



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

June 14, 2018

Dina called the meeting to order at 1:38pm. She welcomed new members: Bill Cress (VA- Pittsburgh); Nancy Brown (SWPA Legal Services); and Nicole Coe (Merakey)

The Housing & Homeless Coalition is open to the public and welcomes new members to all meetings. Meetings take place the 2nd Thurs. each month at 1:30 pm in the CYS Conference Rm.

Review of May Meeting Minutes. No changes noted.

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

OPEN DISCUSSION

Bobby Catley (HVHS) reported that the Health Fair was a great success. He thanked all of the vendors and for everyone's help in spreading the word about the event. He reported that several people visited the free clinic.

Gianna Wright (Urban League of Pittsburgh) clarified that her office moved and that she can be reached via phone at 412.313.4595. She handed out information on SNAP and Produce for the People. See attached.

Jack Lyden (Pittsburgh-VA) reminded the group of the VA's housing programs available to veterans who are homeless. See attached. He stressed that the National Homeless Hotline is a great resource – 1.877.424.3838.

Jeff DeSantis (Resources for Human Development) reported that they encountered a snag with the rehab scheduled to open in Hopewell. He states that there is a hearing on Monday night to respond to citizens' concerns. All are welcome to attend – particularly Hopewell residents.

Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator) announced that The Cornerstone has been working with a low income household who needs a new roof. Dina asked if there were any resources available to assist. Someone mentioned the Home Improvement Program through the Housing Authority, weatherization programs, and/or contacting local utility companies to see if there is anything they can do. Dina also thanked Chuck Thomas and The Rochester Free Methodist Church for graciously hosting the meeting this month!

Nicole Coe (Merakey) reported as she is working with people in jail that she has noticed an issue with Coordinated Entry. Because programs have to take people from the waiting lists and people can't be screened for the lists until they are literally homeless, that people in jail are unable to secure these housing resources before they are released. Also she states that the jail will not release anyone who does not have any address. So she states that people are getting stuck in jail due to their homeless status. Dina reported that this issue is on the CE subcommittee's radar and that the solution currently is to discharge to one of the shelters or other emergency housing resources. The person could then be screened through coordinated entry. Dina noted that this is not an ideal solution and that the subcommittee is exploring

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alternatives. Kevin Huwe mentioned that other CoCs are working on this issue as well. Nicole did note that they are currently working with BCBH on making respite options available. Ros reported that there is a new program at the jail to work specifically with homeless veterans. Jack also reported that veterans exiting the jail may be eligible for some of the VA program and noted they can be accessed by calling the hotline – 1.877.424.3838.

AGENDA

Southwestern PA Legal Services Fair Housing Testing **Nancy Brown**

Nancy reports that SWPA Legal Services conducts fair housing testing. This consists of monitoring ads for fair housing violations as well as sending testers to test a landlord who has received complaints. She states they are currently in need of testers for Beaver County. Testers should be good actors, have reliable transportation, have good attention to detail, a phone, and a computer. Testers cannot be real estate agents. If you're interested in becoming a tester call, 724.884.2771.

She reports that they see a lot of family discrimination and issues around emotional support animals. She clarified that landlords are required to accept support animals with a letter from a treating professional stating that the person has a disability and the animal is needed to assist with everyday life. The letter does not need to state the specific disability nor does it have to describe specifically how the animal assists. She stated that the letter should clarify the number of animals. She also noted that a landlord cannot charge extra for the animal. Nancy reported that a landlord could question if it is a reasonable accommodation in a court of law and then it would be up to the judge to decide.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families **Christy Miles**

Christy explained that the SSVF program helps veterans and their families who are facing a housing crisis (homeless or facing eviction). Financial supports (including rental assistance, prevention, funds for household goods) and case management are available. Assistance can be provided over several months if needed. Christy reports that the program partners with other veteran agencies as well to meet each household's unique needs. These partners include: Veteran Affairs, CareerLink, America Legion Riders, etc. Christy also spoke about SSVF participating in Veteran's Treatment Court by providing housing support/resource referral to veterans involved in the court system. Christy stressed that SSVF can provide support for any veteran facing a housing crisis. See attached flyer for more info.

Bill Cress from the VA pointed out that the SSVF program is able to provide supports that the VA cannot and therefore plays a critical role in ending veteran homelessness.

2018 CoC Program Competition/RFP **Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina reported that HUD has not announced the NOFA yet. She is expecting it around the beginning of July. She noted that the RFP deadline for new Rapid Rehousing proposals was Tuesday and that we received two strong proposals. She states that the proposals are currently with the Rank & Review committee for scoring. She hopes to have decision by the end of next week. Dina clarified that the proposals can be funded either through the Permanent Housing Bonus (should one be offered again this year) or reallocation. Dina reminded the group that our CoC has not received a PHB for the last few years.



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June Outreach Event

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina thanked everyone who participated in the street outreach event in May. She reports that no one was encountered but a few sites were located. She reminded the group that with the assistance of local fire departments we will be doing river outreach on June 30 starting at 7:30 am. She reports that we will need 2 people per boat and that the number of boats will be confirmed next week. Volunteers should be comfortable with possibly getting wet as well as climbing on and off of the boat in the event a homeless camp is encountered. If you're interested in volunteering contact Dina at ciabattodina@gmail.com Volunteers should plan on being available from 7am-11:30am. Dina reports there will be lunch after the event as well. Dina will provide details as they develop. Updates will be provided via email.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina handed out the bed availability list. She noted that Pinney Street Manor in Rochester is starting an accessible waiting list. Also there are several Housing Authority locations with vacancies. 811 is filled at this time but Dina reminded the group that the waiting list is prioritized so folks with the most need will be first served when there are openings.

PLEASE NOTE: We will return to 1080 8th Avenue, 3rd floor for our July meeting.

NEXT MEETING: July 12, 2018

SAVE THE DATES

6/20/18 The Veterans Training & Benefit Workshop at 9:00 am at PA CareerLink at Beaver Valley Mall
Questions? Call: 724.728.4860

6/21/18 Cultural & Linguistics Training from 8:30 to 4:30 pm at 147 Poplar Drive Monaca. For more info or to register email: jennifer@etc-pa.com

6/29 and 7/2 Mental Health First Aid from 8:30-4:30 pm at 351 14th Street Ambridge. See flyer for more info. For more info or to register email: jennifer@etc-pa.com

6/27-6/29 Multifamily Affordable Housing Conference at Kalahari Resort. For more information or to register, contact: Melissa Medernach 717.780.4353 mmedernach@phfa.org

6/29-6/30 Free Dental Clinic at PPG Paints Arena in Pittsburgh. For more information visit:
<http://www.mompgh.org/>

6/30/18 River Outreach starting at 7 am in various locations. For more information contact Dina at ciabattodina@gmail.com

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
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Rev Marvin Moreland	ROOTS	
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Stephene Magillifico	INHA	
Jessica Sabal	WCBC	
Chris Anderson	wcbc	
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Bobby Catley	Heritage Valley	
Liza Smith	DLC-CAP Cornerstone	
Deana Law	DLC-CAP Cornerstone	
Lt. Fabi Soto	The Salvation Army	

