

Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

October 13, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina called the meeting to order at: 1:35pm. She welcomed: Josh Edenhofer (CYS); Jessica Duca (HVHS, Family Practice); Dave McDonovan (Intern at Moffet House); Mary Kay DeNome (St. Vincent DePaul); and Paul (St. Vincent DePaul).

Review of September 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.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

“I call on all Americans to speak out against domestic violence and support local efforts to assist victims of these crimes in finding the help and healing they need.” – Pres. Obama on National Domestic Violence Month

OPEN DISCUSSION

Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator) reminded everyone that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month - see Save the Dates on the agenda for details on tonight's awareness event hosted by the Women's Center.

Lisa Smith (Duquesne Light CAP) reported Dollar Energy Fund opened 10/3. She reminded everyone that it is only available to people whose service is shut off or who have a termination notice. If someone has a shut off notice and owes over \$500, Dollar Energy can cover up to \$500 and then the customer must pay difference. LIHEAP opens 11/1. Customers must apply for LIHEAP and Crisis before they can apply for Dollar Energy. All DL Managers are able to complete Dollar Energy applications. Since these programs have specific guidelines and eligibility criteria, contact Lisa at The Cornerstone (724-846-6400) with any questions.

LIHEAP offers grants up to \$1000 and the minimum is \$200. It can be split between utilities.

CAP offers up to \$500

Dollar Energy offers up to \$500

Gianna Wright (Urban League of PGH) can assist with SNAP and LIHEAP applications. If you received LIHEAP last year, you will receive letter to reapply with a code. You can then call Gianna at The Cornerstone (724.846.6400, ext. 31) and she will complete the application process over the phone.

Rebecca Salopek (HACB and CARE Outreach Coordinator for Christian Assembly) passed out packets with details regarding the 23rd Annual Christmas Dinner to be held at the Beaver Falls High School. No registration is necessary and all are welcomed to attend. Rebecca asked that you please share this information with as many people as possible. The entire dinner is supported by donations. Rebecca has a \$500 budget from Christian Assembly and the cost is actually about \$30,000 so she welcomes volunteers and donations. Call 724.846.3751 if interested in donating or volunteering.

Darcy Casey coordinates the resource table at the Christmas dinner. She asked that you please provide any of your program/service brochures, pamphlets, etc to be shared at the dinner. Darcy can be reached at

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724.846.6400, ext 13. She will come and pick up your materials if you call to arrange it. You can also bring it to the November and December Coalition meetings. Darcy also asked for any promotional give aways such as agency pens, bags, etc.

Sue Thorn (PA Interfaith Impact Network) announced “A Deep Dive into Structural Racism & Economic Inequity” presentation on 10/27/16 from 12:30-2:30 at The Fez. She states the presentation will look at racism and the impact it has on housing, education, etc. Cost is \$25 and RSVP is required by 10/24. See attached flyer.

Charlene Crawford (Red Cross) passed out flyers regarding the free smoke detector installation program. She reports that Beaver Falls will be the next target area on 11/19 from 9am – 1pm. Currently volunteers are placing door hangers to inform folks of the service which includes volunteers conducting fire safety visits to install free smoke alarms and to help families develop fire escape plans. She stated that the volunteers will go to both houses and apartments – both owned and rented. If you know of someone in need of this service and they do not reside in Beaver County they can still call 724.431.6368 to get connected with their local Red Cross for assistance.

Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator) provided information on two job openings. Melrose Place through Life Beaver is hiring a Support Services Coordinator for their permanent supportive housing program for homeless seniors (62+). They plan to begin admitting seniors in a couple months. The Support Services Coordinator is a part time position and she/he will help coordinate social services for homeless seniors. More information can be found at www.indeed.com – search in Beaver County and then for Melrose Place.

Also the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is hiring a Child Nutrition Outreach Coordinator to coordinate the Summer Food Service and School Breakfast programs. The position covers Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence Counties. Go to the Greater Pgh Community Food bank website and scroll down to the 'jobs' link.

Dina also announced the Patterson Foundation grant applications are due 11/1. Applicants must be a faith based organization to apply. See save the date below for the link to the application and eligibility info. Historically this grant has supported the Crossroads Men's Shelter, the bus ticket program, and TRAILS identification program.

Elisia Majors (Beaver County Crisis) announced that Crisis transitioned from HVHS to UPMC. Their new number is: 724-371-8060. The old number remains active and currently has a forward in place, but this will be ending soon. Please educate anyone you refer to Crisis to utilize the new number. She also asked that you update your websites and voicemail if you provide the crisis number in those places. She reviewed services offered at BC Crisis including a 24 hr crisis line, walk-in clinic, and mobile services. If you have any questions please call to ask.

Critical Incident Stress Management is another service offered through a collective of various professionals who have been specifically trained to provide CISM/DCORT response. It is a free service offered to anyone who has experienced a traumatic event. The CISM team can respond to a variety of settings and groups: including residential settings, First Responders (Fire Depts, EMS staff, etc) businesses, schools, etc. Rebecca Salopek stated that she has utilized the CISM team through the housing authority and personal tragedies. She praised their services and stressed that they can respond to events that are large or small scale.

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Joanne Koehler (Mental Health Association) reminded us that MHA operates a Warmline which is staffed by persons with lived experience. It operates daily from 6 pm-9 pm every day. The Warmline number is 724-775-9507.

Victor Colonna (BCCAN) reminded the group of two Save the Dates. First he mentioned the upcoming training on Adult Protective Services (for adults aged 18-59) on 10/25 9-12 at CCBC. And “Ethics in the Helping Profession” training will be on 11/29 from 9-12 at CCBC and it will cover the ethics requirements for licensure. CEU's will be free for this training.

Also he reported that the BCCAN website lists all of the social services agencies they are aware of. If your agency is not listed, he asked that you please add your information to the website. When searching for a service, you can search either by service or by agency. He also mentioned that the website has a calendar for upcoming events around the county. There is also a Job Postings tab on which you can post hiring opportunities at your agency.

Angela Abbiati (Head Start) reports that they have a few openings for families in the Ambridge Area. They are also looking for a Community Outreach and Transportation Supervisor. She states that they are currently serving 533 families and have 15 transportation routes throughout the county. The job posting can be found on the Private Industry Council of Westmoreland County or like them on FB

Dan Neff (Southwood Family Based) passed out flyers explaining their services. See attached. Feel free to call or email with any further questions. Dan can be reached at: daniel.neff@yfcs.com

Ros Johnson (Coordinated Entry) answered a question about eligibility for the BC On-Call Apartments. She stated that individuals should attempt to secure shelter at The Women's Center or Crossroads before reaching out to BC On-Call. If they are not able to stay in one of those places and there are no people displaced from natural disaster in need of the apartments, then BC On-Call will review them for admission.

Mary Kay Denome (St. Vincent DePaul) reports that she gets a lot of calls from individuals who are homeless, reporting they have been denied assistance from other agencies and requesting funds for hotels. They generally refer these folks to the men's shelter or women's center, but oftentimes the people respond they have tried all of those resources. Ros suggested in those cases, they should refer the person to the Franklin Center for information and referral. Mary Kay stated that they accept referrals for people who are in need of food (they can give vouchers for Aldi's, Save a Lot and Foodland). They also assist with rent, utility bills, bus passes, funeral expenses, and clothing. They must do a home visit and review proof of income before they can provide assistance. If you have a client you are working with and want to refer to St. Vincent DePaul, please assist the client with the call and ensure they are calling the parish where they are. If you are unsure of which parish to call, call the Pittsburgh number to find out.

Rebecca Snyder (CRS) announced a Career Link Job Fair at the mall on 10/27 from 10 am to 2 pm.

AGENDA

CoC Application

Dina Ciabattoni

The CoC Application to HUD was submitted on 9/13/16. BC requested just shy of \$1.6 million to support our current HUD funded homeless residential programs and a new permanent housing project. The new project will be funded through the permanent housing bonus if our overall application scored is high enough. We do not know exactly when HUD will make the funding announcements nor do we know if they will announce the tiered funding in separate announcements as they did last year. We can

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expect it will be several months before we hear anything. Dina promised to let the Coalition know once we hear anything from HUD on this funding request.

Coordinated Entry

Ros Johnson/Dina Ciabattoni

Ros Johnson began her role as the Housing Facilitator for Coordinated Entry on 10/3. She will receive referrals through the HMIS Services Only forms. These forms have been updated to indicate if the person needs coordinated entry services to secure housing. Ros will receive these forms and offer assistance. The goal is to house folks within 10 days of initial contact. Ros reports that she is looking back over the last 30 days of Services Only forms. And she is meeting with various agencies and service coordinators to learn more about their services and eligibility criteria and to inform them of the capacity of her new role. This role is designed to provide assistance to the more complex households who remain homeless even after receiving some form of service as indicated in HMIS – to catch those households that would otherwise fall through the cracks. *Please continue to refer homeless households to the Cornerstone as you always have.*

Ros can be reached through the main line at The Cornerstone (724.846.6400) or through email at Johnsonrosalyn359@gmail.com

Dina also clarified that Ros is no longer working for the Franklin Center, HAP, or for BC On-Call. These programs can still be accessed through the Franklin Center at The Cornerstone (724.846.6400 ext, 34). Dina will inform the Coalition once the position has been permanently filled.

HMIS Refresh & New Services Only Form

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reported that the Homeless Management Information System is the main tool we use to report to HUD. In fact, most of the HUD required reports will only accept information that has come from the HMIS system. Because of this vital role, we are looking to enhance HMIS both through tightening of processes and by increasing the user base. The first step is a meeting for all of the current HMIS users which will take place on 11/3 from 9-12 pm in the CYS conference room. This meeting will review the required data entry, common errors, and *some exciting updates* to make things easier and more efficient for users. In the coming months, we will focus on those agencies who are not current HMIS users but who are working directly with homeless households. We will work to make them HMIS users and will review the protocols and processes for entering this data. The goal is to get the most accurate data to reflect homelessness and our system's response to homelessness in our CoC.

Outreach Sub-Committee

Renee Speaker

Renee mentioned that the CoC would like to put together an Outreach Sub-Committee in order to provide more consistent street outreach in Beaver County. The Outreach Sub-Committee will meet regularly and divide the county into regions for regular outreach. You can volunteer by contacting Renee Speaker at The Cornerstone. She hopes to hold the first meeting in November. She also mentioned that the PIT survey is coming up in January and she is looking for volunteers and donations (toiletries, blankets, clothing etc to hand out during outreach). Renee will begin accepting donations in January. She also stressed if you are familiar with the rural areas to please sign up to help educate sub-committee members even if you don't want to actually do the outreach.

Kaitlin from TRAILS Ministries reported that they collect donations (clothes, hats, gloves, hotel sized hygiene products) year round and they may be able to assist with the PIT donations.

Crossroads Shelter Update

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina introduced Sandi Hutchinson as the newly hired Coordinator/ Case Manager for Crossroads. Sandi reports the shelter is currently full but there is frequent turnover. Dina states that the shelter is fully

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staffed but still in need of volunteers from 7pm to midnight (partial shifts will be considered as well). Volunteers can be male or female. If interested in volunteering or making a referral contact Sandi at 724-714-6203 or cs.shelter.aa.2016@gmail.com

Cornerstone Board Update

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina announced that The Cornerstone finally received its 501C3 status. She reports that the Board is working on next steps now that this milestone has been reached. Dina did stress that it will still be several months for the full transition to take place. She thanked everyone for their leadership and efforts in reaching this significant step!

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

See the attached Housing Inventory Chart. Dina highlighted that Brightwood Manor is anticipating additional openings. Spring Run is also expecting openings, and the wait list is 6-8 months. Crescent Commons has 5 open slots and is anticipating more. And as always – call the programs for up to date information because the status could change from day to day.

NEXT MEETING
November 10, 2106

SAVE THE DATES!

10.13.16 Purple in the Park Women's Center DV Awareness Event from 6pm-8pm at Townsend Park - 3rd Ave, New Brighton

10.14.16 Senator Jim Marshall's Senior Expo 9am-12 at Community Life Center (118 McMillen Ave, BF)

10.20.16 Community Family Meal Nights at Class Academy 5pm-7pm. Also on: 11/17; 12/15; 1/20/17

10.25.16 BCCAN/PA Link Adult Protective Services Training from 9 am-12 pm at the CCBC Library Resource Room To register email Victor Colonna at vcolonna@bccan.org

11.1.16 Paterson Christian Ministry Fund grant due

Application info can be found at: <http://www.beavercountyfoundation.com/>

Under Grant Applications on the right hand side, click on Patterson Christian Ministry Fund

12.25.16 Free Christmas Dinner at Beaver Falls High School from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm
Sponsored by Christian Assembly CARE Outreach Ministry (724.846.3751)

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Please Sign-in - include your email address if you're new

Charlie Crawford
Sandi Hutchinson

Angela Abbati

Tanaya Cventow

DAVE McDONOUGH

Ellisa Mayors

Bobel Spaker

Jessica Duca

Bryan Shannon

Kaitlin Rhodes

Mary Kay DeDome

JOSHUA EDENHOFER

Rosalyn Johnson

Rebecca Snyder

Mary Gutowski

SUE THORN

Tim Chevalier

Marsha Malachuk

Bobby Cutley HVHS

Blessa Sarpin

Dina Keller

Koultah

Jeremy Flint

LISA SIGNORIS

Gianna Wright

Joanne Koehler

Mitch Johnson

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Dina Ciabattani

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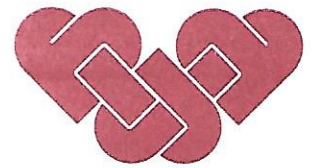
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Christian Assembly

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Empowering... Embracing
Engaging

September 30, 2016

Dear Business Owner and Friend:

As many of you know, our church has hosted a **Free Christmas Day Dinner/Outreach** on **December 25** for the last twenty-two years. We are now planning *our twenty-third (23rd)* annual dinner/outreach and would sincerely appreciate your help. *Firstly, it is important that you know we continue to remain steadfast in our quest to maintain the original vision of nearly 23 years ago...to provide a warm homemade meal to anyone who is alone or hungry; to distribute hats, gloves scarves and socks to all, bringing warmth from the harshness of winter; to promote a deep sense of camaraderie amongst all who enter enjoying a Haven of Rest and much needed joy, and most of all...to focus on the true Reason for the Season...the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. To further this ministry, a time of beautifully illustrated story telling of "The Birth of Jesus" by Katherine Sully, will be available throughout the day. Each family will receive a copy of this book to cherish for years to come.*

As in the past, hundreds of toys will be available for children along with Polaroid pictures with Santa Claus and his elves. We will continue to provide vast resource tables filled with community and social service helps as well as Bibles, devotionals, tracts, local church information and religious jewelry. These resources have proven to be of great importance to our guests as they deal with a difficult economy and daily personal struggles. Simple everyday items such as hygiene products, *which are very costly*, will also be available for our guests.

We are asking for your help in the following ways. Enclosed you will find a copy of the flier. This year we are asking businesses in the local area to please display the enclosed flier in their window. You can also volunteer to serve, greet, or minister in some way to the guests. In addition, if anyone is interested in donating **new items** (unwrapped) of **gloves, scarves, hats, socks, toys and hygiene products** as well as **monetary gifts**, please call the church office at **724.846.3751**. Your donations can be mailed or dropped off at the address on the top of this letter.

Our gracious God continues to have His Hand on us as the host for the sixth year at **Beaver Falls High School**. May God continue to bless the Beaver Falls School Board and Administration for their kindness and servitude for others.

Please note that any donations received over and above the cost of the dinner will be used for ministry outreach at the discretion of the CARE Ministries. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request as we together share *our 23rd anniversary*. Please view us online at www.christianassemblyfamily.com. May God richly bless you!

Respectfully,

Rebecca Ficca Salopek
CARE Outreach Coordinator
Enclosures

Stephen A. Salopek
Christmas Dinner Coordinator