



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

December 14, 2017

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions: Dina called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. She welcomed new members Lt. Fabi Soto (BF Salvation Army); and Matthew Andrews (Moffett House).

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 November Meeting Minutes: No changes noted.

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

OPEN DISCUSSION

Herta Madder (BCBH) announced the Miracle Dental Associates program which is a mobile unit that serves people with disabilities up to age 21 years old. She states that the unit can come to an agency where they can see multiple people in one setting – they do not do house calls. Herta stated that she will invite the program director to come to one of the Coalition meetings to tell us more. Herta also handed out a veterans' scholarship opportunity. See attached.

Lynell Scaff (BCCAN) announced the upcoming Drug Free Workplace Training on 1/11/18 from 9:00 -11:30 am at Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit. The training will cover how to remain in compliance with the Drug Free Workplace policy in regard to medical marijuana.

To register email: lscaff@bccan.org

Bobby Catley (HVHS) reported that HVHS has partnered with Primary Health Network to establish a dental clinic in Rochester in early 2018. The program is still in the development stages so Bobby will update us as details are available.

Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator) reported that:

- The Long Term Structured Residence at Brighton Rehab & Wellness is hiring a full time MH Aide. A high school diploma and experience with MH are required. They are also hiring LPNs. Contact Andre West with questions: awest@brightonwellness.com

- Housing Opportunities is hiring a part time housing counselor to work with existing homeowners with foreclosure assistance. Housing Opportunities helps low to moderate income people to buy and keep a home. Contact fwilson@hobcinfo.org or kcampanaro@hobcinfo.org if interested or if you have questions.

- Ben Carson (Secretary of Housing and Urban Development) visited The Cornerstone on 12/8/18. Dina reported that she informed him of our strong partnerships here in Beaver County and Sec. Carson was pleased to hear of our efforts to continually expand our partnerships even into the public-private sector. She reports that he mentioned reducing funding in areas where waste and fraud are evident. He also reported an effort to reduce duplication in services funded by HUD. Overall, Dina stated that she took great pride in being able to tell Sec. Carson about the strong collaborative work that we do here in Beaver County.

- Lisa Kessler and Dina had the opportunity to present at the Homes Within Reach Conference in Harrisburg. She states that they were on a panel with 2 other housing authorities and they spoke

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about the opportunities for CoCs and housing authorities to work together. She reports the presentation was well attended and many attendees stayed after to ask more questions. She states that the HUD Regional Administrator (Joe DeFelice) also attended the session. Dina stated that she was proud to represent the strong relationship the CoC has with our Housing Authority.

AGENDA

Salvation Army Give A Christmas

Lieutenant Soto

Lieutenant Soto detailed the Salvation Army's Give A Christmas program. She states that it is run in conjunction with the Beaver County Times who collects donations and highlights recipient stories. She states last year they helped over 500 people with clothing, gifts, and food. She states that they will be accepting applications through Dec. 22nd. She states that people need ID, proof of address, and proof of income and expenses. She also mentioned Project Bundle Up where 156 people in Beaver Falls received new coats, hats, scarves, and gloves. She also mentioned that 25 children got to go shopping with the Pittsburgh Penguins! And 25 got to shop with Home Depot volunteers.

Crossroads Update

Sandi Hutchinson

Sandi reports that Crossroads has been full for the last 3 months. And although they have found creative ways to make space for everyone they now have to cap the census at 22 men to best ensure everyone's safety. Sandi recommended calling the shelter before sending someone over (724.714.6203) to make sure there is space. She also stated that if the weather is extreme they likely will make capacity exceptions. She said that during the winter their hours now extend to 8 am to coincide with the opening hours for the library and TRAILS so that the men do not have to wait outside until they open.

Sandi said they will refer folks to other shelters if they have to turn them away. A question was asked if Crossroads can transport these men to the other shelters and Sandi said no. Ashley McLaughlin from The Cornerstone said that they can help with transportation if it is during business hours. This is another good reason to call ahead when referring someone in case they may require transportation to another shelter.

Sandi also mentioned that they are in need of gloves, socks, hats, and size 3x coats. Renee Speaker said that she has some coats she can give them. Dina reported that The Cornerstone has some of the others items too.

Sandi also announced that the shelter is phasing in a smoking ban. She said that once a person is admitted into the building that they will not be permitted to leave to smoke. She states that this is in an effort to reduce noise in the neighborhood. She said the latest that someone can come into the shelter is 9pm. She asked that if you are referring someone to the shelter to let them know about the smoking ban in advance to help with this transition.

Tristate Homes

Ed Hardesty

Ed explained that Tristate Homes is a certified affordable housing provider. They serve people who want to own a home but don't qualify for a traditional mortgage. Tristate buys homes and repairs them and then offers various levels to home ownership. They work with people on the steps to readiness and they aim to help them resolve their loan issues within 2 years – although he states it can take up to 3-4 years. Tristate also offers apartments to rent for those not ready to own a home. He reports Tristate is relatively new to Beaver County but that they have a national presence and they have seen success for those clients who are motivated to work through the steps. He states that they have housed folks through the following programs in BC: ROOTS; Crescent Commons; and The

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Cornerstone. Ed also spoke of the option for people to get their rent reduced if they want to do some of the rehab work themselves. He states that they work with a credit counseling agency to help with credit repair. Frank Wilson pointed out that it can take a really long time to repair credit. Ed acknowledged this and again stated that they have seen people be successful with this process. If interested in renting from Tristate contact Ed at: Ed@TristateBuysHouses.com

PA Housing Choice Coalition

Kevin Huwe

Kevin reports that PA Housing Choice Coalition just recently formed and is designed to be more of a virtual coalition so people from anywhere can participate. He states that there will be an emphasis on advocacy. He said most meetings will occur online and through webinars. He passed around a sign-up sheet. If interested in participating contact Kevin at: Kevin@sdhp.org

Point In Time

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reported that the 2018 Point In Time survey is scheduled for 1/24/18. She reminded the group that this is an all day outreach event to give us a snapshot of what homelessness looks like in Beaver County. She states that through street outreach and drop in centers we hope to capture a broad representation of those who are homeless. She states that volunteers are needed for the drop in centers, outreach, collecting donations, spreading the word, and to help with planning. There will be 2 planning meetings leading up to the event: 1/4/18 and 1/16/18 both at 1:30 pm at The Cornerstone (1217 7th Ave Beaver Falls, 2nd floor). *Anyone who is interested in volunteering in any way for the survey are encouraged to attend these meetings.* We will be deciding how to best use the Salvation Army mobile canteen vehicle as well as strategizing on how to best reach the rural areas of the county. If you or your colleagues are familiar with places where homeless people may be in the rural areas please let Dina or Renee Speaker know. Charlie Crawford said that the Red Cross may be able to loan their mobile unit as well. Dina stated that in addition to the vehicles any knowledge these agencies can bring on how best to cover the most area would be greatly appreciated. Dina reminded the group that outreach events including the PIT are always about extending our housing resources to those who are homeless. But she pointed out that the PIT numbers are also formally reported to HUD and factor into HUD's funding decisions. HUD also considers the methods we use to conduct the PIT survey so any help that folks can lend helps us to demonstrate to HUD how our community works together to combat homelessness. Please save the planning dates and let Dina (ciabattondina@gmail.com) or Renee (hacbspeaker@comcast.net) know if you would like to help.

Coordinated Entry

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reported that the CE Subcommittee has been very busy and that they are preparing to informally roll out CE on January 1st. This means that if you need to make a referral to any CoC funded program (Friendship Homes, Crescent Commons, CARL, Stone Harbour), ESG, or SSVF that you will have to go through the CE process first. This entails calling Roslyn Johnson at 724.846.6400 ext 16. All homeless referrals will be screened using a standardized tool which will identify the best fit program type and it will give them a prioritization score. Ros will have access to a real time census report to which she will refer people to those programs with openings. The prioritization score will be used to prioritize people who may be on the waiting list. This means that the people with the most need will get the first open spot. Dina reports that the subcommittee is putting the final touches on the policies and procedures and that they will be posted to bchmis.info. Dina reports that the CE process is being rolled out with the mandated programs first. If other homeless programs would like to be part of CE, there will be an opportunity to join in the coming months. The more programs who participate the more we will be able to ensure that any openings are going to those with the highest needs. Dina also

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stated that as the process is rolled out she would like feedback about what is working and what isn't working to ensure the process is working as it should. For more information see attached flyer.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina stated that she can continue to provide this report even with CE in place but that referrals for CoC programs, ESG, or SSVF programs will have to go through CE. People will be able to call CE for census reports. Dina stated that agencies can still call directly to these programs but that for the formal referral to take place they will have to contact CE at 724.846.6400 ext 16.

Homeless Persons Memorial Day service

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina stated that Dec. 21st is a nationally recognized day to honor those homeless people who died while living outside. She reports that we will be holding a candlelight vigil in the Beaver Falls 13th Street Park (beside the library) at 5:00 pm on the 21st. She states that all are welcome to attend the service to honor those who have died and to refresh our commitment to combatting homelessness in 2018. She also stated that they will read the names of people who died while living outside so if you have someone you would like to include to let her know.

NEXT MEETING: January 11, 2018

SAVE THE DATES

12/21/17 Homeless Memorial Day Vigil at 5:00 pm in the park beside the BF Library (1301 7th Ave.) Come honor those who died while living outside and renew our commitment to everyone having a home in 2018.

1/4/18 Point In Time Outreach Planning Meeting at 1:30 at The Cornerstone 1217 7th Ave, Beaver Falls, 2nd flr

1/11/18 Drug Free Workplace sponsored by BCCAN from 9-11:30 at Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (147 Poplar Ave. Monaca). Breakfast included. To register, email: lscaff@bccan.org

1/16/18 Point In Time Outreach Planning Meeting at 1:30 at The Cornerstone 1217 7th Ave, Beaver Falls, 2nd flr

1/23/18 Pick up PIT materials 8:30-4pm at The Cornerstone

1/24/18 Point In Time Survey All day.

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

NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Laura G. Muzio	WPAWA BPH	
hunnell SCOFF	BCCAN	
Melissa Grimes	GRS	manm1@ciscarr.ors
Kevin Howe	SDHP PATF	Kevin@sdhp.org
Monica C. Buesick	BCRC	
Penny Jones	ECRE	Jonespt@comcast.net
Ashley McLaughlin	TCBC	
Judy Stoner	HACB	hacbt@comcast.net
Granny Auber	SNAP	
Harry Angelo	JTBC	hangelo@jthc.org
Nicole Hoid	JTBC	nhoide@jthc.org
Christine Albaugh	MFLA	
Rev. Dan Gollman	City Rescue Missions	an.thiker@gmail.com
Michelle Duford	NLSA	deberdm@NLSA.US
Matthew Adams	Gateway (MITEH house)	matthew.adams@gatewayrehab.org
Esther Bishop	HBH	
Denis Sutter	HFBC	denis.sutter@beavercountyhq.tat.org
Ronnie Spearman	HACB	
Paula Higgins	ACP	PHIGGARD ACP@BEAVER.ORG

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NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Aimee Kenkead	Salvamin Army	aime.kenkead@usl.salvaminarmy.org
Lt. Fabi Soto	"	Fabi.soto@usl.salvaminarmy.org
Lakeshia Robinson	CSBC	lrobinson@cornerstonebeaver.org
Frank Wilson	Housing Opportunities	fwilson@hobeinfo.org
Michelle DeBoer	NL5A	deboerme@nl5a.us
Rosalyn Johnson	cornerstone	johnsonrosalyn359@gmail.com
Matthew Adams	Gateway (Moffett House)	matthew.adams@gatewayrehab.org
Herta Madder	Beaver Co Behavioral Health	hmadder@bcbh.org
Sandi Hutchison	Crossroads Shelter	
Sabine Kane	BCRC	skane@bcrc.net
Elizabeth Focer-Repman	Columbia Gas	efocer@nsource.com