



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

January 9, 2020

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions: Dina called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm. She introduced Lauren Iannini and Regina Hunter (from Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic); Gene Bradshaw and Roger Kies (from US Census 2020); and Tony Manjerovich (private landlord).

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.

December 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

Theresa Lukes (Beaver County Association for the Blind) announced a free vision screening and free eyeglasses event. The event will take place on March 10th. Call 724.506.6477 to make an appointment. See attached flyer for more information.

Pastor Jan Davis (TRAILS) extended a thank you (from Rebecca Salopek) to everyone who assisted with the Christmas Dinner. She noted that about 1500 people were served – the most ever in attendance! She thanked Darcy Casey for helping to coordinate the volunteers.

Tom Kaminsky (The Cornerstone of Beaver County) announced The Cornerstone's Souper Bowl fundraiser on January 26th at Beaver Brewing located at 1820 7th Ave, Beaver Falls). Tickets are \$25 and include homemade soup, and bread. Raffle tickets, baskets, and drinks will be available for purchase. Tickets can be purchased at The Cornerstone.

Abby Yockum (Fair Housing Law Center) stated that the FHLC has updated their flyers and posters and she provided copies for participants to take today. She stated that if people needed more copies to contact her at 724.884.2786.

Barb Reed (ABC Associates) announced that there is a new rehab facility available for Women only. They have 16 beds and are located near RHD. For more information, contact ABC at: (724) 843-0129.

Kevin Huwe (DON Services) announced that the rural home repair program is still available. He noted that only one household has been served in Beaver County and he is looking for more referrals. He reminded the group that the household must have a member with a disability and that the household income cannot exceed \$52,000. He noted that the program can match up to \$3000 for home repairs and renovations. See flyer for more info.

Regina Hunter (Beaver County VA Clinic – Rochester) stated that she can determine eligibility and enroll veterans into the VA's system. She has a vast knowledge of the various

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Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

levels of benefits and stated that you can refer self reported veterans to her for assistance with enrollment. You can reach her at: 724-709-6005.

Dina Ciabattoni (Continuum of Care Coordinator) announced the state of PA is now waiving fees for people who are homeless to obtain a birth certificate. She noted that there is a special form to fill out that can be found at:

www.health.pa.gov/topics/certificates/Pages/Forms.aspx

She told folks to be sure to select the form for Homeless (as there is a similar one for people with Opioid use disorder). She stated that the Homeless Form also has a section that an advocate must fill out as well.

Nancy Grieco (American Red Cross) reported that she has not been to many of these meetings recently but that she intends to attend more frequently now. She noted that the ARC still assists people who have been displaced by natural disasters and looks forward to working with our partners in that work.

John Bryant (Beaver Falls Street Pastor for people who are homeless) stated that he works to make connections with people who are homeless and he works to provide opportunities for them to connect with other people from the community. He reported that there will be such an event on January 24th at 7 pm. It will be an open mic night at the Center for Creative Arts Expression located at 1217 7th Avenue, Beaver Falls, first floor.

2. AGENDA

Beaver County VA Outpatient Clinic

Lauren Iannini

Lauren reported that the VA Outpatient Clinic located near Giant Eagle in Rochester is an enhanced version of the old clinic in Monaca. She reports that patients are assigned a PCP. They also offer the following services: Social Work, Nursing, Pharmacy, Psychiatry, Substance Use Disorder treatment, Audiology, Podiatry, and Radiology. ER services are referred to Heritage Valley. And specialty care services (inpatient, surgery, transplant, detox etc) are referred to one of the VA's Pittsburgh locations.

She also spoke of the numerous programs for veterans who are homeless. HUD-VASH is available in Allegheny County which provides a housing voucher and supportive case management. She also spoke of HealthCare for the Homeless available at the Aspinwall location which provides assessment, case management, and referral to housing and services. She noted that there is TH and PH (site based) available in Allegheny County. And she mentioned the Domiciliary program. It has two phases with increasing responsibility at phase 2. For more information see the attached flyer, and/or call 724.709.6005.

She noted that a DD-214 is required for these programs. Denise Seft (Justice Outreach Program - VA Pittsburgh) noted that Kathy Nairn from the BC Court House can assist with this. She also stated to try again if denied since there are a number of different ways to establish eligibility.

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US Census 2020

Roger Kies and Gene Bradshaw

Gene stated that he wanted to raise awareness about the US Census and also inform this group about employment opportunities. He thanked the BC Library System for making their space and computers available for the Census. Gene noted that the elderly and children are most often under counted. He said significant decisions are made based on the Census count that impact communities including a number of public funding sources and representation in government. He stated that roughly 20% of the people in the US do not respond to the Census. The government is making the survey available on-line in the hopes of getting a more accurate account. He states that everyone will be prompted to participate on-line. If that doesn't happen then they will get a phone call, and finally they may get a visit at their home. He said that our partners can help by helping spread the word about the Census and why it is important. There are social media tools available for sharing the information. Also making computers available on which people can complete their survey is helpful. He stated the survey contains 10 questions and people should answer them independently.

He also spoke of the need for workers to assist with obtaining an accurate count. He stated that the pay rate is \$18.50/hr and that people can determine how many hours they want to work. Eligible applicants will receive paid training. He noted that they need about 1500 more workers in Beaver County. There is no drug test but a background check and fingerprints are required. He encouraged folks to apply even if they have a criminal history as not all charges will preclude them from this work. The application process occurs on-line. The work will start in April and wrap up around the end of July. Applicants should feel comfortable talking with strangers and be able to use a laptop. Transportation is required (public transportation is ok) and assignments will be given based on the transportation. Transportation costs will be reimbursed. Gene shared that the income earned through this work will not count against SNAP and TANF benefits. It will be taken into consideration for Social Security Disability but likely will only impact if the threshold is reached. For more information about working for the US Census visit: 2020census.gov/jobs. Or call our local Census recruiter Roger Kies at 412.977.6272. Roger is available to come to your sites to provide more information. See attached flyer for more information.

Men's Emergency Shelter update

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina provided an update on the proposals received in the most recent Request for Proposals for Men's Emergency Shelter. She noted that two were received but that neither met the eligibility requirements. She stated that the funds instead will be used to augment what is currently in place which is the cost for transportation to out of county shelters and for hotels. She noted that the 2020 RFPs for CDBG, HAP, and ESG will be coming out soon. She noted that it will be posted in The Beaver County Times. RFPs will be due in March. The RFPs will not be specifically for a Men's ES, but Community Development will highlight the need for Men's ES as a funding priority.



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

Darcy Casey noted that Crossroads is still available to provide gift cards, comfort items, and information and referral. For assistance, call Raeann at 724.846.1303.

Point In Time Survey

Melissa Grimes

Melissa announced the PIT survey is scheduled for January 29th, 2020. She reminded the group that the survey is important to reach people who may not otherwise present for assistance. It is also used to provide HUD an accurate snapshot of homelessness (by which they gauge our progress in ending homelessness). In addition to the PIT numbers, HUD requires detailed explanations about how we conducted the survey, and our analysis on why the numbers may have changed. These reports do impact our funding from HUD. Melissa noted that we still need volunteers and she passed around a sign up sheet. She reminded the group that if they plan to volunteer they must receive a mandatory training. To receive the training contact Dina at ciabatonidina@gmail.com. She also was available after the meeting to provide training for anyone who signed up at the meeting. Melissa also stated that we will be putting the outreach bags together on January 25th at 9 am at The Cornerstone (600 6th Street Beaver Falls) and she welcomed anyone would like to help.

UPDATE: A few Volunteer spots are still available! Contact Melissa or Dina if interested.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina noted there are not many openings but reported the Housing Authority has some vacancies. There is an 811 vacancy at Kopple Terrace. She also reported that the CE waiting lists are short and indicated that means we are doing a good job of getting people housed.

NEXT MEETING: February 13, 2020

1/25/2020 Put Outreach bags together for PIT 9:00 am at The Cornerstone (600 6th St, Beaver Falls)

1/26/2020 The Cornerstone of Beaver County's Souper Bowl fundraiser 1 – 6 pm at Beaver Brewing (1820 7th Ave Beaver Falls). Tickets are \$25 and include soup, bread, and raffles.

1/28/2020 Private Industry Council Job Fair for 10 – 2 at CareerLink (285 Rt 18 Monaca) Call for an appointment: 724.728.4860

1/29/2020 Point In Time Survey – all day!

1/31/2020 Current Drug Trends 9 – 12 pm at BV Intermediate Unit 147 Poplar Ave, Monaca. To register, email: jennifer@etc-pa.com

2/27/2020 Cultural Competency 9 – 4 pm at Fairfield Inn 1438 Brodhead Rd Monaca. To register, email: jennifer@etc-pa.com

3/5/2020 LGBTQ+ Youth Training 9-12 at BV Intermediate Unit 147 Poplar Ave, Monaca. To register, email: lscaff@bccan.org

4/9/2020 Poverty & Addiction 9-12 at The Lodge at Penn State Beaver. To register, email: lscaff@bccan.org

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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.

NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
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Regina Hunter	BCVA	Mrs Alexander-OPAHealthwellness.com
Dina Ciabattani	Col Coordinator	

* John Bryant

BF Street Pastor



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NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
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Kari Reda	Carnegie Free Library	
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If you haven't signed in already, please do so. Thank you!

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