



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

July 18, 2019
Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions: Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35pm. She introduced new members: John Merola (Pittsburgh Food Bank- SNAP); and John Bryant (Beaver Falls Street Outreach Pastor)

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 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:30 pm in the CYS Conference Room.

June Meeting Minutes: No errors or omissions were noted.

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

1. OPEN DISCUSSION

Phil Huggins (Living Faith Compassion) reports that they have a small house for Emergency Shelter. It is located in Fombell and can accommodate 4 people – family (must be married) or unrelated individuals. He reports it is currently full. Referrals can be made to 724.888.5177.

Lynell Scaff (BCCAN) reported 3 upcoming trainings. 9/12 Domestic Violence training; 10/3 Resilience in the Workplace (for employees); and 11/7 Suicide Prevention. All trainings will take place at The Lodge at PSU in Monaca. 2.5 CEUs are available for both the 10/3 and 11/7 trainings. Contact Lynell to register at: lscaff@bccan.org

Teresa Lukes (Assoc. for the Blind) announced a free vision screening (and new glasses) on 8/10 at the Association for the Blind in Beaver Falls (see flyer for more information). She stated that there are 12 spots still available. Call 724.506.6477 to make an appointment.

Marie Timpano (The Cornerstone) announced a client appreciation lunch on 7/31 from 11-1 at The Cornerstone. She also reminded the group of the Veteran Stand Down on 9/21. Also The Cornerstone's annual fundraiser will be a Dueling Pianos event on 10/5 from 6-10pm. Marie also announced that Kellie Bogolin's last day at The Cornerstone is 7/24. You can still contact The Cornerstone for outreach needs. She also stated that she expects to be relocating into the new building in October. And she announced the Beaver Falls Business District fall festival on 10/5.

Lisa Smith (Holy Family – Duquesne Light CAP) announced that they are available for community outreach events. Contact her directly if you know of events – 724.846.6400 ext 32. Also she reminded the group that walk-ins for the Duq. Light CAP program are accepted Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30-12pm.

Lisa also asked about resources to help people get household items and furniture. Rebecca Salopek noted these resources: Tiger Pause (they have a furniture bank and you can work in exchange for items. They can also assist with moving furniture); Habitat for Humanity (good quality used furniture at low cost); and Manna House of Prayer furniture bank. Rebecca noted that she also has a resource for children's beds. If you need connected with this resource, contact Rebecca directly at:

R.fs@usa.net

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Natalie Mead (Head Start/Early Head Start) stated that they are currently recruiting families for the upcoming school year. She reminded the group that services are free and transportation is available. She also stated that Early HS is a year round program. She states that homeless families are priority.

Tanis Fox (Table of Grace) announced that they are in need of volunteers to do outreach and to help with the soup kitchen at Lord of the Harvest. She states that Earth Angels are also putting together lunches on Saturdays to take to the park by the Beaver Falls library to hand out to homeless people. If interested in volunteering, contact Tanis at: tableofgracefm@gmail.com

Michelle Medlin (Lifesteps) made several announcements. The CYS Advisory Board is hosting a Wing Bash fundraiser on 8/17. Tickets are \$25. The Human Trafficking Forum meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Sisters of St. Joseph. They are recruiting new members. And finally Lifesteps has a Home Base Educator position available to work with pregnant mothers and children up to the age of 3 on child development, education, and parent involvement. For more information, visit: <https://lifesteps.net/>

Makesha West (Resources for Human Development) reported that all 24 beds are now available. See flyer for more information. She also noted that if you press 0 when calling it will ring all the phones.

Nancy Brown (Fair Housing Law Center) reported that they have received 21 complaints so far and their goal was 15 for the entire year. She stated that they are seeing a lot of familial status cases as well as sexual harassment. She stated you can reach the center directly (877.725.4472) with issues or reach out to Tom Kaminsky at The Cornerstone (724.846.6400 ext 11).

Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator) pointed out the Cooling Center flyer in everyone's packet. She asked for help in posting them especially ahead of the coming heat wave. She also noted the updated resource card template in the packets that people can make copies of. She noted that folks can still pick up cards at The Cornerstone.

2. AGENDA

Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank SNAP program

John Merola

John is the new SNAP representative at The Cornerstone. He is available to assist with SNAP applications there on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30-12pm. He is also available to table at your organization's events. He reported that he serves 11 counties and mentioned the Produce for People program. See attached flyer for more information about the various food security resources offered by the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. He also stated that they are currently targeting Seniors as they historically underutilize the program.

Herta built on this platform, by mentioning General Assistance (cash assistance through the Dept of Human Resources) runs out on August 1st. She noted that some people have received letters notifying them of the program ending but not everyone has received a letter yet. She asked for everyone's help in spreading the word and helping participants prepare. Dina clarified that this cut only applies to General Assistance – not TANF. Further, Dina stated that there are a few legislators out of the Philadelphia area who are looking to put together legislation to at least partially restore this funding. She stated that she will keep the Coalition updated as this develops.

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Crossroads Shelter Status Update

Darcy Casey

Darcy reported that Crossroads still does not have a space in which to operate the shelter and she thanked everyone who has helped to bridge the gap during this temporary dislocation. She stated that they are currently pursuing various locations. In the meantime, you can still call the shelter phone number (724.846.1303) for assistance with accessing alternative shelter options. They are also conducting outreach and have resources such as gift cards, bus tickets, and care packages for homeless men. They are currently operating out of an office at Harmony Dwellings in Beaver Falls. She also clarified that **the Homeless Hotline is still answered by The Cornerstone during business hours and will now be answered by 211 outside of business hours.**

She informed the group that the Executive Director has resigned, and the board is looking for a replacement. A job description was emailed to the Coalition on 7/12. She also noted that financial donations are most needed at this time. See attached letter for more details. Finally, she asked that if anyone knows of a possible location to call her at 724.622.3126 or Rebecca Salopek at 724.309.1262. Suggestions of old schools, or locations in Raccoon or Ohioville were made for a possible new location.

Racial Disparity

Marie Timpano

Marie reported on the Racial Disparity subcommittee's work. She reviewed the attached charts which show a higher percentage of African Americans represented in our homeless programs compared to their representation in the general population. She also highlighted the higher rate at which African Americans return to homelessness. She noted that the committee is still gathering data and then plans to develop strategies to combat these disparities. A rich discussion occurred that explored possible reasons for the disparities which included: cultural expectations to self-resolve problems, difficulty following through (lack of transportation, limited hours of services etc), staff not being properly trained on trauma informed care and identifying their implicit biases, and presenting services as a handout instead of an investment. Marie thanked everyone for their input and stated that she would take these ideas back to the subcommittee. Dina noted that the next meeting is scheduled for 8/21 at 1pm at the Cornerstone and invited anyone who is interested in addressing racial disparities to attend.

Continuum of Care Competition

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reported that 2019 CoC Competition is now open. She reported that there are two bonus opportunities in this competition. See the two attached Request for Proposals. The first bonus is the CoC Bonus totaling \$240,751. This bonus can be used for PSH, RRH, TH-RRH, HMIS, or Coordinated Entry. Proposals are due 8/6/19 by 12pm and should be emailed to ciabattomidina@gmail.com

The other bonus is the DV Bonus and it can be used for RRH, or TH-RRH for people experiencing domestic violence. The total amount of funding is \$237,023. Proposals are due 8/6/19 by 12pm and should be emailed to ciabattomidina@gmail.com

Home4Good Projects

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina also reported that PA Housing & Finance Agency and Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh have put out an RFP for the Home4Good funding opportunity. See attached RFP for more information. This funding is more flexible than the CoC funding and can be used to address one of these goals: Prevention/Diversion, Innovative Solutions, and Critical Needs. Dina encouraged folks to review the Strategic Planning tool to identify gaps in services and to think of creative solutions to

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filling them. Proposals are due 7/19/19 by 4 pm and should be dropped off at Community Development Program located at 1013 8th Avenue Beaver Falls, PA.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina handed out the Bed Availability chart and asked if there were any updates. She stressed that vacancies change frequently so it is best to call the programs or if it is a CoC funded program to access Coordinated Entry at The Cornerstone at 724.846.6400 ext 16.

NEXT MEETING: August 8, 2019

SAVE THE DATES

7/19/19 Mental Health First Aid 9 am – 5 pm at Beaver County 911 center (351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003). To register, email: jennifer@etc-pa.com

7/25/19 Mental Health First Aid 9 am – 5 pm at Beaver County 911 center (351 14th Street Ambridge, PA 15003). To register, email: jennifer@etc-pa.com

8/24/19 Women's Center Run to Break the Cycle 2019 (5k, 10k, Fun Walk options) starts at 8:45 at Beaver Fire Station. For registration information visit: <https://www.womenscenterbc.org/events.html>

9/21/19 FIRST ANNUAL BEAVER COUNTY VETERAN STAND DOWN!! (Sponsored by The Cornerstone of Beaver County)

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. PLEASE PRINT. Thank you.

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Just sign in with your name. PLEASE PRINT. Thank you.

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