



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

January 11, 2018
Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions: Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35pm and welcomed new member: Jean Barsotti (Beaver Falls Library).

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 December Meeting Minutes: No changes were noted.

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

OPEN DISCUSSION

Rebecca Salopek (Christian Assembly Church) reported that the Annual Christmas Dinner was a success and she thanked everyone who volunteered their time and made donations. She stated that this was the 24th year for the dinner. Approximately 1,300 people attended the dinner. She said that left over food was donated to Crossroads, Moffett House, and the soup kitchen. Sandi from Crossroads expressed thanks for the food stating that everyone enjoyed it.

Jaime Milligan (Fair Housing Law Center) reported that they are working to raise awareness on sexual harassment as a fair housing issue. She states that many folks don't recognize the signs of sexual harassment as a fair housing issue and that the Fair Housing Law Center is working on creating check list for agencies to use with their clients to determine if their rights have been violated. Jaime provided a program flyer and will be forwarding the checklist in the near future. She reported that women who have a history of doing sex work and/or having a substance use disorder tend to be targets for sexual harassment within the context of their housing.

Jenny Kaufmann (Neighborhood Legal Services) stated that they are now offering magisterial court representation for tenants facing housing issues involving private landlords. There is a household income limit of 125% of Federal Poverty Level. For more information, call 724.378.0595.

Bobby Catley (Heritage Valley Health System) announced the Healthy Foods & Wellness Expo is to be held at the CCBC Dome on 3/10/18 from 10am- 2pm. He stated that there will be about 100 vendors representing healthy foods, fitness, and health screenings (12 doctors will be available including a dentist). All are welcome! See attached flyer for more information.

Bobby also updated us on the partnership with Primary Health Network to open a dental clinic in Rochester for low income households. He anticipates it will be open around the beginning of February and he will forward the details once they are finalized.

Susan McConnell (TRAILS Ministries) reported that their Project ID program to obtain social security cards, birth certificates, and IDs will now require folks to pay 20% of the cost or to volunteer for 3 hours at TRAILS. See attached flyer. The program is available on Tuesdays from 1pm -3pm.

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Jack Lyden (VA Pittsburgh) reported that the VA has received 12 more HUD-VASH vouchers bringing Allegheny County's total to 430 vouchers. He reminded the group that vouchers can be used across county lines and he said that 3-4 vouchers turn over every month. He stated there is a prioritized waiting list. If someone is interested in a HUD-VASH voucher they should call the Homeless Veteran hotline at: 1.877.424.3838.

Harry Angelo (Job Training of Beaver County) reported they will soon be starting entrepreneurship education workshops which will help low to moderate income people to develop their business ideas and locate resources to move it forward. Register by calling 724.728.2020 ext 117. See flyer for more info.

Harry also announced that Job Training will be available at the BF Jones Library in Aliquippa on Fridays from 9am-4pm by appointment for assistance with resume building and job searches. Currently the program is geared toward Aliquippa residents.

Charlie Crawford (Red Cross) reported that they still have free smoke detectors that the Red Cross will install in homes. The alarms have 10 year batteries. She states that local fire departments have thanked the RC for this work. Call 1.800. RedCross to schedule a time for installation.

Frank Wilson (Housing Opportunities) provided a flyer with details about the Housing Counselor position which they are hiring for. It is a part time position with a flexible schedule. See the flyer for more details.

AGENDA

Beaver Falls Library

Jean Barsotti

Jean reported that she is working on enhancing partnerships with Beaver County human service providers. She states that they are also currently working on updating their technology to better accommodate 21st century devices. She said they recently completed their comprehensive plan and the focus is on lifelong learning. She reported that they provide trainings, programs, and they have space for meetings. They provide programming on literacy for families with a loved one in jail. She reports that the Beaver Falls Historical Museum and the Sports Hall of Achievement are located at the library. She states that folks do need a library card to use the computers and check out materials. An ID with their current address and a letter or bill with their address are needed to obtain a library card. She states that if someone is in a temporary housing situation they can bring their ID and a letter from the housing program on the agency letterhead. Jean reminded the group that the library is closed on Fridays. Dina and Rebecca S. thanked Jean for being a welcoming place for those who are precariously housed and Dina offered the Coalition's support for any issues that may occur.

Point In Time

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reminded the group about the upcoming Point In Time survey on 1/24/18. Dina stated that the goal of the survey is to obtain a snapshot of unsheltered and sheltered homelessness on that particular day. The numbers from the survey and the methods we use to conduct the survey are

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reported directly to HUD. They are also used as a measure of our efforts to end homelessness and make up a large portion of our funding application to HUD. Ultimately we want to find folks who may be without shelter. We also want to take this opportunity to demonstrate to HUD the strong partnerships we rely on to address homelessness in Beaver County

Dina stated for the unsheltered count that there will be: street outreach teams canvassing the county; 4 drop-in centers that people can self report to; and the Salvation Army's mobile canteen will be set up in three different locations for a few hours each. She also mentioned that depending on the weather some of the fire departments may be able scan the rivers with their boats.

Dina reported that volunteers are still needed and that there is a planning meeting scheduled for 1/16 at 1:30 at The Cornerstone for anyone interested in volunteering. Dina asked the Coalition members to help spread the word about the survey and also to make sure that their colleagues are familiar with the survey form so they can complete it should a homeless person present to their agency on the 24th. Dina reports that the survey form will be emailed shortly before the 24th.

The sheltered count will be conducted through HMIS so all housing programs should confirm that their data is up to date, complete, and accurate.

BC On-Call

Marie Timpano

Marie reports that BC On-Call is now available. She states two apartments at College Hill are available for emergency housing when all other resources have been exhausted. Marie stated that case management is required –either through an already established case manager, or if the person does not have a case a manager, The Cornerstone will provide the case management. Contact the Cornerstone at 724.846.6400 to access BC On-Call.

Marie also reminded folks that The Cornerstone is open as a Warming Center when the temperature is below freezing.

Finally, she reported that BCCAN is updating its 211 resource. Lamar has donated two bill boards to help advertise 211. Marie reminded folks to make sure their information is up to date with 211.

Coordinated Entry

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina explained that the new fully developed Coordinated Entry (CE) process has been approved by the Steering Committee. She reminded the Coalition that CE is a standardized process to streamline access to homeless programs. Referrals will be screened with a standardized tool and prioritized; thereby, reducing the need for people to call several programs to find an opening and to ensure that openings go to those people with the highest needs. CE will screen for CoC funded programs, ESG, and SSVF. It will also refer precariously housed folks to emergency lodging and other supportive resources as needed. CE can be accessed by visiting or calling The Cornerstone and speaking with Ros Johnson at ext 16. The objective is to more efficiently house folks and to house those with the greatest needs first. Dina asked that if you do not see this process achieving those outcomes please communicate this to her. Dina also stressed that case managers can still call these programs for expertise or to get a sense of when they may have openings but the programs can only accept referrals from CE. Dina asked that Coalition members help explain this new process to clients and

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their colleagues. She handed out flyers for folks to post to help spread the word.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina handed out the Bed Availability chart and stressed that CE will also be keeping an up to date census report for each of the CoC funded programs. She stated that the Bed Availability will only provide a snapshot for that particular day to give folks an idea of where there may be openings. Members stated that this continues to be a helpful tool.

NEXT MEETING: February 8, 2018

SAVE THE DATES

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

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

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

1/25/18 Leadership Forum 9-11 am at BCRC 2nd floor. Attorney John McCreary on HR Issues, Tax Law, Act 16 & Medical Marijuana in the workplace. Free but limited space. To register: email lscaff@bccan.org

1/30/18 Adverse Childhood Experiences Impact Health Later In Life webinar 1-2:30 pm Register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RSHKZ3H>

3/10/18 Healthy Foods & Wellness Expo 10 am -2pm at CCBC Dome For more info visit: www.heritagevalley.org/expo

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.

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