



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

October 10, 2019
Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions: Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. New attendees were Lauren Sharkey, Denise King, and Jane Miller (Aetna D-SNAP) and Sylenthia Dent (Project Star).

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.

September Meeting Minutes: No changes were noted.

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

1. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ashely McLaughlin (The Cornerstone of Beaver County) announced the first Annual Veteran Stand Down was a success and thanked everyone who contributed. Rebecca praised the event. Ashley mentioned that the Party with a Purpose fundraiser was also a success. She reported that the Cornerstone will be closed on 10/30, 10/31, and 11/1 in order to move to their new location. The Cornerstone team will respond to phone calls received during this time. The new address is 600 6th Street Beaver Falls. The phone number will remain the same in the new location. She stated that they will be hosting an open house in November. Details to come.

Phil Huggins (Living Faith Baptist Church) announced that he will be conducting a seminar for loved ones of someone who is depressed on November 14th at 7 pm. There is no cost to attend. For more information call: 724.888.5177.

John Merola (Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank) reported that SNAP income guidelines have increased and he provided a handout with the new limits. See attached flyer. He reminded the group that he is available at the Cornerstone to assist with completing SNAP applications. He stated that it is best to call and make an appointment as he is not always in the office.

Rebecca Salopak (Christian Assembly) announced the Annual Christmas Dinner at the Beaver Falls High School. She is in the process of collecting donations – new items such as warm clothing, hygiene products, gloves, socks, hats etc. Also monetary donations are accepted to help purchase needed items that are not donated. Volunteers to assist with setting up and the day of the event are still needed. Contact Darcy Casey if you are interested in volunteering. Her email address is darcycasey@att.net
Rebecca also announced A Night of Harmony at Harmony Dwellings. Food, games, crafts, free haircuts, and a prayer tent will all be available on 10/20/19 from 4-5:30pm. All are welcome.

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Teresa Lukes (Association for the Blind) announced that Keystone Kids is a monthly social group for children aged 10 -18 years old who are visually impaired (20/70 vision in the best corrected eye). Call the Association for the Blind for more information: 724.843.1111.

Sally Ricci (TRAILS Ministries) reported that the BC Homes grant has ended. They are starting a new partnership with ABC Associates to provide certified recovery support for current ABC patients. She also reported on the Virtual Visitation program. She stated that they can provide virtual visits with people in jails and detention centers that have the capability. In some cases, TRAILS can transport parents out of county to visit with their children in detention centers. The Virtual Visitation program is doing really well and will likely be expanding in the near future. Finally, she noted that the funding for IDs and Birth Certificates has run out. She noted that she expects funding to resume in the coming months.

Jeff Desantis (Resources for Human Development) announced that they currently have open male and female beds. For an intake, call: 724.508.3993. He stated that they accept VBH. He also stated that if you want to receive a census report from RHD to email him at: jeffrey.desantis@rhd.org

Herta Madder (BCBH) reported that new wrap around services guidelines are coming out soon. She stated that there is a website with the changes and that she will forward it to Dina to send to everyone. She reminded the group that with any change there will be some confusion. She said that the state is committed to making sure any child currently receiving services will continue to do so.

Dina Ciabattoni (Continuum of Care Coordinator) reported that both the CoC and Home4Good applications have been submitted. Dina suspects the funding announcement for the CoC application should occur after the new year sometime. Home4Good should be announced in December. She also announced the Homeless Persons Memorial is scheduled for Dec. 19th. The planning meeting is scheduled for 10/25 at 10 am at The Cornerstone (1217 7th Avenue, 2nd floor, Beaver Falls). Anyone interested in helping to plan the event should attend the meeting.

2. AGENDA

Aetna D-SNP Health Plans

Lauren Sharkey and Denise King

Lauren and Denise explained that D-SNP plans are for dual eligible persons (Medicare-Medicaid eligible). They stated that they were at the meeting today not just to sell the plans but to also find ways to give back to the community. Denise noted that Aetna is focused on total wellness and offers care to a tri-state network including UPMC, Allegheny Health Network, and Cleveland Clinic (and others). These plans offer a \$0 premium including prescription and have done so for 17 years. The plans also include \$2,000 in dental coverage, \$200 for vision, hearing aids, and over the counter benefits. The D-SNP plans offer even

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more coverage including transportation to medical appointments and meal delivery upon discharge from the hospital. See attachment for more details about specific coverage. These plans also offer a comprehensive care management team made up of nurses, social workers etc. These teams help with the total healthcare journey. They improve access to affordable healthcare and preventive maintenance. Care managers can go to the home and assist in the community in some cases. They also can conduct healthy home assessments. Denise shared a story of working with a woman who was homeless and Dina reminded Lauren and Denise that our Coalition could be referred to in those cases which may occur in Beaver County. Lauren stated that she would like to continue to attend the meetings going forward and Dina welcomed her to attend at any time.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Chris Anderson (Women's Center)

Chris reported that much of the Women's Center DV awareness advocacy occurs online now as they feel this reaches a larger audience. She said they have also extended their advocacy efforts to first responders, and bartenders. She also noted that they have conducted 408 educational programs in schools in the last year. She noted that also includes the universities and colleges in the area. She reported that Thursday Oct. 24th is wear purple day to raise awareness of Domestic Violence. She stated that they also have a traveling shoe display that tells the stories of some of the people who they have assisted at the shelter. She said it will be on display at the Cornerstone (1217 7th Ave, 2nd Floor, Beaver Falls) on 10/14-10/16. Anyone interested in viewing the shoe display is welcome to stop by the Cornerstone. Finally, she noted that they have been working with Animal Finders of Beaver County when shelter guests have a pet. She stated Animal Finders is working on building a shelter for the pets while their owners work on securing PH.

Homeless Memorial

Dina Ciabattoni

See above for details regarding the 2019 Homeless Persons Memorial Event.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina noted that there are not many openings on the chart. She highlighted the Coordinated Entry wait list numbers to give context to the openings. She also noted that she has been working to gather data that demonstrates the issue of decreasing affordable housing options in the county and asked if anyone has relevant data or case examples that she would appreciate viewing the information so she can include it in the analysis. By clearly defining and demonstrating the problem, she noted that we may be able to leverage support for addressing the issue.

(Continued)

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NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2019

SAVE THE DATES

10/11/19 Veteran Job Fair Boot Camp 10 am – 12 pm at 285 Beaver Valley Mall.

10/24/19 CareerLink Job & Career Fair from 10 am – 2pm at 285 Beaver Valley Mall.

10/25/19 Homeless Memorial Planning Meeting at 10 am at The Cornerstone (1217 7th Ave, 2nd floor) Beaver Falls, PA.

10/29 Overcoming Barriers to Housing 8:30-3:30 at Tanglewood Senior Center 10 Austin Ave, Lyndora PA 16045. Registration is \$20. To register, call Alyson at 724.284.5114

11/7/19 Suicide, Violence, Mental Illness, and Addiction training To register, email: lscaff@bccan.org

11/15/19 BC Town Hall Meeting “Drug Abuse: National Problem, Local Impact” 9:30-3:30 at CCBC Dome. To register, visit:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0nxHtjAI0XGEB0rLYySRtfXD3fw_USob5yfmfr25obUIcQ/viewform

11/18-11/20 Homes Within Reach Conference at the Hilton-Harrisburg. To register, visit:

<https://housingalliancepa.org/homes-within-reach/>

12/19/19 Homeless Persons Memorial Details to come!

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

NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
MARY LEITAO	LITERACY PITTSBURGH	
Syndi Gilkey	NLSA	Gilkey@NLSA.US
Darcy Conroy	GNACB	
Phyllis Johnson	WACB	
Felicia	PHW	Felicia.M.Alexander@PAHealthWellness.com
Terese Lubas	BCBlind	tlukes@bcbblind.org
Catalie Meade	HS/CHS BC	
PHIL HIGGINS		
Herta Madler	BOBHI	
Kirstyn Mawicki	FHCC	feiryn@spat.org
JEFF DE SARR	RAP	jeffrey.devents@erhnl.org
Jane Miller	Aetna	millerj5@aetna.com
Chris Anderson	WCBC	canderson@womenscenterbc.org
Makera Yarosavk	Community advocate	
Dina Ciabattini	CoC Coordinator	

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NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Angela Maseantonio	TPN	a.mascantonio@thepreventivetnetwork.org
Marrion Waselchki	AUP	mmw@cap-beaver.org
Paul Lebanik	SVDP	plebanik@verizon.net
Kevin Howe	PATF DON	khowe@donorservices.org
Penny Jones	SCRE Landlord	JonesPJ@comcast.net
Laura Johnson	365 Hospice	laura.johnson@365hospice.com
Ashley McLaughlin	TCBC	
Bobbs Reed	APCC	breed@abc-associates.org
Marsha Malesky	Beccys	pastor@beccysinc1.usf
Marianne Mearns	ROOTS	
JOHN MEROLA	FGH FOOD BANK	JMEROLA@PITTSBURGHFOODBANK.ORG
Erin Rabbin	Beacon	
Sally Ricci	Trails Ministries	s.ricci@trailsministries.org
Lori Graybar	Stanton Clinic	Lgraybar@khs.org
Sylvia H. Dent	Project Star	ss@the-institute.org
Edi Farlinch	Beccys	
Joyce Nicely	SA	
Wan Duk	SA	