



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

May, 2017
Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Dina called the meeting to order at 1:39 pm. Dina introduced new members and guest speakers: Phil Huggins (Alliance for Consumer Protection); George Ifill and Jean Rauchut (Gateway Health Plan); Angie Pope (CCBC – KEYS Program); Brian Cook (Salvation Army – Free Music Program); and Doug Clark (Adult Probation)

The Housing & Homeless Coalition is open to the public and welcomes new members to all monthly meetings. Meetings take place the 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:30 pm in the CYS Conference Room.

Review of April Meeting Minutes

No changes noted. Dina stated that the April minutes were not posted on HMIS but were posted on BC CAN. There have been some technological challenges with posting to the HMIS website which will be fixed soon.

Archived Coalition Meeting Minutes are available at www.bccan.org and www.bchmis.info

OPEN DISCUSSION

Herta Madder (Beaver County Behavioral Health) shared several announcements:

- She passed around the Public Hearing Notice for the Human Services Block Grant (see attached). The block grant funds an array of services within the county for a variety of populations. County agencies involved in the grant include: BCBH, Office on Aging, Community Development, Children and Youth Services. Please post notice and encourage attendance. Agency staff and consumer representation and feedback is welcomed. Additionally, there is a survey available for providing feedback which can be completed electronically through this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BCHSBG1718> or you can grab a paper copy from Herta at the end of the meeting or download it from the System of Care website (<http://www.bc-systemofcare.org/we-need-your-input>) and submit to BCBH. All other comments or ideas can be included by contacting:
Nancy Jaquette or Jack Wallace
Phone: 724-847-6225
Fax: 724.847.6229
Mail: 1040 Eighth Avenue, Beaver Falls 15010
Email: njaquette@bcbh.org or jwallace@bcbh.org
- She distributed postcards with the HELP Team information and contact number.
- She announced that the PA MH Parity Coalition is looking for personal “stories” to assist with their advocacy efforts to help effect compliance with the MH Parity Act. See attached email from Lloyd Wertz at the Family Training and Advocacy Center. Please share with anyone you know who may have a personal story they would like to submit.
- See attached PRISM flyer for PRISM Youth Night on Monday 5/22/17

Elizabeth Focer-Repman (Columbia Gas – CAP) provided flyers with Columbia Gas' programs/contact information and income guidelines. See attached.

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Bobby Catley (Heritage Valley Health System) announced that Heritage Valley has a Family Medicine Center on 7th Ave. here in Beaver Falls. They sponsor a yearly summer event, generally on the second Friday in June. See attached flyer regarding the event occurring on June 9th from 1-4pm. If you know of anyone without insurance, please let them know there will be a free walk-in clinic from 1:00-4:00pm. There will also be various booths doing health screenings (i.e. blood pressure checks, etc). This year children/youth can also receive a free sports/health physicals as long as they are accompanied by parent/guardian who can sign off on the necessary paperwork. There will also be games, food and giveaways, and free entertainment.

Phil Huggins (Alliance for Consumer Protection) announced ACP will be hosting Financial Peace classes, for those struggling with finances, at the end of June. The cost is \$90 and there are a limited number of scholarships available. This 9 week program will help attendees gain a better understanding of their finances. The classes will be held at First Baptist Church in Rochester on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 pm, starting on 6/24/17. Space is limited to 15 people. If a coupled person wants to attend, Phil strongly encourages them to bring their partner for better outcomes. Call ACP for more details at 724.770.2078.

Jaime Milligan (Southwest PA Legal Services) completed several Fair Housing round table discussions in April. Jamie shared several issues which were brought up at the Beaver County discussion: criminal background, hoarding, transitional housing, support for transition age youth, and domestic violence are a few examples. One overwhelming issue that came out of this discussion was the need for landlord outreach and education. SPLAS will be working toward making training available to landlords. Kate is working on developing a training targeted for private landlords and one for public housing as each group has different requirements to follow. Any questions about fair housing can be directed to Jaime at jaime@splas.org

Jaime Kinkead (Salvation Army) shared that the Salvation Army food bank will be hosting a mobilization event tomorrow at 11:45 am at 721 13th Street. They will be distributing bags with food and gift cards. First come, first serve.

Charlie Crawford (Red Cross) reports that the Red Cross installed over 1500 smoke detectors throughout Beaver County. Currently, the Red Cross is not accepting any more referrals for smoke detectors until they receive their next shipment in July. The smoke detectors come with a 10 year battery and they are designed so that the battery cannot be removed. Charlie states that the Red Cross has installed up to 8 in a single home to meet current requirements. For more information, call 1-800-Red-Cross.

AGENDA

The KEYS Program

Angie Pope

Angie presented on the Keystone Education Yields Success program. The program is a collaboration between the Department of Human Services and CCBC. Individuals who are eligible for/or are receiving TANF or SNAP benefits and want to attend CCBC are eligible for the program. There are no age restrictions and DHS recently removed restrictions of 4 TANF students for every SNAP student. The program offers assistance with:

- caseworkers at DHS
- finding places on campus for work study programs,

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- incentives for obtaining goals which helps to build self-esteem,
- career counseling services as group or individually,
- additional tutoring services,
- connection to community agencies based on individual needs.
- A computer center - for accommodations if you need a quiet place to work.

Angie's email is Angie.pope@ccbc.edu. Feel free to reach out to her if you have additional questions.

Gateway Health Plan

George Ifill

George is a Senior Community Engagement & Growth Specialist who has been with Gateway Health Plan (GHP) for 20 years. In 2006, GHP introduced their Medicare Special Needs Plan in 22 PA counties to benefit those eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. In 2017, they added ancillary services to Medicare Assured plan: PERS (personal emergency response system) and post-discharge prepackaged meals for those who have been inpatient. They also offer a Health Awareness Series and they are currently looking for agencies to partner with on these events. He reported that the first Health Awareness event occurred at the Center at the Mall in Beaver County. They have also collaborated with Faith-based organizations/churches and other community resources such as food pantries. Agencies who may be interested in partnering with GHP on a Health Awareness event should contact George at: Gifill@gatewayhealthplan.com

BCBH Human Services Block Grant Survey

Herta Madder

See "Open Discussion" for more details.

Salvation Army Free Music Program

Brian Cook

Brian reports that the Salvation Army in Aliquippa saw a need for encouraging the Arts in young people in their community. They began a program that teaches young elementary school students (primarily 2nd and 3rd grade) how to play an instrument (brass or percussion) and provides instruction in fine arts and dance. The program also teaches leadership skills and they have seen improved test scores while students are engaged in the program. Brian also reports that the program has assisted some students with being accepted into performing arts schools. In addition, a meal is always provided and transportation is available as well. The program serves Aliquippa and Ambridge and has a capacity for about 80 children and is currently at capacity. However, a private donor worked with the Salvation Army to extend the Free Music Program into other communities in the county. Currently they are operating programs in Rochester and Beaver Falls/New Brighton – both locations have capacity to take on new students. Call one of the Salvation Army offices to make a referral. The SA is also looking for volunteers to assist with the program.

- Capacity in Beaver Falls is 25 and in Rochester it is 15.
- Main focus is upper/lower elementary but may also serve high school students.
- The program is available throughout the school year, in addition to the Summer Leadership Academy for upper Elem School and lower Middle School Youth.
- Youth do not have to own an instrument to participate. If the youth plays in the school band and cannot afford to rent an instrument, they will be allowed to take home the program's instruments.
- Program sign-up occurs every fall and spring and operates on a first come/first serve.

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Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina shared the bed availability chart and reminded everyone to always call the programs as census can change from day to day. She highlighted that: CRS has 4 openings for females; Spring Run has 1 and 2 bedroom apts available - the 1 BR is on 2nd floor; Brightwood Manor has 2 bedroom apts available. Darcy reminded the group that Brightwood does not do the criminal check until the person comes to the top of the waiting list. Dina also mentioned that the 811 Program is expecting 1 unit to become available at both the Rochester and Koppel sites in June. Completed applications include 811 application, release of information, and a Housing Authority application. Contact Dina or Lisa Kessler if you need these forms. Completed applications should then be sent to Lisa Kessler at hacblk@comcast.net

Crossroads update

Sandy Hutchison Dina C.

Dina confirmed that Crossroads is still in full operation and she asked the group to help spread the word. Further she reports that Crossroads is hiring. Call for more information. Also donations of toiletries, socks, underwear, and funds are needed at this time. A potluck fundraiser is scheduled for 5/21 at 2pm. See attached for more information.

NEXT MEETING: June 8, 2017

SAVE THE DATES!

5.16.17 "LinkedIn for Beginners" from 10 am – 12 pm at CareerLink at the Beaver Valley Mall. Must have an email address. Call 724.728.4860 ext. 250 to register.

5.16.17 PA ABLE Savings Program webinar from 1:00-2:00 pm
Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1652556463344029442>

5.17.17 PAHousingSearch.com Webinar at 10:00 am Register at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4569999516863309059>

5/26/17 LGBTQ is not a protected status under the PA Human Relations Act however proposed guidance would expand sex discrimination to include non-conformity with gender stereotypes. Submit comments to chreese@pa.gov by May 26th.

5.31.17 Bridges Out of Poverty from 8:30 – 4 pm free training in Butler. Register:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bridges-out-of-poverty-training-tickets-34138961553>

6.9.17 Summer Community Fair at Heritage Valley Family Medicine Center (1125 7th Ave. Beaver Falls) from 1-4pm. Free Health Screenings and community resources available.

FYI – **The PA Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Program has established a 24 hour, 7 days/week hotline** for those seeking D&A treatment services. The phone number is 1.800.662.4357.

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