



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

March 17, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina called the meeting to order at: 1:37pm.

She introduced: *Jamie Hinkle* - VBH Enrollment Specialist; *Brian Shannon* – SSFV Coordinator; *Lori Barroner* - ICM HVHS Staunton Clinic; *Cassie Mutkus* - ABC Associates; *Todd Davis* - Landlord Liaison at TRAILS Ministry; *Missy Nyeholt* - Geneva College.

Review of February Meeting Minutes

Dina Ciabattoni

No corrections noted.

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

The Beaver County Housing and Homeless Coalition Meeting is open to the public and welcomes new members to all monthly meetings.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Ashley Mancine (SDHP Regional Housing Coordinator) – Ashley passed around a handout regarding county housing supportive resources listed on the PHFA website. PHFA is asking for it to be updated as they frequently refer landlords, developers and property managers to the website for resources. Please review the resource list at http://www.phfa.org/forms/housing_services/resources/hs_beaver.pdf and send any updates to Ashley at ashley@sdhp.org

Lisa Smith (Duquesne Light CAP) – Lisa reminded everyone we are getting close to shut off season. LIHEAP and Crisis Energy close on Apr 1st. If someone you are working with needs assistance with electric or gas, they need to apply ASAP. Dollar Energy will remain open as long as funding is available.

Elizabeth Focer-Repman (Columbia Gas) – Elizabeth shared that Dollar Energy requires that the person exhausted LIHEAP and Crisis first. Crisis and Dollar Energy can provide up to a \$500 grant. Dollar Energy is a private benevolent fund and requires you must have made good faith effort in making payment. This good faith effort can be evidenced by: if over 62 years old, payment of \$100 over the last 90 days OR if under 62 years old, payment of \$150 over the last 90 days. Dollar Energy remains open until the funds run out. Last year, the funds lasted until August.

Carl DeChellis (HACB) – Carl reported that Representative Keith Rothfus contacted the Housing Authority of the County of Beaver (HACB) about visiting public housing sites in Beaver Falls. The tour will start at The Cornerstone on Wed, April 5th at 1pm.

Rosalyn Johnson (Franklin Center) – Ros shared that the Beaver County On-Call emergency apartments will be available soon. There are two 2BDR apartments located in the College Hill Apartments. Those

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

who have experienced fire or disaster will receive priority. Additional funding was provided by Beaver County Behavioral Health to assist with furnishings and other basic necessities for the apartments. Individuals experiencing homelessness can also be referred, but individuals experiencing a fire/disaster will be prioritized. These are only for short term stays until alternate housing can be located. Referrals should be made to Rosalyn Johnson at The Cornerstone. An open house is scheduled for Wednesday 3/23. Please RSVP by Monday 3/21/16.

Ros also announced that there is HAP funding available for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Interested parties should contact her directly at the Cornerstone (724.846.6400).

Cassie Mutkus (ABC Associates) – Cassie stated that Addiction & Behavioral Counseling Associates is located in the old Mellon Bank building (1122 7th Ave) in Beaver Falls. They provide outpatient Drug and Alcohol services including: individual, group, and IOP (intensive outpatient). They accept public insurance as well as some private insurances. They serve both adolescents and adults. Adolescent IOP recently started and runs Mon, Tues & Thurs from 3:30 - 6:30pm. Their phone number is: (724) 843-0129.

Jeannie Surgalski (Disability Options Network) – Jeannie distributed the attached flyer on Free Assistive Technology Reuse Program. They accept donated assistive equipment and refurbish it. They then make the restored equipment available particularly for those who cannot afford or access the needed equipment. If interested in accessing equipment or making a donation, call 724-652-5144 and ask for Fred. They are located in New Castle but they can make arrangements to get items out to you.

Lisa Kelleher (Housing Authority) – Lisa stated that she recently found out that the Beaver Falls Plaza accepts youth aging out of foster care as well as seniors. She stated they were not aware of the Cornerstone or the Coalition. Dina will reach out and invite them to the Coalition meetings. Lisa also stated that the Pittsburgh HUD office seemed like they were not up to date on what our Coalition is doing. Lisa Signore stated she would address this. Someone suggested inviting Marsha Keifer from the BC Times to a Coalition meeting so she could help spread the word about our Continuum of Care.

AGENDA

CoC HUD Tier 1 Awards

Dina Ciabattoni

See attached handout. For several years, HUD has required the Ranking Committee to rank projects as Tier I or Tier II. Historically HUD has announced the funding for both Tiers at the same time. This year they did not and have so far only announced the Tier I funding. The Notice of Funding Availability clearly stated that there was enough funding for all renewals. Since our Tier II projects are mostly renewal projects (except for one new rapid rehousing project), it is expected that Tier II programs will be fully funded. There has been no indication from HUD as to when the Tier II funds will be announced nor when the Tier I funding will be distributed. Dina will update everyone as soon as any details become available.

Tier I captured the majority of our supportive housing programs including the new Melrose Place. Currently, Melrose Place is working on hiring staff, securing locations, and developing policies and procedures. Melrose Place will provide housing to homeless, disabled, senior citizens (the actual age is being clarified). Dana Bucci asked whether a senior citizen with custody of any grandchildren would be eligible for the program. Dina will look into this question and get back to the Coalition with the answer.

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

Tier I funding also included the Coordinated Entry position (which was marked as a priority by HUD). The funding for this position was a reallocation from the now closed Lenwood Housing project. It will be part-time position and a function of HMIS under George Beegle.

PIT reports

Dina Ciabattoni

The final reports have been delayed by the recent HMIS software overhaul so they were not available for distribution during the meeting. Dina will distribute the final reports via email when they are ready. When you receive them, please review them to ensure accuracy for your agencies. Let Dina or George know if there are any discrepancies. Dina gave a brief summary: 78 Surveys for outreach totaling 172 total people. Of those, 9 were literally homeless, and 60 were in motel or with friends/family (not all people answered this question). Of note, Penn Pavilion also reported they had 30 individuals that if they were discharged that day, they would be homeless. For the sheltered count: 220 people were in permanent housing, 58 people were in transitional housing, and 68 people were in emergency housing.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

See attached handout. There are a few openings in the Housing Programs and the waiting lists for several HACB facilities are short. Carl DeChellis noted that the HACB occupancy rate in February was 98%, the highest it has ever been. Generally, their occupancy rate runs at about 94/95%.

Errors noted at the February meeting regarding contact information on the back page have been corrected.

Value Behavioral Health (VBH) Enrollment

Jamie Hinkle

The VBH Enrollment Specialist is located at Beaver County Behavioral Health on the second floor of the Human Services Building. Jamie's main role is to assist individuals with accessing medical assistance benefits. If someone is coming up for renewal or has lost benefits, Jamie may be able to help them navigate the system. She can also assist with Medical Assistance child loophole applications. The individual must be a Beaver County resident or relocating to Beaver County. Jamie can help complete the application and coordinate getting appropriate documentation to the County Assistance Office (CAO). She can be reached at 412-627-3554 (this is her work cell phone and the best way to reach her). Her office line is 724-624-7308.

She can assist a person with making the initial MA application, but cannot assist with waiver applications.

For individuals intending to relocate to Beaver County - they can call the CAO and request an inter-office transfer. BC COA staff have suggested it may be more effective if they reapply at the BC COA office.

For individuals experiencing homelessness, the CAO will allow them to use the CAO address (171 Virginia Ave in Rochester, PA 15074) to apply for benefits. She stressed that folks cannot have any other mail sent there, only CAO mail.

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

Tom Kaminsky shared that working with Jamie is great. She has always been helpful, is professional, and very personable.

Cornerstone Update

Lisa Signore/Dina Ciabattoni

The work with the Bayer Foundation from Robert Morris University to make The Cornerstone its own non-profit is moving along. Dina will be sending out a link to a survey regarding the utilization of resources at The Cornerstone. Please complete ASAP. This feedback will be analyzed by The Bayer Foundation to guide the development of the new non-profit. The survey will only be open one week. You will have the opportunity to volunteer to be interviewed directly by the Bayer Foundation as well. They are currently interviewing and will be meeting soon at Community Development to start with developing the initial core board structure. Once the Board is selected and the corporation is developed, the county will no longer be directly involved with day to day decision making or operations but will continue to fund the services. It is the county's intention with this transition to streamline administrative processes while continuing to achieve the best outcomes for the people who access the Cornerstone.

SOAR Training

Dina Ciabattoni

SOAR is designed to help social service providers assist those they serve with applying for and receiving social security income. People who apply for social security benefits with the assistance of a SOAR trained person are denied less frequently and receive their benefits more quickly. See attached handout for the SOAR process. If interested in becoming SOAR trained, click on this link <http://soarworks.prainc.com/> to begin the free training process online. Once several individuals have completed the online training, the State will conduct the final face to face training. Dina is the point person - if interested, sign up on sheet being passed around and/or let Dina know and she will get you the materials you need to get started with the training.

Tom Kaminsky noted the training is very important and exceptionally helpful when assisting clients.

NEXT MEETING April 14, 2016

SAVE THE DATES!

**3.24.16 *Adult Protective Services Trainings* offered by PA Link
1:30-3:30 in Johnstown, PA Alleghenies UCP – 119 Jari Drive See attached for additional dates/locations.
RSVP/Questions: Michelle Younkin palinkcoordinator6@gmail.com**

4.28.16 *Youth Community Day* at the Beaver Valley Mall from 3-7 Questions: ssantoror@achi.org

**Various dates *Community Listening Forums for input on State Aging Plan.* Dates and locations:
http://www.aging.pa.gov/publications/state-plan-on-aging/Pages/Community-Listening-Forums.aspx#Vuapy_kwjrd**

5.18.16 *Public Comment on State Aging Plan* at Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging (2100 Wharton Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203) from 10-12 pm

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.