



# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

February 13, 2020

## Meeting Agenda

**Welcome and Introductions:** Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35pm and introduced: Maura Snyder (Unity Family Services); Matt Nance (Tiger Pause); Rich Pirozzi (VA Pittsburgh); and Norah Miller (Crossroads).

*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.*

**January Meeting Minutes:** No errors or omissions were 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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## 1. OPEN DISCUSSION

**Matt Nance (Tiger Pause)** announced that he is rehabbing a building in Beaver Falls. It will be used for furniture storage and for assisting women who are being sex trafficked. He stated that he is working in partnership with Standing in the Gap and they would help the women with job training and accessing resources. He noted that he will be cleaning out the building on March 14<sup>th</sup> and can use volunteers to assist. Dina asked Matt to invite Standing in the Gap to attend the next Coalition meeting. He stated that he would.

**Natalie Meade (Head Start/Early Head Start)** announced the Annual Community Day on March 24<sup>th</sup> at their location at the Beaver Valley Mall. The Day will include opportunities to: enroll a child, meet staff, and see a classroom. Prizes will be available too. Natalie reminded the group that eligible children are aged 6 weeks to 6 years old. She noted that they can also provide some in-home supports. She states that they have an initiative to serve families experiencing homelessness and that the doubled-up status is considered homeless.

**Terry Lukas (Association for the Blind)** announced a free vision and eye glasses event on March 10<sup>th</sup>. She stated that they still have 12 appointments available that day. Call Terry for eligibility requirements and to make an appointment at 724.506.6477.

**Cyndi Gilkey (Neighborhood Legal Services)** announced that NLS can assist with eviction prevention, working with landlords to make repairs, and other landlord tenant issues. She stated that referrals can go through their hotline: 724.598.4188. She also introduced Nikki Christopher who replaced Michelle DeBord.

**Branden Dudek (Central Outreach Wellness Center)** announced the opening of the new culturally competent health care center for the LGBTQ community. Insurance is not required. He reported that they can do free STI testing and treatment including for HEP C and HIV/AIDS. They will test people who are actively addicted to drugs. He stated that they also provide primary care and supportive services. They offer a pharmacy with no co-pays and they have a mobile unit that can provide testing as well. They also have a Housing Director to assist with locating housing. Her name is Renee Johnson and Dina asked Branden

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to please invite her to the next Coalition meeting. He also noted that he works for Prevention Pittsburgh and can assist with Narcan distribution and training. He stated that Central Outreach works closely with PRISM who provides socialization opportunities for LGBTQ teens. See attached flyer.

**Maura Snyder (Unity Family Services)** announced that they just opened a new office in Beaver to offer Family Based Mental Health Treatment Services. They can be reached at 724.845.2978 or 1.866.771.4488. Their office is located at 336 College Ave., Suite 104 Beaver, PA.

**Rich Pirozzi (VA Pittsburgh/HUD-VASH)** reported that they are currently serving 8 veteran households in Beaver County. He noted that they work closely with Veterans Leadership Program as well as The Cornerstone.

**Darcy Casey (Housing Authority)** shared information from Glade Run on their Psychiatric Rehabilitation program for people 18 years and older and who have a behavioral health diagnosis. Herta noted that they also have a mobile and site-based services. See attached flyer for more information.

Darcy also shared information on a FEMA grant available to churches to improve their safety features. For more information visit: <https://www.fema.gov/nonprofit-security-grant-program>

**Harry Angelo (Job Training)** shared information on behalf of CareerLink. A job search workshop is available on 2/24 from 10-12 at the Beaver Valley Mall. And a training on how to use Google for personal and professional growth is available on 3/4 from 10-12 also at the Mall. See attached flyers.

**Norah Miller (Crossroads)** thanked everyone for all of the support to Crossroads and to homeless men while the shelter is not in operation. She reported that it is the 228<sup>th</sup> night without a shelter for men. She noted that the Crossroads board is still working to acquire a property for the shelter. They have a meeting with a pastor next week about possibly using the church for shelter. She stated that Crossroads is still receiving calls and they are responding to them with outreach, gift cards, and information & referrals. She stated that Crossroads staff can be reached at 724.846.1303.

**Michelle Medlin (LifeSteps)** announced that they offer in home services for youth. She stated that they hold year round enrollment. Currently there are also 2 open positions with the agency. She states that applicants should be interested in early education and enjoy working with families. Applicants can apply online at: [www.lifesteps.net](http://www.lifesteps.net) and then click Careers.

**Makesha West (Resources for Human Development)** reported on a complex case with which she needed some housing guidance. Dina offered to review the case with her after the

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meeting. Makesha also noted that RHD is hiring a Therapist. Interested applicants can call Makesha at: 724.508.3993 or visit RHD.org

**Denise Sentf (VA Pittsburgh – Veteran Justice Outreach)** reminded the group that outreach and advocacy services are available to any veteran facing legal/justice issues. She can be reached at: [Carmen.Senft@va.gov](mailto:Carmen.Senft@va.gov)

**Rosalyn Johnson (The Cornerstone of Beaver County)** reported that they will be hosting a Valentine's food truck and give away event on 2/14 from 11-1pm at 600 6<sup>th</sup> Street Beaver Falls. All are welcomed!

**Dina Ciabattoni (Continuum of Care Coordinator)** stated that a meeting will be held tomorrow to discuss possible solutions to the loss of our homeless hotline. The meeting is at 10 at Community Development.

She also mentioned a resource that can help pay for rent at  $\frac{3}{4}$  houses – [www.ryanswings.org](http://www.ryanswings.org)

## 2. AGENDA

### VA Pittsburgh HUD-VASH

**Rich Pirozzi**

See above. Rich noted that he would bring printed materials to the next meeting.

### Weekend on-call

**Tom Kaminsky**

Tom noted that The Cornerstone is now operating an on-call phone over the weekends. The hours of operation are from Friday at 4pm until Monday at 9 am. The number is 724.494.0726. He stated that a housing specialist will provide guidance to emergency shelter options.

Mary Ann from the Women's Center also reminded the group that they have a 24/7 hotline too. That number is: 724.775.0131. Norah Miller also mentioned that Lawrence County pays a fee to 211 for them to directly link callers to the housing resources.

### Point In Time Survey

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina thanked everyone for their help with the Point In Time survey. She noted that 21 different efforts (drop in centers, outreach teams, and soup kitchens) were utilized that day and that we found 9 unsheltered homeless people – 6 individuals and one family of 3. This is 3 more individuals than last year. She stated that each of the cases were followed up on and outreach will continue to be provided to those who remain unsheltered. She also provided a preliminary sheltered count. See attached. She noted that George will be at next month's meeting with further details.

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## CoC Awards

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina reported that HUD announced the Tier 1 funding from the CoC Competition. She stated that we received all of the Tier 1 funding including the two Bonus projects – Coordinated Entry and HMIS. We also received the DV Bonus project which was in Tier 2 but it was reviewed separately. Our Tier 1 funding totals \$1,647,098. She said that HUD has not announced the Tier 2 funding. She reported that \$204,000 remains in Tier 2 and that it is expected HUD will announce the Tier 2 funding in the next few weeks. She thanked all of the applicants for their hard work on their applications. Dina also noted that she believes our strong partnerships are part of why we did so well in this competition. She thanked everyone for their continual efforts to combat homelessness in Beaver County. See attached.

## Bed Availability

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina handed out the Bed Availability chart. Harmony House and BC On-Call corrected their reported censuses to zero for each program.

**NEXT MEETING: March 12, 2020**

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**2/14/2020 Rapid Response Planning Meeting** at 10 am at Community Development Program located at 1013 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Beaver Falls. All stakeholders are welcome. Email [ciabattomidina@gmail.com](mailto:ciabattomidina@gmail.com) to RSVP.

**2/25/2020 "Is Your Criminal Record Holding You Back?"** from 12:30-2:30pm at CareerLink at the Beaver Valley Mall.

**2/27/2020 Cultural Competency** 9 – 4 pm at Fairfield Inn 1438 Brodhead Rd Monaca. To register, email: [jennifer@etc-pa.com](mailto: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](mailto:lscaff@bccan.org)

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

**5/7/2020 Navigating the Housing and Homeless System in Beaver County** from 9 – 11:30 am at 147 Poplar Drive Monaca, PA 15061. To register, email: [lscaff@bccan.org](mailto:lscaff@bccan.org)

**6/11/20 Compassion Fatigue** from 9–12pm at Penn State The Lodge To register, email: [lscaff@bccan.org](mailto:lscaff@bccan.org)

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.

NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Luan Duches	Salvation Army	
Maria Moreland	Roots	
Raean Grinn	Crossroads	
Worah Miller	Crossroads	
MaryAnn McDevitt	Women's Center	
Mawka Smedr	Unity Family Services	784-882-3787 mcnryder@ufsm.mentalhealththrough
Kari Reda	CFLBF	
Sarah Reed	ABC Associates	bred@abc-associates.org
Missy Grimes	CRS	
Michelle Maddy	Lifesteps Early Headstart	
Jam Trope	STBC	
Red Tamara	BCYS	
Tina Verano	BCYS	
Down Bahno	PHFA	
USA Sigman	GW7	
Sabrina Klau	BCRC	sklau@bcrc.net
Sylenne Durr	POVERTY Star	
Gina Farzanti	BCDR	



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NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
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Darcy Casey	CHRS	
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Kosalya Johnson	TCBC	
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NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
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Renel Sparker	HACB / CARL	
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Jessica Ducea	Family Medicine Ctr	
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Katarina Meach	HS   CHS	
Rich Prozzi	HUD VASH	
Branden Dyden	Central Outreach	branden@centraloutreach.com
C. Denise Smith	VA - UJO	Carmen.Smith@va.gov
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Dina Ciabattini	CoC Coordinator	



If you have not signed in  
 already, please do so.  
 Thank you!

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NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
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Nora M. Miller	Crossroads of BC	norahmillerconsulting@yahoo.com
Amanda West	BHO	mAKESHIA.WEST@RHD.org





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# CENTRAL OUTREACH

WELLNESS CENTER

Dr. Stacy Lane, D.O.

Central Outreach Wellness Center is the largest medical center in Western Pennsylvania specializing in culturally competent care for the LGBT community. Our goal is health and wellness in a judgement free zone to enhance a patient's life.

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