



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

August 11, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm. She welcomed: Shelby Black-Couch – Mother Theresa Hospice, Trish Campbell – Progressive Home Health Services, Sandi Hutchison – Crossroads Men's Shelter, Marlene Landrum- Community Development Program Beaver County, Joe Oliphant – The Challenge Program.

Review of July Meeting Minutes

Dina Ciabattoni

There were no changes/corrections for the July minutes.

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

Herta Madder – Beaver County Behavioral Health was awarded the following grant: Cooperative Agreements to Benefit the Homeless. Purpose: To enhance and/or expand the infrastructure and mental health and substance use treatment services of local government's grants and increase capacity to provide accessible, effective, comprehensive, coordinated, integrated, and evidence-based treatment services; permanent supportive housing; peer supports; and other critical services for:

- Individuals who experience chronic homelessness and have substance use disorders (SUDs), serious mental illness (SMI), serious emotional disturbance (SED), or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders (CODs); and/or
- Veterans who experience homelessness or chronic homelessness and have SUD, SMI, or COD; and/or
- Families who experience homelessness with one or more family members that have SUD, SMI, or COD; and/or
- Youth who experience homelessness and have SUD, SMI, SED, or COD.

Funder: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Award: \$800,000 per year for up to 3 years

Funding restrictions include, but are **not** limited to: providing services to incarcerated populations, paying for the purchase/construction of any building/structure to house any part of the program, pay for housing other than residential mental health and/or substance abuse treatment, provide inpatient treatment or hospital-based detoxification services. More to follow as the program gets underway.

Victor Colonna BCCAN is in process of coordinating two trainings for this fall - Adult Protective Services with PA LINK ADRC and an Ethics Training in November (that will count toward LSW ethics CEUs). Look for the email blast to come in the next 2 weeks. If BCCAN does not have your email address - email Victor at Vcolonna@bccan.org

Darcy Casey/Jaime Kinkaid CoC funded PSH providers – Reminded everyone that there are dedicated beds in our CoC for chronically homeless HHs. And as CoC funded programs they do prioritize chronically homeless HHs. They reviewed the chronically homeless definition and stressed 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.



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importance of documenting episodes of homelessness as proof of chronically homeless status and therefore eligibility for these beds. They handed out an example of what this documentation could look like. See blue attachment. They also clarified that if a person is homeless for a portion of the month then that person is considered homeless for that month. Also, if the person is incarcerated, they are not considered homeless. The only time you can be "homeless" while in an institution or upon exiting an institution, the person must have been homeless upon entry into the institution and not be institutionalized more than 90 days. Dina stated that although these guidelines seem burdensome it is about making sure that the most people most in need are being served first. And she reminded folks because these requirements can be confusing to that any eligibility questions can be directed to the Cornerstone.

Elizabeth Focer-Repman Columbia Gas – Announced the Be Utility Wise conference on 9/24/16 at Meadows Casino. It is a free conference that focuses on consumer awareness, utility education, and life management skills. See attached save the date. Elizabeth also mentioned that her new office phone is 724-773-5338. Her cell phone and email address have not changed.

Joe Oliphant The Challenge Program – Joe explained that The Challenge Program is a nonprofit that works with schools. They give cash assistance to students at the end of the year for achieving success in specific areas.

Brian Yaworsky HACB – Reported that HUD is partnering with Comcast to provide broadband service to low income homes. Eligible households will reside in assisted housing whether site based or voucher based and they will receive broadband connection for \$9.95 with speeds of 10MB to download and 1MB to upload. There is no connection fee. Households will also have the option to purchase a refurbished computer for \$149.99. HACB will market this program to their residents in public housing and Sect 8 voucher program. Eligible HH cannot have enrolled in any other Comcast product within the past 90 days and cannot have any Comcast debt within the past 12 months. Any debt beyond past 12 months will be forgiven. Brian will investigate whether these programs will extend to PSH. Frank Piroli will be part of a keynote panel at the Be Utility Wise conference to promote this program.

Rosalyn Johnson Franklin Center – Ros announced the Aliquippa Art Music Festival 9/3/16. Events will occur Thurs/Fri/Sat. The parade starts 10 am on Saturday and the first performance starts at 11am in the city parking lot. The art reception is Thursday at Broad Street Cafe. See franklincenter.org for details.

Rebecca Salopek HACB -- Asked about resources for book bags for local students - Beaver Falls Elem school was able to give bags to all students last year but not this year. Rebecca has a group in Midcrest Homes who could use book bags. If you have any suggestions or ideas, call Rebecca at 724-912-3709.

Gianna Wright Urban League of Pgh – Gianna expressed appreciation for meetings like this – she was able to assist a client and his children get back to Birmingham, Alabama where they call home. Thank you to coalition members for all of the assistance and support you provided!

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AGENDA

Mother Teresa Hospice

Dina introduced Shelby and stated that participants in the CoC programs are increasingly presenting with significant physical health issues. Shelby reported that their goal is to promote comfort and quality of life at end of life stages. MTH serves Beaver County and some parts of NW Allegheny Co. They provide patient/family centered services. There are two components to MTH. Palliative Care consists of comfort while receiving curative aggressive treatment and can be received at any time throughout the lifetime. Common diagnoses for palliative care include: cancer, COPD, liver disease, etc. She stressed it is NOT just for cancer patients. Hospice Care focuses on comfort with a prognosis of 6 months or less to live. Most commercial HMOs will have co-pays. For those on Medicare/Medicaid hospice includes:

- Nursing visits - generally 2-3x week for an hour.
- Aide 1-3x week for bathing and bed linen change.
- Social Workers - support, life review and reminiscence therapy, help resolve issues with family members.
- Connect to supportive services and resources (i.e. Meals on wheels, transportation assistance, AAA Options program),
- Chaplain - Sister Mary Katherine - will meet with anyone regardless of faith.
- Volunteer program - spend time with patients as a companion.
- They also provide durable medical equipment. Up to 5 days of out of home respite - in skilled nursing.

Shelby states that they are currently looking for volunteers. There are no time requirements and they try to align volunteers with patients who are located in their geographic area. Volunteers do not provide physical care. Volunteers chat, play cards, watch tv, and are a presence with the person especially when the caregiver needs respite and/or is running errands etc. If someone wants to be a volunteer, what is the vetting process? See attached handout.

Hospice happens anywhere the patient calls home. Some agencies have inpatient hospice units for individuals whose symptoms and pain cannot be managed in their home. They have contracts with skilled nursing facilities in Beaver County with the Hospice Staff as a support.

It was asked if MTH does hospice for children? Shelby stated not at this time.

2016 Permanent Housing Bonus

Dina Ciabattoni

NOFA and local competition details can be found at: www.bchmis.info

The permanent housing bonus is set at \$105,000. No eligible new project ideas have been submitted so the deadline has been extended to 8/8/16. The full application in e-snaps will have to be completed with all required attachments by the deadline. Dina said if you have an idea to contact her immediately she can provide technical assistance with the application. Since the deadline extension was announced one new project idea was presented and they are trying to pull the application together by the deadline. The PHB depends on the overall CoC score so it is not guaranteed to be funded. Dina will make available a draft of the full CoC Application prior to submission.

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Crossroads Shelter update

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina sent an email regarding the City of Beaver Falls closing Crossroads men shelter due to a zoning issue. Crossroads has until 8/29 to close. The board is requesting an extension and hopes to have the formal request in to the city by the end of the week. They are requesting the extension be granted through March to ensure the guests have a place during the cold months and to buy time to secure a new location. Now that Crossroads is its own 501C3 the Board has the ability to secure new property. They have identified a property and are exploring if it is available for purchase. Funding is in place to purchase a new location. In the interim, Sandy reports most of the guests have some place to go upon closure but 2 have no plan. The shelter is still accepting referrals (as they hope BF will grant the extension) while making the men very aware that they may have to be out by 8/29. Dina thanked those who have written letters of support to the City. She mentioned that Commissioner Egley is an advocate of the shelter as well.

Someone asked if we have a sense as to whether or not BF does not want the shelter or are they trying to beef up their compliance with their zoning? Dina responded she can't know fully what the City's intentions are but it is probably a little of both. Because the shelter is attached to a church, it muddies the waters a bit with regard to zoning. BF is also working on economic development which could potentially be inhibited by individuals staying at the shelter who may be hanging out on the streets since it is not a 24 hour shelter. The Board is working on identifying a space that guests can use during the day to meet with advocates, make phone calls, rest etc. Thank you to the Beaver Falls Library who has opened their doors to the Crossroads quests during their open hours. They have been a very strong supporter for the Shelter!!!

UPDATE: The City of Beaver Falls has indicated that they are considering granting an extension through April 2017. Details need to be worked out and the decision will be voted on during the week of 8/29.

Cornerstone Board Update

Dina Ciabattoni

The 501C3 application has been submitted and they have set up a bank account. They are in the midst of planning the fundraiser for start-up costs The Roast of Carl DeChellis is on 8/27. Tickets are still available and the board is still accepting donations for the Silent Auction.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

See attached. Always call for updates as the census can change daily. With the Coordinated Entry position being filled soon (interviews are scheduled for next week), the need for real time data in HMIS will increase. This will be something HMIS and SHPs will be working on throughout the year.

**NEXT MEETING
September 8, 2016**

(Save the Dates continued below)

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 **Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County****SAVE THE DATES!**

8.20.16 Family Extravaganza Back to School 11-1 at YMCA in New Brighton

8.27.16 The Cornerstone Start Up Costs Fundraiser – Carl DeChellis Roast!!
5:30-9:00pm Center at the Mall; Beaver Valley Mall Sponsorships & tickets (\$40) available at the Cornerstone

8.30.16 BC Association for the Blind Free Mission Vision Clinic -- Free vision screening and glasses
9:00 am -3:00 pm at 616 4th Avenue Beaver Falls. Call 724.506.6477 to make an appointment

8.31.16 Deadline for Senator Vogel's 2016 Photo Contest

9.9.16 Senator Vogel's 55+ Senior Expo from 10am-1pm at CCBC
Exhibitor registration due no later than 8/12

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There is no need to add all your contact information if you are already receiving Coalition emails.
Just sign in with your name.

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Darcy Chrey	The Cornerstone	
Ashley Manlove	SDHR	
Dana Buccini	Beccys	
Tom Kerminsky	The Cornerstone	
Bobby Catley	Heritage Valley	rcatley@hrhs.org
Sally Ricci	Stone Harbour	
Rebecca Snyder	GRS	
John Mils	Cornerstone	
Sharon Grier	HABC	
Kevin Hane	Beccys	
Judith Stinson	Crossroads	
John Linnick	McKinn	
John Kealey	Senata Vogel	
Marlene Landrum	VA Community Development	→
Joe Oliphant	The Challenge Program	oliphantj@tcpc.org

As you have signed in, please do so
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 Just sign in with your name.

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