



# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

Dec. 8, 2016

## Meeting Agenda

**Welcome and Introductions** Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35 and introduced first time attendees: Scott Crawford (UPMC For Life); Katie Betzler (Project Star); Dave Slebodnik (Jobs for Life/SOMA); Monica Brudick (BCRC)

*The Housing & Homeless Coalition is open to the public & welcomes new members to all mtgs.*

### Review of November Meeting Minutes

Dina Ciabattoni

No changes noted.

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

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## OPEN DISCUSSION

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**Victor Colonna** (BCCAN) is retiring from BCCAN. This is his last Coalition meeting. Dina thanked him for his years of service and partnership and wished him well in his retirement. Victor stated that Lenell Scaff has been hired as the new BCCAN's Executive Director. She was the former Executive Director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Her contact email is [lscaff@bccan.org](mailto:lscaff@bccan.org)

**Rebecca Salopek** (HACB) discussed the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas Dinner to be held on Christmas Day at Beaver Falls High School—1701 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Beaver Falls, PA 15010. No registration of any kind is required. See attached.

**Darcy Casey** (Cornerstone) requested brochures as give aways for the resource table at the Christmas Dinner. Please call her at 724-846-6400 X 13 to coordinate a pick up or drop off.

**Gianna Wright** (Urban League) announced that LIHEAP is in full swing. She also handed out Produce to People 2017 schedule. See attached.

**Ashley Mancine** (Regional Housing Coordinator) reported that HUD is moving forward with smoke free buildings. ARC and American Lung Association have smoking cessation resource/kits to assist smokers so that they are not violating their leases and risking eviction. PHAs are being given bonus points when applying for new projects that are smoke free. Ashley discussed concerns regarding eviction for violating the smoke free rule.

**Judy Stofner** (Beaver County Housing Authority) reported that HUD's final rule regarding smoke free buildings was finalized in December 2016. She said that PHAs have 18 months to implement the smoke free requirements so there will be a transition period. Dina asked if attendees could share any smoking cessation resources they know of:

#### Smoking Cessation Resources:

- Some insurance plans offer smoking cessation classes/resources
- Prevention Network/Carla Evans/offer resources. 724.869.2222
- Heritage Valley Health System is offering an 8 week course in January through its Life Smart Program. 1-866-328-8389 for information or to register. See attached.

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**Jaime Kinkead** (The Salvation Army) announced that the emergency lodging vouchers will be available January 2017. Case managers/referrals sources are asked to verify that there is no availability at The Women's Center or Crossroads prior to referring for the motel voucher.

**Dina Ciabattoni** handed out the CareerLink January workshop schedule. See attached.

## AGENDA

### Insurance Enrollment Event

**Jessica Duca (HVHS)**

Jessica announced the Health Insurance: Free Enrollment Help event to be held on 1-12-17. Free counseling will be available to individuals who are uninsured and assistance with navigating the Medicaid/CHIP/marketplace resources will be available. ID is not required but they have to show they live in Pennsylvania, and have a Social Security number. If they don't have ID that shows their PA address, Jessica recommends bringing a utility bill or other official mail with their current address on it. If someone is homeless, they can sign a homeless statement. They would need an address where they can receive mail though.

### Jobs for Life

**David Slebodnik (SOMA)**

David discussed an upcoming 8 week job training class. He discussed their philosophy of providing dignity to job training and searching. Outside referrals for this class are needed. Childcare and transportation are available. He described the holistic approach to job training focusing on soft and hard job skills. Personal evaluations, strength assessment, and relationship & interpersonal skills are provided as well as resume building and interview skills. David described the mentor component to this program. Support will be provided for a year after the class is completed. They also are working to establish partnerships with businesses to help provide employment options for participants. The program targets those who are 18 yrs old or older and who are un/underemployed. Class will begin on February 21, 2017 and will occur on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 6-8 pm for 8 weeks. To make a referral or for any questions contact David at 724.875.7286.

### Outreach sub-committee/PIT

**Renee Speaker (HACB)**

Renee stated that the Point in Time Survey is scheduled for 1.25.2017. Volunteers are needed for street outreach and the warming centers. Donations of non-perishable food items, water, hand sanitizer, coats, hats, gloves, socks, monetary, and gift cards are needed. She stated that donations are needed by 1.18.2017. She also announced that she is still in need of individuals to post PIT fliers at churches, organizations, and businesses. Also if anyone knows of areas frequented by homeless people, please contact Renee Speaker, to ensure our outreach teams can attempt to connect with them. Upcoming Outreach Committee meetings at The Cornerstone: 1.6.2017 & 1.23.2017 at 1:30 pm. All are welcomed. For outreach questions, contact Renee at: [hacbspeaker@comcast.net](mailto:hacbspeaker@comcast.net) 724.846.6400 ext. 33 To make donations, contact Dina at: [ciabattomidina@gmail.com](mailto:ciabattomidina@gmail.com)

### HMIS Refresh

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina explained that HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) is Beaver County's electronic database to track homeless households, services, and outcomes. She discussed the

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need for rich and accurate data as it is used in HUD reports, various other reports, and for the Continuum of Care's planning purposes. She states that the data in HMIS is also available to everyone. If you need homeless data you can reach out to George Beegle at the Cornerstone. Anyone who works primarily with homeless people and is interested in contributing to HMIS should contact Dina at The Cornerstone or via email: [ciabattodina@gmail.com](mailto:ciabattodina@gmail.com) She stated that a new user training will take place in January 2017. There has also been a change to the HMIS exit form to indicate if an individual is being discharged to homelessness and whether additional support is needed from the Coordinated Entry Position.

Karen Florence discussed the bus ticket theft at TRAILS Ministries and the need for a better tracking system to ensure the bus tickets are being utilized as intended. Dina stated that recording this service in HMIS can help track who is receiving tickets and from whom.

### Cornerstone Board Update

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina announced that the Cornerstone Board is currently advertising for an Executive Director. She states that they are looking for someone with experience in non-profit management, development, and housing resources. See attached.

### Bed Availability

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina handed out the bed availability chart. She noted that Safety Net is now closed and all but one person has been transitioned (the remaining person is just waiting on a few logistics but has secured housing). She noted that several of the private subsidized apartments currently have short waiting lists.

**NEXT MEETING: January 12, 2017**

### SAVE THE DATES!

**12.13.16 TRAINING: "Dementia: Improving Communication and Responding to Behaviors"**  
9-11am at Park Inn by Radisson (Uniontown). RSVP to: [mrockwell@tripil.com](mailto:mrockwell@tripil.com)

**12.14.16 TRAINING: "Understanding Fair Housing Law"**  
9am-12pm at Ramada Inn (Washington, PA). RSVP to: [mrockwell@tripil.com](mailto:mrockwell@tripil.com)

**12.15.16 Community Family Meal Nights at Class Academy** 5pm-7pm. Also on: 1/20/17

**12.16.16 Rx Use in Co-Occurring Populations** at ABC Assoc. 9-4pm Register: [cmutkus@abc-associates.org](mailto:cmutkus@abc-associates.org)

**1.6.17 and 1.23.17 Outreach Sub-Committee Meeting** 1:30pm in The Cornerstone conference room

**1.25.17 Point in Time Survey** throughout Beaver County. Contact Renee Speaker regarding outreach at [hacbspeaker@comcast.net](mailto:hacbspeaker@comcast.net) Contact Dina to donate outreach items at [ciabattodina@gmail.com](mailto:ciabattodina@gmail.com)

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