



# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

June 8, 2016  
Meeting Minutes

## Welcome and Introductions

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina called the meeting to order at: 1:36pm. She introduced: Jeremy Flint (Project Star); Nancy Honse (CCBC Student Recruiter); Lisa Washington (Brightwood Manor Apartments); Yvonne Bell (Franklin Center).

## Review of May Meeting Minutes

**Dina Ciabattoni**

No corrections noted.

*Archived Coalition Meeting Minutes are available at [www.bccan.org](http://www.bccan.org) and [www.bchmis.info](http://www.bchmis.info)*

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

## JUNE IS LGBT PRIDE MONTH!

"LGBT individuals deserve to know their country stands beside them. That is why my Administration is striving to better understand the needs of LGBT adults and to provide affordable, welcoming, and supportive housing to aging LGBT Americans". - **President Obama**

---

---

## OPEN DISCUSSION

**Herta Madder** (Beaver County Behavioral Health) shared the dates, times, locations of the public hearings for the Human Services Block Grant:

6/27/2016 from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm at The Center at the Beaver Valley Mall

6/30/2016 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm at the Mental Health Association in Rochester

There is also a link to provide feedback through survey monkey if you are unable to attend the hearings. The county values your input. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSBG1617>

**Carl DeChellis** (Housing Authority of the County of Beaver) announced that this is his last Coalition Meeting as he is retiring. His last day will be July 8<sup>th</sup>. Carl expressed his thanks to all of you for your help and cooperation over the years of working with you. Carl wishes all of you the best of luck. Brian Yaworsky will become the next Executive Director. He will only be the 4<sup>th</sup> Exec. Director in the 76 years of HACB operation. Dina thanked Carl, for his leadership and the critical role he has played in the CoC. Dina also shared that under Carl's leadership, the HACB became one of a very few nationally High Performing Housing Authority's for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Congratulations HACB!!

**Rebecca Salopek** (HACB) shared the following updates:

- The free summer lunch program just started this past Monday under the leadership of the YMCA. Salvation Army lost their food vendor and Beaver Falls had to reorganize. Breakfast and lunch will continue to be served at the Salvation Army Beaver Falls office. If you have children/youth who don't live in public housing but need somewhere to eat, you can send them to any housing site, TRAILS, or the Salvation Army. See attached schedule. She reports that they are planning for all of the summer lunch program sites to also offer breakfast next year.
- Providing Angels - a group of women who get together over dinner and collect donations to assist others. They also ask the restaurant if they wish to donate. Representatives would

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

like to speak to the Coalition and have also had several people come to speak to their group. Rebecca will coordinate this.

**Rosalyn Johnson** (Franklin Center) has updated list for summer lunch program sites. See attached.

**Tannis Fox** (Table of Grace) shared about the success of their Memorial Day picnic in the park by the Beaver Falls Library. Tom Kaminsky noted that the event seemed to draw a nice crowd. Tanis will send flyers for similar future events – including one for 4<sup>th</sup> of July. She reports she is also trying to get a mobile summer feeding program in North Sewickley. Rebecca suggested contacting YMCA.

**Amy Frank** (Harmony House) asked for assistance regarding changes to the food stamp program and the impact it has had on several of their clients. The group suggested that she contact Gianna Wright at the Cornerstone for guidance on this issue.

**Valerie McKelvy** (Franklin Center BC) shared an Invitation to their open house next Wednesday 6/15/2016 from 10am – 2pm. See attached. The Franklin Center would like to collaborate with other agencies.

**Darcy Casey** (The Cornerstone) announced:

- Beaver County will have cooling centers this summer at the following locations: New Brighton Municipal Building, Franklin Center in Aliquippa, and The Cornerstone in Beaver Falls. The Centers will be open when the weather "feels like" 88<sup>o</sup> or higher. The Centers will be open from 9am - 4pm. We could use more cooling centers throughout the county so contact Darcy if you are interested or have a suggestion. The cooling centers have water and snacks available, but mostly it is a cool place to rest. At The Cornerstone and Franklin Center, individuals will also have access to services. In New Brighton, they have games and magazines available and they will call The Cornerstone if someone needs further assistance.
- The Board of Realtors donated 25 backpacks filled with toiletries/snacks for women. If you are working with someone who has needs, please contact The Cornerstone. They also made a donation of funds for the cooling centers. In the past, they have also donated to the Christmas dinner. If you have a need as an agency that is similar - Darcy or Rebecca can provide contact information.

**Dina Ciabattoni** (CoC Coordinator) has an opportunity to attend a session sponsored by HVHS to talk about community health needs. She asked the Coalition for any ideas/concerns regarding our clients' access to health care that she could bring to the meeting. The following issues were identified: transportation, funding for medication & co-pays, language barriers for non- English speaking individuals, mobile medical unit to do basic screenings. If you have other ideas or suggestions, please email Dina.

**Elizabeth Focer-Repman** (Columbia Gas) announced that Columbia Gas moved their operations from Rochester to Monaca. Her cell and email have stayed the same. See attached for updated address and office phone.

**Charlie Crawford** (Red Cross)

- Asked if anyone was familiar with The Blast (a foundation who does housing). She noted the Red Cross is getting referrals from youth who were at the Blast and are now in need of assistance. Joanne Koehler from the MHA reported the Blast is no longer operating in PA.

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

Charlie noted these youth were receiving disability checks which were never placed in a Rep Payee Program and the foundation staff took their funds. There were 2 young adults living there, now requesting assistance. Both are temporarily at Smith's Personal Care Home. It was suggested they be referred for case management (BCM). Joanne reported one has been admitted to the Rep Payee Program at the MHA.

- Expressed concerns about individuals who are being released from jail, unable to find housing, and in need of food assistance but are denied by the Salvation Army food bank due to not having an address. She asked if the Coalition could do anything to address this. It was suggested that if an agency who has met with the individual could document contact and need for the individual, maybe that would be of assistance. Also suggested was referring the person to the Cornerstone or Jaime Kinkead for gift cards.

---

---

## AGENDA

### **CCBC Student Recruitment Opportunities**

**Nancy Honse**

CCBC offers over 70 programs of study including many certificate programs which can be as short as one semester. Some certificate programs include medical, technology, and computer sciences. For folks who are unemployed, CCBC offers the first semester free. The person would only have to pay for books. The person will have to produce proof of unemployment. The person can take up to 5 classes which could make them employable depending on the combination of classes taken. For people facing barriers because they do not have their GED or diploma, CCBC offers a post-secondary diploma (CSSD) as a substitute which involves taking 30 college credits and enables the person to bypass the GED test. For those unable to access financial aid due to not having a HS diploma or GED, they must pay for first 6 credits on their own and then can qualify. Current cost per credit cost is \$200 and it will be going up to \$211 per credit on July 1. CCBC is working to have students who are dually enrolled in HS/College credits to be able to apply for PELL grants – this is currently only being offered on a trial basis. Nancy can assist those students with criminal backgrounds to still qualify for financial aid. See attached for further information and also Nancy's contact information. Nancy is also willing to come to your agencies to do presentations.

Carl DeChellis shared that the HACB offers two scholarships to CCBC – one to a graduating senior and one to a non-traditional student.

### **2015 CoC Competition Debriefing**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina handed out the FY 2015 CoC Competition Debriefing score sheet. She noted that we did really well in HMIS and Accessing Mainstream Benefits. She also noted that we scored low in CoC Engagement and System Performance. She stated that the debriefing did not provide much more detail than the score. Upon her review of the application and the debriefing webinar, Dina cannot see why we scored low in those categories, so she placed several questions in to HUD to see why. She will provide updates to the Coalition as she receives them. Her intent is to find out where/how we can improve this year's application. Someone asked what System Performance means and Dina reported that HUD has 7 different measures of how the CoC is doing as a whole in its efforts to end homelessness. Some examples include length of homelessness, maintained or improved income, transitioned to permanent housing and maintained for 2 yrs etc.

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

## 2016 CoC Program Competition Update

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reports that the Notice of Funding Availability should come out at the end of June. What we know at this time is that HUD will be focusing on System Performance a good deal in this funding cycle. Dina stated that although we scored low in that category this year, that we are working well as a system and that HMIS is strong which is how we will track system performance. So she believes that the CoC is in a good position to show HUD we are performing well as a coordinated system.

Programs who will be applying should start gathering their funding matches.

## Cornerstone Board Update

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina announced that the Board has determined the date for the Cornerstone fundraiser to help offset its start-up costs. The date is 8/27/2016 and it will be a roast of Carl DeChellis. Please save the date while the board works out the details.

Lisa reported that Bayer submitted the draft 501 c-3 document to the Board for their final review prior to submission.

## Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina handed out the Bed Availability chart and reminded everyone to call the programs if they are looking for a bed as the census can change from day to day.

**NEXT MEETING**  
**July 14, 2106**

## SAVE THE DATES!

### 6.10.16 *Community Health Fair*

1-4pm Family Medicine Center (1125 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Beaver Falls) *Rain date: June 17<sup>th</sup>*

### 6.10.16 *Human Trafficking & Addiction: Keeping It Real & Ending the Game*

9am-4pm at CCBC Library Resource Center, Rm 9-103 (1 Campus Drive Monaca, PA 15061)

Registration can be sent to: JP Counseling PO Box 213 Beaver, PA 15009

6.29.16 Last day for *BCBH Human Service Plan Survey* <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSBG1617>

7.7.16 *Free Prepared Renter Program (PREP) Train the Trainer session* 1-3:30 at BCRC (131

Pleasant Drive Aliquippa PA 15001) Email registration to Bonnie Boguszewski at [bsmith@bcrc.net](mailto:bsmith@bcrc.net)

8.27.16 *The Cornerstone Start Up Costs Fundraiser - Carl DeChellis Roast!!*

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.