

Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

April 14, 2016
Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm

She welcomed Andre West from Friendship Ridge LTSR; and Nicolette Holp from Job Training of Beaver County.

Review of March Meeting Minutes

Dina Ciabattoni

Everyone reported receiving the minutes and no changes were 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.

APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH!

“A core belief of our values as Americans is the idea that every person deserves a fair chance to secure safe and stable housing”. – Julian Castro (HUD Secretary)

OPEN DISCUSSION

Herta Madder (BCBH) – Herta announced Youth Community Day scheduled for 4/28/2016 at the Beaver Valley Mall. See Save the Date for more information. Also, she announced that BCBH has brochures and posters on opioid and drug addiction available. If you need additional posters/flyers, please contact Javerta Sims at BCBH [724-847-6225](tel:724-847-6225)

Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator) – Dina announced April is Fair Housing Month, as well as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. See Save the Dates for sexual assault prevention trainings. Dina also announced that the Housing Forum will be on 5/18/16 at CCBC Library Resource Room - see attached flyer.

Elizabeth Focer-Repman (Columbia Gas) – Elizabeth announced that energy assistance has closed for the season. However, Columbia Gas and Peoples still have limited Dollar Energy funds. Duquesne Light does not have any Dollar Energy funds left at this time. Elizabeth recommended advocating for individuals in difficult situations by contacting the Social Workers at the utility companies.

Gianna Wright (Urban League of Pittsburgh) - Gianna reported that LIHEAP has just closed. She stated that Catholic Charities, St Vincent DePaul, or local churches may be able to provide assistance in the meantime.

She also announced the recent changes to SNAP eligibility. People who do not have a disability and no dependents, will be required to work/train for 20 hours/wk to be eligible for SNAP benefits. They may also volunteer for 26 hours/wk to meet this requirement. Folks will have 3 months before being notified of cutoff if they are no longer eligible. Contact Gianna at 724-846-6400 ext 31 with any questions regarding these new requirements for SNAP. She can also assist with advocating with the DHS caseworker.

Rosalyn Johnson (Franklin Center) – Ros stated that HAP funds may be able to assist with utilities since some of the CAP programs are closed for the season. The HAP guidelines are income based and match Dollar Energy guidelines. She also stated that HAP funds can assist with rent if facing eviction or homelessness.

Carl DeChellis (Housing Authority of the County of Beaver) – Carl reported on a fire that occurred on 8th floor at Eleanor Roosevelt Apartments. He commended the disaster response system in place to assist the 42 individuals who were displaced – specifically he thanked the Red Cross, DHS, and Ros Johnson. He also stressed the importance of encouraging people to obtain renters insurance.

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Michelle DeBord (Neighborhood Legal Svcs) – Michelle stated that the new SNAP requirement for a disability is not the same as SSI – she stated that it is looser. As such she will represent individuals in an appeal if they meet the definition and receive a SNAP shut off notice as a result of the new regulation. She mentioned that termination letters will not go out until the beginning of June. You can refer any people who you think should still qualify to Michelle. She did mention that New Castle is exempt from the new regulation.

Charlene Crawford (American Red Cross) – Charlene reported about the Red Cross's campaign to install free smoke detectors. They are canvassing neighborhoods to alert folks about the program. She also mentioned that the new code law requires smoke detectors in all bedrooms.

Rebecca Salopek (Housing Authority of the County Beaver) – Rebecca reported that LaborReady is doing a job fair on 4/20/16 at the Economy Crestview site from 10:30am - 2pm where they will be interviewing and hiring on that day. This event is open to the public. They will be holding another job fair on 4/22/16 at Morado Dwellings in Beaver Falls from 10:30am-2:00pm. The HACB will continue to partner with Labor Ready to do these at each HACB family site. Of note, LaborReady has relocated to the old Enterprise Rental in Monaca and they now offer ride sharing program for \$5. Registered sex offenders will not be permitted to attend the job fairs since they are on public housing grounds.

Morado Dwellings will be the first housing site to provide a Breakfast Program in addition to the lunch program during the summer months. It will be available in the mornings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in collaboration with Salvation Army. This is a pilot program to gauge use and effectiveness.

Reverend Swann (refreshing Springs Ministry) – Rev. Swann announced a clothing distribution drive with plenty of summer clothing for individuals of all ages. See attached flyer.

Victor Colonna (BCCAN) – Victor reports that the Housing Forum will be an interesting event to discuss: what is the CoC, the variety of affordable housing options, as well as the various supportive services offered through the Housing Authority. He states the event will also include breakout sessions. The event is designed for housing and social service providers. He reports that about 30 people are registered currently and that the space can accommodate up to 75 more. There will also be resource tables available so if you have information you would like to distribute, please bring it with you. Also if you would prefer to have your own table, reach out to Victor to coordinate.

Dina Ciabattoni - Dina reports that the Western PA CoC has created a link if you are working with a Veteran who needs assistance. Bryan Shannon at the Cornerstone is our SSVF worker who can assist veterans in Beaver County with a housing crisis. But if you are working with a veteran out of Beaver County or who would like to locate out of Beaver County, you can use the link to get connected with the appropriate service provider. <https://form.jotform.com/60384039547965>

Vicki Lautte (Heritage Valley Health Services) - Vicki announced a Health Fair (including free physical, bone density test, and peripheral vascular disease testing) to take place at the Family Medicine Center in Beaver Falls on 6/10 from 1-4pm. The rain date is 6/17. If interested in having a resource table or if you have questions contact Vicki at viauffer@hvhs.org or [412-749-4252](tel:412-749-4252).

AGENDA

Fair Housing Month

Tom Kaminsky

April is Fair Housing month. Tom provided an overview of the fair housing laws. He states that The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting, buying, or securing financing for any housing. The prohibitions specifically cover discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and family composition. Tom states that he

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can provide outreach and resources around the county. If your agency needs information or coloring books for kids, contact Tom and he will get them to you. Further if you have a fair housing concern contact Tom and he will guide you. He stated that if the issue is founded he will coordinate with Neighborhood Legal Services for legal representation. Tom will also be at the Youth Community Day at the mall and also providing information at Manna Soup kitchen.

PIT reports

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reports that she emailed the 2016 PIT charts out earlier this month. She asked the group if there were any questions or comments. None were voiced. Dina thanked George Beegle for his efforts to put the reports together. Dina also reported that there was an increase from last year in the total number of people in each of the 3 housing categories (shelter, transitional, permanent supportive). Dina also noted that the following numbers for seniors:

- 0 seniors over the age of 60 in emergency shelter
- 5 seniors over the age of 60 in transitional housing
- 6 seniors over the age of 60 in permanent supportive housing
- 3 seniors over the age of 60 were encountered in the outreach efforts

Carl DeChellis reported that the Housing Authority has about 1,000 units designated for folks aged 62 or older. He stated that these units have the shortest waiting lists.

Cornerstone Board Update

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina announced that the core founding board for The Cornerstone has been formed.

Carmen Wilkerson – President Maureen Morelli – Secretary Phil Little – Committee Chair
Norah Miller – Vice President Joanne Koehler – Treasurer

Dina reported that the Articles of Incorporation have been submitted to the state. She thanked everyone who completed a survey about the Cornerstone and reported that the Bayer Center is currently compiling all of the feedback to present to the board. The board is also working on pulling together the last pieces for the 501c3 application. Dina stated that she will update the Coalition on the development of the Cornerstone as its own 501c3 at each of our meetings.

SOAR update

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reminded the group that SOAR is a strategic approach to assisting individuals who are homeless with accessing SSI/SSDI benefits. Currently she is working to recruit interested folks in becoming SOAR trained. There is an online training that you complete at your own pace. Once a cohort has completed the trainings, a SOAR representative will come to Beaver County to conduct the final training in person. Ashley Mancine reported that communities who have successfully implemented SOAR developed subcommittees of those trained as well as key stakeholders. By working together this way, they extended the reach of the SOAR, worked to break down barriers, as well as provided education on the process to the general public. Ashley stated that having a representative from Social Security on the subcommittee also seemed to make the SOAR approach even more effective. Dina stated that the SOAR process can be time consuming but that it has proven to significantly increase the chances of folks being approved for Social Security benefits on their first application. Dina also reported a webinar about housing programs throughout the United States who have collaborated with SOAR trained groups and

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that they are seeing not only quicker access to benefits but more stable housing achieved as a result. The webinar can be viewed at: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/article/webinar-housing>
Dina also stated even if you don't formally assist the person through the SOAR process, that the knowledge can help you effectively guide the person through the application process. She passed around a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in becoming SOAR trained. Interested persons should let Dina know so she can pass on the training materials and track who is training. Jamie Hinkle from VBH reported that she already started the on-line trainings and has found them to be very informative. She stated that the trainings are well presented and user friendly.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina distributed the bed availability chart. See attached. She reported that Darcy Casey and Jaime Kinkead both suggest calling for updates as they expect their census to change in the coming weeks.

MaryAnn McDevitt (Women's Center) reported since chart was updated they have gotten new referrals and are close to full. For the most up to date census, call 724-775-0131.

Homeless Awareness Event in Beaver

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reports that some Penn State Students are doing a homeless awareness event in Quay Park in Beaver this weekend. According to an on-line article, starting on 4/16 they will be building a city of cardboard boxes and soliciting money. Dina will contact April Johnston to offer information about the supports available through the CoC.

UPDATE: The students did an excellent job of gaining permission from the Beaver Town Council as well as the Commissioners to hold this event. They engaged passersby in conversation and educated them on the number of homeless people in our county as well as the complexity of reasons that people experience a housing crisis. They also collected items and raised over a \$1,000 to donate to the Women's Center and Crossroads.

NEXT MEETING

May 12, 2016

SAVE THE DATES!

4.16-17 Homeless Awareness Event in Beaver put on by Penn State students

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH "Prevention is possible."

4/22 "What Parents Need to Know" workshop Beaver Library 9:30 am -11:30 am

4/26 "What Parents Need to Know" workshop Beaver Library 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

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 Beaver County Housing Forum 9 am-3 pm CCBC Library Resource Room

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

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Current Beaver County Housing Inventory Availability

April 2016

Housing Program	Type	Available Beds/ Units	Total Beds/ Units (in red)	Occupancy	Administrator				
Crescent Commons*	Permanent	0	24	100%	Housing Authority				
Friendship Homes*	Permanent	0	33	100%	Salvation Army				Call Darcy for updates
Julie's Place*	Permanent	0	12	100%	Changing the World				Call Jaimee for updates
Melrose Place*	Permanent	0	16	0%	LIFE Beaver				Under development
Safety Net*	Permanent	0	8	100%	Housing Authority				
Community Residential*	Permanent	0	41	100%	Housing Authority				
Stone Harbour*	Transitional	0	12	100%	CRS				
CRS Transitional	Transitional	1	15	93%	CRS				
Help House	Transitional	0	11	100%	Housing Authority				
Harmony House	Transitional	1	4	75%	BCCYS				CYS referrals only
BCCYS Housing	Emergency	0	26	100%	BCCYS				CYS referrals only
Crossroads Men's Shelter	Emergency	0	20	100%	Lutheran Services Society				
Women's Center	Emergency	18	24	25%	BC Women's Center				
Women's Center	Transitional	1	10	90%	BC Women's Center				
<i>*McKinney Vento Supportive Housing Programs - See reverse side of chart for HUDs disability & homeless eligibility requirements.</i>									
Subsidized or Section 8	Location	Bedroom Types							
Brightwood Manor	New Brighton	Full			Taking Applications				
Beaver Falls Plaza	Beaver Falls	Full			Taking Applications				
Scottswood Apts	Hopewell	Waiting List			Taking Applications				
Valley Terrace	Aliquippa	2BR,3BR coming up			Taking Applications				
ValleyView	New Brighton	Waiting List			Taking Applications				
Spring Run	Monaca				Taking Applications				
Towne Tower	Aliquippa	very small wait list			Taking Applications				
Housing Authority	FULL								
Midcrest	Midland	Family			Short waiting list				
Rocco Bovallino	Freedom	Family			Short waiting list				
Corak Towers	Midland	Seniors			Very short waiting list				
George Werner Apts.	Freedom	Seniors			Very short waiting list				
<i>*Applications accepted for all HACB sites.</i>									

Description of Beaver County McKinney Vento Supportive Housing Programs

Community Assisted Residential Living (C.A.R.L.) is a tenant based rental model administered by the Housing Authority of beaver County in which rental assistance vouchers in the form of Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) will be issued to the chronically homeless or homeless households with an illness or a disability. The Program focuses on households with the longest length of homelessness, homeless households with children, veterans, and victims of domestic violence. It is a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program within Beaver County's Continuum of Care. Individuals and families live in scattered sites. The program is not funded to provide case management services.

Contact information: Renee Speaker hacbspeaker@comcast.net

Crescent Commons is a permanent supportive housing program administered by the Housing Authority of Beaver County which provides housing vouchers to participants who are chronically homeless with disabilities and who have exhausted all other housing options. At full operational capacity the program should house approximately 31 people. Individuals and families live in scattered sites. The program is not funded to provide case management services. Contact information: Darcy Casey darcycasey@att.net

Friendship Homes is a 33 bed permanent supportive housing program administered by the Salvation Army for both chronically homeless and non-chronically homeless individuals and families and with disabilities. There is a 5 bed single site for homeless men in New Brighton. The other program participants are housed in apartments at College Hill Apartments in Beaver Falls. The program is funded to provide moderate case management services. Contact information: Jaime Kinkead jaime.kinkead@use.salvationarmy.org

Julie's Place provides permanent supportive housing to 12 chronically homeless individuals and families with mental illness, physical and health issues, and substance abuse issues. The program is administered by Changing the World, Inc. Individuals and families live in scattered sites. The program is not funded to provide case management services. Contact information: Linda Roy changingtheworld@hotmail.com

Melrose Place LIFE Beaver County's permanent supportive housing program which will serve approximately 16 disabled homeless senior persons, prioritizing chronically homeless adults and veterans from the surrounding Beaver County community. The program participants will be housed in scattered sites located in the Beaver County community, with a provision for rental assistance and moderate case management services. The program is currently under development.

Safety Net is a TBRA program administered by the Housing Authority of Beaver County which provides rental assistance to adult individuals with chronic mental illness who are difficult to place in current permanent housing. This project is considered housing of last resort, since the target population is Chronically Homeless (CH) adults who come from the streets and traditionally fall through the cracks. Individuals live in scattered sites. The program is not funded to provide case management services. Contact information: Lisa Kelleher hacbk@comcast.net

Stone Harbour is a transitional supportive housing program administered by Cornerstone Recovery and Supports (CRS) which provides supportive housing for 12 chronically homeless individuals struggling with co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse, as well as those with legal histories. Individuals live in a single site in Freedom PA. The program is funded to provide on-site case management services.

Contact information: Sally Ricci sricci@crscares.org