



# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

July 12, 2018

**Welcome and Introductions:** Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.

New members in attendance: Denise Senft (VA); Bea Favorite (Red Cross); and Lois Brummitt (BC Domestic Relations)

*Since the Housing & Homeless Coalition welcomes ideas, opinions, and knowledge from a broad spectrum of partners, meetings are open to the public and new members are always welcomed. Meetings take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 1:30 pm in the CYS Conference Room.*

**Review of June Meeting Minutes.** No changes noted.

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

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## OPEN DISCUSSION

**Marie Timpano (The Cornerstone)** announced that Tom Kaminsky reported another landlord requested to be taken off of our landlord partner list. She clarified that it was because he was being inundated with phone calls. Dina asked if there is a way we could rethink how people access the list. For example, having the landlords call in with their availability and then only showing those names when sharing the list. Marie stated that she will follow up with Tom Kaminsky about this.

**Sabine Kane (BCRC)** noted that the Aliquippa Duquesne Light CAP office has moved to 2020 Main Street, Suite B Aliquippa. See attached flyer for more information.

**Mary Ann McDevitt (Women's Center)** announced their 5k/10k run/walk on August 25<sup>th</sup>. See attached flyer for more information and registration forms.

**Jack Lyden (VA)** announced the VA's Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program's Annual CHALENG on 8/3/18 from 8:30-12:30pm at VA Hospital University Drive, Building B. There is still space for information tables. See attached flyer for more information. He also introduced Denise Senft who works for the Veteran Justice Outreach program. Either she or Jack will be regularly attending this meeting going forward.

**Joyce Nicely (Friendship Homes/Salvation Army)** announced their Free Community Event on 8/3/18 from 11am – 4 pm at 414 16<sup>th</sup> Street Beaver Falls. There will be free dental cleanings, onsite vision screenings, and human services referrals. Also there will be a cook out, children's activities, games, and back to school give a ways. See flyer for more info.

**Judy Stonfer (Housing Authority)** announced that as of 7/30 the smoking ban will be in place for all public housing buildings meaning people will not be permitted to smoke anywhere on the property. She states that there will be a four step disciplinary process for people who violate the ban. She asked for our help in reminding people who will be affected by this ban. She clarified that e-cigarettes and vape pens are permitted.

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**Kevin Huwe (Self Determination Housing Project)** announced the Maximizing Housing Opportunities Summit on 9/19/18 from 9am – 4 pm in Harrisburg. See attached flyer.

**Nancy Brown (Southwestern PA Legal Services)** announced that there was recently a lawsuit in which a developer, owner, and architect were sued for not making public spaces and 5% of their units accessible -noting that accessibility continues to be a fair housing issue.

**Sandi Hutchison (Crossroads Shelter)** announced that Crossroads will now have its own phone number which is: 724.846.1303. She states that the Homeless Hotline will remain the same and that number is: 724.714.6203. The Homeless Hotline will be answered by The Cornerstone during business hours and by Crossroads staff outside of business hours.

**Harry Angelo (Job Training)** announced that the BC Unity games are on 7/14/18 where police officers will have the opportunity to engage in games with kids in grades 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. He reported overwhelming response from Law Enforcement. Kids can register on site that day.

**Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator)** announced another RFP for funding will be coming out soon. PHFA and Federal Home Loan Bank are offering grants to address homelessness through PA CoCs. Dina stated that they expect awards for stand alone CoCs to be between \$50,000 to \$250,000. And they want to make these funds available to address gaps in services. Keep your eyes open for the RFP via email in the next week.

### AGENDA

#### **System Performance Summary**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina passed out a summary of the System Performance Report recently submitted to HUD. She noted two areas in need of improvement: return rate to homelessness and increasing/maintaining income. She reported that we will be working with our partners more closely on developing strategies to address these areas – including today hearing from Beaver County Rehabilitation Center's employment services.

#### **BCRC Employment Services**

**Sabine Kane**

Sabine reported on the various employment services that BCRC offers. She states that under the BC-COURTS grant they can address the vocational needs of people with criminal histories. They assess for education and skill levels so they can play to the person's strengths. They can also address needs around a GED or a driver's license for example (she reported that Driver License Centers are required to accommodate a person taking the exam in the way that offers them the best opportunity – for example, verbally). BCRC can help build a resume focusing on strengths if the person doesn't have lot of work experience. They help people find job fairs and prepare for interviews including how to answer questions about their criminal history. They also provide support after the person secures a job to help with things like conflict resolution, and how you professionally leave a job. Supported education opportunities are also available. She reports that the level of support for both

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components is tailored to the person's needs. Referrals for BC-COURTS must come through Merakey.

These services are also offered under the BC-HOMES grant but the target population is homeless or near homeless people. Referrals must come through ROOTS. BCRC also contracts with WIN Services to offer job coaches and employments specialists. Aurora Services are able to provide Psych Rehab. They also have paid work experience programs (she noted that capacity is limited), and they can advise people on how employment may impact their SSDI benefits. See attached flyer for more info on their services and programs. Sabine clarified that a person must have a mental health diagnosis to be eligible for BCRC's services. If you think someone may benefit from these services, they can call Tracy Hughes to be screened for the best fit program. Tracy can be reached at 724.378.4750.

### **DV Bonus RFP**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina handed out the corrected DV Bonus RFP that she had previously emailed. She explained that CoC funded programs are not eligible to apply. If a CoC program was planning on applying she asked that they speak with her asap. She noted that proposals are due to her on 7/16/18 no later than noon.

### **River Outreach Recap**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina handed out a map indicating the areas that were covered in the 6/30 River Outreach Event. She reported that the Beaver Falls, New Brighton, and Bridgewater Fire Departments, Beaver Falls Police Department, and the Homeless Outreach Committee partnered to scan the Beaver River from the Lawrence County line to the Ohio River and then the Ohio River from the Allegheny County line to the Industry dam. The outreach volunteers accompanied the firefighters on the boats. 5 camps were found and comfort materials and referral information were left. GPS coordinates were also recorded so outreach teams can follow up on foot. Dina noted that the Outreach Committee is committed to doing regular outreach in the hopes of reaching those folks who are least likely to seek assistance. With the help of our Fire and Police Depts we covered a significant area of the county. All partners in this effort committed to doing this again.

### **Bed Availability**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina handed out the Bed Availability chart noting that there are currently some openings in CoC programs and Housing Authority. She reminded the group that referrals for the CoC programs, ESG, and SSVF have to go through Coordinated Entry.

**NEXT MEETING: August 9, 2018**



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### SAVE THE DATES

**7/18/18 Opioid Overdoses and the Use of Narcan** 9am-12pm at 270 Ohio River Blvd, Baden. To register, email [jennifer@etc.pa.com](mailto:jennifer@etc.pa.com)

**7/15, 7/25 Teen Reading Lounge** 11am – 12pm for 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> graders at BF Jones Library 663 Franklin Ave Aliquippa

**8/15/18 Trauma Informed Care** 9 am – 12 pm at 147 Poplar Drive Monaca To register, email [jennifer@etc.pa.com](mailto:jennifer@etc.pa.com)

**9/5 & 9/6 Motivational Interviewing** from 9 am -4:30 pm (both days) at 147 Poplar Drive Monaca To register, email [jennifer@etc.pa.com](mailto:jennifer@etc.pa.com) CEUs are 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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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
Bec Favorite	ARC	bec.favorite@yahoo.com
Kevin Howe	SOAP PATE	kevin@sdhp.org
Paul Lebanik	SNDP	* plebanik@verizon.net
Joyce Niesche	Salvation Army F.H.	
GEORGE BECKLE	HMIS	
Kari Kreda	Carnegie Free Library	Kreda@beaverlibraries.org
Melissa Grime,	CRS	* mgrimic@crs.cars.org
Rosilyn Johnson	TCS	
Marid Timparo	TBCL	mtimparo@CommonStoneBeaver.org
Chad Hagan	ACP	PHILIPPS ACP-GFAURD ORZ
Dan Crowford	ARC	mysculisquiet@yahoo.com
Natalie W. Morgan	Murkey	noticewhittingham@murkey
Dan Cummings	RHD	davec@rhd.org
Amse Leaf	Dept of Veteran Affairs	Carmen.Sentff@va.gov
MARY ANN WILPEWIT	Women's Center	
Renee Spalder	CHRC	
Judy Stohler	Housing Authority	
Marie Krecchowski	MHA	
Stephanie Magnifico	MHA	mkrachowski@mhabc.org



# **Crossroads SHELTER**

Corner of 11th Street & 4th Avenue, Beaver Falls

Open every night of the year: 7 pm to 8 am

**Sandi Hutchison**  
Shelter Coordinator

724-846-1303

[sandi.hutchison@crossroadsshelter.net](mailto:sandi.hutchison@crossroadsshelter.net)

PO Box 362

Beaver Falls, PA 15010

## **Crossroads Shelter of Beaver County, Inc.**

Providing men who are homeless a safe place for the night

Open 365 day per year: 7 pm to 8 am

Homeless Hotline: 724-714-6203