FOR NEXT MEETING:

MARCH 17TH, 2016 at 1:30 in the CYS Conference room

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

SAVE THE DATES!

- 2.12.16 NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) Coffee Talk (on-going, 2nd Friday of the month)
10 a.m., at the NAMI Office at 1229 3rd St., Beaver, PA. 15009**
- 2.27.16 Saturday Re-enactment of the Freedom Marches 9AM – 12PM
Townsend Park 610 3rd Avenue New Brighton**
- 2.27.16 Snowball Crawl Indoor Miniature Putt-Putt Event \$40 per person Park Inn by
Radisson West Middlesex, PA www.phnfoundation.net/snowball-crawl 724.981.2875**

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

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.