



# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

August 10, 2017  
Meeting Minutes

## **Welcome and Introductions**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm and introduced new members: Melissa Bartoles (LIFE Beaver County); Bill Braslawscce (Mental Health Advocate); Lakeshia Robinson (The Cornerstone of Beaver County); Carlo DelTurco (Home Safe Home); Lena Turner (Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers)

## **Review of July Meeting Minutes**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina apologized for the late delivery of the July minutes. No changes or errors were noted.

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

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

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## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

**Herta Madder** (BCBH) shared the attached save the date flyer for the WRHOC Housing Conference scheduled for October. Focus this year is on Transition Age Youth and there will be a panel discussion with youth during one of the sessions. Registration information will be forthcoming.

**Lynell Scaff** (BCCAN) announced that the Human Trafficking Training is scheduled for 9/14/2017. Lynell passed around registration forms for the remaining 20 seats. The presenters include: the Sisters of St. Joseph, The Center Twp Police; and the Pittsburgh Field Office of the FBI. The sessions will focus on what is included in the term human trafficking, a broad overview of its utilization, and how to identify individuals being used as human traffickers.

**Gianna Wright** (Urban League of Pittsburgh) announced that the Veteran's Appreciation event that was scheduled for Sept 6th has been cancelled due to low registration.

**MaryAnn McDevitt** (Women's Center) announced the Women's Center 10k/5k Run/Walk scheduled for 8/26.

**Dina Ciabattoni** (CoC Coordinator) announced that the CoC applied to present at the Homes Within Reach Conference and was selected to present. They will be presenting on the working partnership between the CoC and Housing Authority. Dina extended thanks to Darcy Casey for her leadership in the application process. The presentation will be a panel discussion with other CoC and PHA staff presenting as well. The conference will be Dec 4-6 in

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Harrisburg. Presented by the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance.

<http://homeswithinreachconference.com/>

Dina also reported on PA House Bill 59 pending at state level that will change requirements for Medicaid. This could make it more difficult for individuals to qualify for Medicaid. The attached handout outlines talking points if you wish to contact your representative to voice your opinion. Dina reminded folks to check with their supervisors before advocating on behalf of your agency OR to advocate as an individual. To find your representative's contact information, you can go to: [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us)

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## MINUTES

### **PA Accessible Home Program**

**Kevin Huwe**

Kevin works for the Self Determination Housing Project. If you have any unique or challenging housing issues, you can feel free to reach out to him for assistance at [Kevin@sdhp.org](mailto:Kevin@sdhp.org)

Kevin also spoke about the free PA Accessible Housing Program for people with permanent physical disabilities who need to make their homes more accessible. See attached information. Eligibility Criteria: must have permanent physical disability, must be low income, must have up to date real estate taxes paid and proof of homeowners insurance (homeowners), renters must have written approval from landlord, home must not be in total disrepair, and modifications must be within the footprint of the home (no additions). There is a waiting list of approximately 1 year for program. Some individuals may not know what they need or how to remedy their situation. Kevin is available to go out to the home and discuss the modification options/ideas. He stressed that applicants do not need documentation from a doctor to verify disability. He said you can call the main office (877.550.7347) to have an application emailed or sent out to you. The program will assist folks with finding reputable contractors, if needed. They will also research the contractor if you already have someone you have requested a quote from just to ensure they are reputable.

Melissa Bartoles mentioned that the LIFE Program also provides some funding for home modifications.

### **Outreach Committee**

**Renee Speaker**

Renee announced that the Summer Outreach event is scheduled for Tuesday 8/29/17. She states that the outreach committee is still in need of volunteers. They are looking for teams of 2 to search for individuals who may be homeless and provide them with information, referral/linkage, and supplies. The next planning meeting to discuss the outreach event will be 8/17/17 at 1:30pm at The Cornerstone. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. She also mentioned that the committee is in need of donations. Donations can be dropped off at the Cornerstone anytime between now and 8/29/17.

Renee clarified that volunteers will determine the time to do outreach with their teams so they can be flexible around everyone's schedules. Renee also asked that if you have

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knowledge of where folks may be staying when homeless, please pass that info on to Renee or Dina at the Cornerstone. Dina reported that this effort is part of the committee's commitment to conducting outreach on a more frequently basis throughout the year.

UPDATE: The outreach event was a success! More details to come at the Sept. Coalition mtg.

## **The Cornerstone Fund Raiser**

**Marie Timpano**

Marie announced the Rock the Ages Band Bash fund raiser for The Cornerstone of Beaver County (TCBC). The event will take place at the Rochester VFW on October 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be several bands performing. And there will be plenty of food and gift baskets. Mark your calendars and watch for more details to come!

## **2017 NOFA Update**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina reports that HUD released the NOFA and the CoC Competition is in full swing. The application is due 9/28/17. Program applications are due at the end of August. All current CoC funded programs will be applying for renewal funding. The Aliquippa Salvation Army responded to the RFP and was selected to apply for a rapid rehousing project under the Permanent Housing Bonus opportunity. Dina reminded folks that the new project is also subject to ranking and reviewing and it is also judged by HUD in context of the larger CoC application. She stressed that although the CoC is able to demonstrate need for this program there is always a chance that it may not be funded. Dina stated that the Rank & Review committee will meet the first week of Sept. Dina's goal is to then have the full application prepared in draft form for public review during the week of 9/18. She states it will be posted on HMIS and at The Cornerstone for review and comment. Once comments are received and considered for incorporation, the final draft will also be posted on the HMIS website.

Dina explained that there is a lot of focus by HUD on performance outcomes in this year's application. She states that CoC's are expected to show improvement from year to year within their jurisdiction. In other words they are not necessarily judged against other CoC's outcomes. She reports that the CoC funded programs and the Steering Committee are looking at strategies to improve outcomes in the coming year.

## **Bed Availability**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina passed out the Bed Availability chart and stressed to always call because the status could change from day to day. Dina also reported BC OnCall is still temporarily not available. She states that there will be some funding available for hotel vouchers, but we are currently waiting on final details. Dina will share those details with the Coalition when they are available. Dina asked for a status update on hotel availability if anyone recently tried to access hotels. Folks reported increased difficulty finding vacancies.

There were also some questions about the 811 Program. Dina reminded everyone that Lisa Kessler is the contact and her number is 724-775-4535. Kevin Huwe explained that the 811 Program is operated similarly to the Section 8 Housing program but with a different pot of money that comes from PHFA. The state has identified these eligibility criteria: age 18-59;

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disabled, Medicaid and long-term services eligible; income at or below 30% of AMI; and eligible for the Housing Authority. Beaver County has 2 locations – Koppel Tower and Riverview Apartments in Rochester. Last week, the program enrolled the first person. Kevin encourage individuals to apply and get on waiting list even if there are not current openings. Dina reminded the group that the list is prioritized based on need. Anyone applying for the 811 Program can chose up to 3 different counties in which they would like to live. For more information, you can visit <http://www.phfa.org/mhp/section811pra/> or contact Lisa Kessler at the Housing Authority or Kevin Huwe at SDHP.

**Carlo DelTurco** (Home Safe Home) stated that Home Safe Home is a program to increase awareness of home safety issues and provides direct home safety services to area residents. He states that there are income limits (approx.. \$1,317/month for an individual). The program will do a safety assessment and make recommendations on safety tools and/or equipment. The program is funded through the Office on Aging and he reports about \$700 of financial assistance is available per household. Folks can also pay out of pocket to cover any additional costs. For more details call:724.496.1558.

**Lena Turner** (Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers) reports that she is working in tandem with the Franklin Center to focus on community engagement. She reports they recently held a picnic and now they are working on a Moonlight Cruise and a back to school event. She will bring more information to future meetings.

**Please note the next meeting will be 9/21/17 instead of the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday.**

### SAVE THE DATES!

**8/11/17 Lawrence County's Veterans Stand Down** from 1pm to 3pm at 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 107<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery (820 Frank Avenue New Castle) For more info contact Missy Russell at 724.658.7258 ext. 1414

**8/15/17 Mission Vision** from 9am – 2pm at North Hills Community Outreach (416 Lincoln Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Millvale PA). Appointments required. Call 412.408.3830 to schedule an appointment.

**8/26/17 Women's Center 10k/5k Run/Walk** starts at 8:45 am at the Beaver Fire Station.

**8/27/17 Good Samaritan Hospice Memorial Butterfly Release** at 2:00 pm in the Four Seasons Pavilion at Brady's Run Park. The event is open to anyone wanting to honor the memory of a loved one.

**9/14/17 Free Human Trafficking Training** from 8:30 am – 12 pm at CCBC Library Resource Room. Breakfast and lunch included. Contact Lynell Scaff to register: [lscaff@bccan.org](mailto:lscaff@bccan.org)

**10/28/17 "Rock the Ages" - The Cornerstone Fund Raiser** from 6-10pm at the Rochester VFW. Come hear great music by 4 different bands, enjoy some delicious food, and raffles while supporting The Cornerstone!

**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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