



# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

July 9, 2020

## Meeting Agenda

**Welcome and Housekeeping:** Dina called the meeting to order at 12:35 but was having technical difficulties so the meeting start was delayed by a few moments. She reminded the group to sign into the chat box, reviewed some Zoom basics, and alerted everyone to the meeting being recorded only for the purpose of assisting with the preparation of the meeting minutes.

*The Housing & Homeless Coalition welcomes ideas, opinions, and knowledge from a broad spectrum of partners. Therefore 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~~ on Zoom until further notice. Zoom meetings are recorded to assist with the preparation of the meeting minutes. The recording will not be shared or posted.*

**June 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

**Terry Lukes** (The Association for the Blind) noted that even though their building is still closed to the public they can assist with transportation to doctor's appointments and can provide assistance with obtaining glasses. For more information call, 724. 506.6477.

**Natalie Meade** (Head Start/Early Head Start) announced that even though their buildings are closed they are still providing online instruction. She stated that they are taking applications and processing them over the phone with the families. She reminded the group that there is no cost for their services. Questions can be directed to [724-728-2110](tel:724-728-2110). See attached flyer for more information.

**Rebecca Salopak** (Housing Authority of Beaver County) asked if people are still experiencing long wait times to receive their unemployment. She stated that she is working with a couple who was approved in March and has yet to receive a check. Dianne Funkhouser stated that CareerLink has an Unemployment Compensation rep at their office and she has been successful in helping folks receive their benefits in a timely manner. She did note that since the word is getting out that the UC rep is starting to get behind with it taking a few days now to receive benefits. CareerLink can be reached at 724.728.4860. Dianne also reminded the group that the additional funding for people who lost their jobs due to coronavirus is ending at the end of July. Cynthia Gilkey noted that Neighborhood Legal Services can assist with UC claims as well. Neighborhood Legal Services can be reached at 724.378.0595. **UPDATE: See attached flyer re: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.**

**Dina Ciabattoni** (CoC Coordinator) announced that Veterans Leadership Program is holding a food distribution event on 7/13/2020 at 12 pm at 2934 Smallman Street Pittsburgh PA 15201.

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Dina also noted that the PA and federal eviction moratoriums have been extended through 8/31/2020. The PA eviction moratorium is for those people who are not receiving assistance through PHFA's Rental Relief Program and/or are not covered by one of the several other federal moratoriums or judicial orders. She noted that the federal moratorium applies to those properties and mortgages backed by PHA.

**Paul Lebanik** (St. Vincent de Paul) asked if we had any additional information regarding the utilities moratorium. The group responded that no deadline has been established yet. Dina stated that she will get an updated flyer and distribute it. Cynthia Gilkey stated that she has one and will send it to Dina. **UPDATE:** Here is a link to the flyer: <https://www.rhls.org/utility-assistance-for-those-affected-by-the-corona-virus/>

**Branden Dudek** (Central Outreach & Wellness) reminded the group that they provide free sexually transmitted infections testing and treatment. To schedule an appointment call: 724.707.1155.

**Makesha West** (RHD) reported that they have detox and rehab beds available. She also noted that their expansion should be completed soon. If in need call: 724.508.3993.

**Nancy Grieco** (Red Cross) reported that they have assisted several households affected by house fires over the last few months. She noted that this is an unusual increase and that most of the fires originated in electrical outlets. She gave thanks to assistance that The Cornerstone gave on many of the cases.

## 2. AGENDA

### Cooling Centers

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina reported that the recent hot temperatures have triggered the Cooling Centers to open. However a few of the centers cannot open due to social distancing guidelines. Currently The Cornerstone and the New Brighton borough building are the only locations open. She asked if anyone had any suggestions for additional locations particularly in the southern part of the county since we don't have any locations operating there. No suggestions were made. Dina asked the group to continue to think about options. She noted that the CoC can provide masks, hand sanitizer, and water to assist any agency that is willing to serve as a Cooling Center. She noted that it would be helpful during this heat wave if an agency is willing even on a temporary basis to serve in this capacity.

### PHFA CARES Rent Relief and Mortgage Assistance Programs

**Dina Ciabattoni**

(For more information, visit: <https://www.phfa.org/pacares/>)

Dina explained that all information for these programs can be found on the PHFA website noted above. She noted that the Mortgage Assistance applications are submitted to and processed by PHFA. The Rental Relief Program applications go to Community Development Program (1013 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Beaver Falls, PA 15010). She explained that both the landlord

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and the tenant have to agree to the terms of the program and complete separate applications. Dina noted that the county has not received the actual contract yet so all of the details have not been worked out at this time. She stated that we expect to receive it in the coming days and will then have more information about payments, turn around time etc. She will update the Coalition once these details are worked out.

## **ESG, HAP, ESG-CV updates**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina stated that the regular ESG and HAP applications are being reviewed this week and that an announcement will be made very soon. She also noted that the special amendment to the Consolidated Plan for ESG-CV and CDBG-CV has been approved by HUD and the funds will be made available in the coming weeks. She noted that final allocation decisions still need to be made but most likely for programs that already render the service, the funding will go directly to them so as to get the support out asap. For services that are not currently being rendered a Request for Proposals will go out. Marie asked if the Outreach allocation would have to be just for one person or could it be rendered in a different manner. Dina noted that since we do not currently have outreach services that an RFP would go out and applicants could depict in their proposal the programmatic details as they see fit as long as it meets all of the requirements outlined in the RFP.

## **Beaver County Annual Veteran Stand Down**

**Tom Kaminsky**

Tom stated that due to social distancing requirements this year the Veteran Stand Down will take place in The Cornerstone's parking lot instead of the New Brighton American Legion. He acknowledged the NB Legion's generosity with sharing their space last year. He stated that this may be a good way to introduce the TCBC location to veterans and vendors. He stated that the date is to be determined as they would like to push it a bit later into the fall to help avoid spread of the virus and in the hopes that the weather may be more appropriate then for an outdoor event. Tom stated that they are accepting donations, and looking for agencies interested in tabling at the event. If interested, contact him at 724.846.6400 ext 111 or at [tkaminsky@CornerstoneBeaver.org](mailto:tkaminsky@CornerstoneBeaver.org)

Rebecca noted that she may be able to help schedule someone to provide haircuts.

## **Addressing Racial Disparities**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina informed the group as funding is coming into the county that HUD is pushing for communities to ensure that these funds are used in equitable ways. She stated our CoC has a Racial Disparities committee and through its work we have discovered that we have disparate outcomes in our housing programs based on race. She mentioned less positive housing outcomes and longer lengths of time homeless based on race. She stated that the county is committed to making sure the new funds reach those who need it the most and are distributed in an equitable way. She stated that the Racial Disparities committee will reconvene soon, and she encouraged new membership. She stated if anyone has interest in joining the committee to contact her. She mentioned a HUD Webinar that will review various strategies for ensure equity across races and encouraged folks to tune if they could. She referenced the current national dialogue around racial justice and stated that with so much

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new funding available in the county we could be part of the solution by introducing practices that reduce the disparate outcomes we have historically seen. **If you are interested in being part of this work, contact Dina at [ciabottonidina@gmail.com](mailto:ciabottonidina@gmail.com)**

## Face Masks and PPE needs

**Dina Ciabottoni**

Dina reported that the Community Development Program received a large donation of face masks from the Hanes company. If agencies need them for their staff and clients please contact Cassie at CDP (724. 770.2040) and let her know how many you need. Dina stressed that the donation is plentiful, so she encouraged folks to ask for what they need. She also noted that there is additional funding for other PPE such as gloves, hand sanitizer, thermometers, cleaning supplies etc. If you have these types of needs please let Dina know so we can order the supplies.

## Bed Availability

**Dina Ciabottoni**

Dina noted a slight uptick on the CE wait lists. She reported that the programs have been doing a great job of getting folks enrolled from the lists but that many of the programs are now at capacity. She stated that can change from moment to moment though. She also mentioned that the HA has vouchers specifically for moving people who are ready out of PSH and into their own units. She expects that this will help with opening up some PSH beds. She also noted that there is an opening in the 811 program which is for people aged 18-61 who are living with a disability and are at risk of institutionalization. She noted the unit is in Koppel so it is not a great fit for people who are dependent on public transportation. She thanked the group for reviewing this chart every month.

**NEXT MEETING: August 13, 2020**

## **SAVE THE DATES**

**7/9/20 Discussion of Equity Products Webinar.** 3:00 – 4:30pm. To register, visit:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/news/upcoming-webinar-covid-19-homeless-system-response-discussion-of-equity-products/>

**DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED: 9/18/20 Beaver County Annual Veteran Stand Down** - The Cornerstone parking lot (600 6<sup>th</sup> Street Beaver Falls).

**10/1/20 9/24/20 Poverty & Addiction Webinar.** 2.5 CEUs available for \$10. To register, visit:

[www.bccan.org](http://www.bccan.org)

**10/8/20 Compassion Fatigue Webinar.** 2.5 CEUs available for \$10. To register, visit: [www.bccan.org](http://www.bccan.org)

**10/13/20 Navigating the Housing & Homeless System in Beaver County Webinar.** To register, visit:

[www.bccan.org](http://www.bccan.org)

**11/6/20 Beaver County Drug & Alcohol Town Hall Meeting** More details to come.

**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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The July 9th Housing & Homeless Coalition Meeting was held on Zoom due to social distancing guidelines. Below is a list of attendees who were visibly in attendance on the Zoom meeting and who signed into the Zoom chat.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Rebecca Salopek	Housing Authority/Crossroads
Tom Kaminsky	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Brendan Dudek	Central Outreach & Wellness Center
George Beegle	HMIS
Jamie Hinkle	Beacon Health Options
Lori Gaghan ??	Staunton Clinic – Heritage Valley
Herta Madder	BCBH
Penny Jones	Local Landlord/ACRE
Terry Lukes	Beaver County Association for the Blind
Marcy Scott	CRS
Melissa Grimes	CRS
Abby Opal	Mental Health Association
Paul Lebanik	St. Vincent DePaul
Andrew Short	Project STAR
Natalie Meade	Early Head Start
Makesha West	Resources for Human Development
Angela Melton	Neighborhood Legal Services
Barb Reed	ABC Associates
Nancy Grieco	Red Cross
Dianne Funkhouser	CareerLink
Marc de Jeu	First Presbyterian Church – Beaver
Kristy Minton	CYS
Reverand Moreland	ROOTS
Harry Angelo	Job Training of Beaver County
Raeann Grivna	Crossroads
George Ifill	Gateway Health
Sister Sarah Crotty	Sisters of St. Joseph
Aria Miller	Salvation Army
Luann Duchess	Salvation Army
Sabine Kane	BCRC
Sylenthia Dent	Project Star
Dina Ciabattoni	CoC Coordinator
John Bryant	Beaver Falls Street Pastor
Darcy Casey	Crescent Commons – Housing Authority
Matt Stahoviak	BCBH
Dawn Bartha	Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
Phone	unknown

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**Head Start/  
Early Head Start  
of  
Beaver County**

Division of the Private Industry Council

# Apply Now!



## Head Start/ Early Head Start of Beaver County

**Offers early learning programs for pregnant women and families  
with children ages 6 weeks to 5 years at NO COST to you!**

**Locations available throughout Beaver County!**



### Benefits for Children:

- ✓ Safe and healthy learning environment
- ✓ Dental, hearing & vision screenings and referrals
- ✓ Kindergarten readiness
- ✓ Health, mental health and nutrition services
- ✓ Healthy meals & snacks provided daily in classrooms & at play dates at no cost\* (see back)

### Benefits for Families:

- ✓ Support services for children
- ✓ Healthy family development
- ✓ Parent volunteer opportunities
- ✓ Connection to social services
- ✓ Early Head Start classrooms in daycares



Call: **724-728-2110** or visit us at [www.privateindustrycouncil.com](http://www.privateindustrycouncil.com) for more information & to submit your information on our online Pre-Application or scan code below.



# PUA

## Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act creates a new temporary federal program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

In general, PUA provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals not eligible for regular unemployment compensation or extended benefits, including those who have exhausted all rights to such benefits.

Individuals covered under PUA include the self-employed (e.g. independent contractors, gig economy workers, and workers for certain religious entities), those seeking part-time employment, individuals lacking sufficient work history, and those who otherwise do not qualify for regular unemployment compensation or extended benefits.

**PUA is a Federal Program. All PUA questions must be obtained through the PUA office not the Unemployment office.**

## Information or apply for PUA?

[www.uc.pa.gov](http://www.uc.pa.gov), select "[File for PUA](#)"

## Who do I contact with questions?

By Phone: 855-284-8545

By Email: [UCPUA@pa.gov](mailto:UCPUA@pa.gov)

# WARMING AND COOLING CENTERS OF BEAVER COUNTY

The following WARMING and COOLING centers are available to the public Monday through Friday from 9 am until 4 pm when the temperature is:

- BELOW 32 DEGREES
- HIGHER THAN 90 DEGREES

## PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

*The Cornerstone – 600 6<sup>th</sup> Street Beaver Falls*

*New Brighton Municipal Building – 610 Third Ave New Brighton*

~~*Uncommon Grounds Café – 380 Franklin Avenue Aliquippa*~~  
*Temporarily closed.*

~~*The Center for Hope – 740 Park Road Ambridge (hours: Mon-Wed 11 am–3 pm; Thursdays 11am–6:30pm includes a hot meal)*~~  
*Temporarily closed.*

**For more information or to serve as a Cooling Center:**

Please call The Cornerstone at 724.846.6400 ext. 140

Or after business hours, call the Homeless Hotline 724.494.0726



Housing Program	Type	Availability	Units/Beds	Occupancy	Administrator
Crescent Commons*	Permanent	0	24	100%	Housing Authority
Friendship Homes*	Permanent	0	33	100%	Salvation Army
BC On-Call	Emergency	0	2	100%	The Cornerstone
Community Residential*	Permanent	0	41	100%	Housing Authority
Stone Harbour*	Transitional	4	12	67%	CRS
CRS Transitional	Transitional	5	15	67%	CRS
Help House	Transitional	0	11	100%	Housing Authority
Harmony House	Transitional	0	4	100%	BCCYS
BCCYS Housing	Emergency	9	14	79%	BCCYS
Women's Center	Emergency	1	24	96%	BC Women's Center
Women's Center	Transitional	0	10	100%	BC Women's Center
SA Rapid Rehousing *	Permanent	1	N/A	N/A	Salvation Army

\*McKinney Vento Supportive Housing Programs - See reverse side of chart for HUDs disability & homeless eligibility requirements.

Subsidized or Section 8	Location	Bedroom Types	Wait List Details
Brightwood Manor	New Brighton	4- 2BRs; 1-3BR	Taking applications
Beaver Falls Plaza	Beaver Falls	Full	Taking applications. Srs. 1 year; Disabled 1+ year. Purge annually
Scottswood Apts	Hopewell	1BR elderly/disabled	Taking Applications
Valley Terrace	Aliquippa	1 eff. And 2-3BRs	Taking Applications
ValleyView	New Brighton	4-2BR; 1-3BR	Taking Applications
Spring Run	Monaca	Full	Taking Applications
Towne Tower	Aliquippa	6 - one bedrooms	Taking Applications
Pinney Street Manor	Rochester	Sr. 1 BR	Building an accessible waitlist. Income cap 1 person: \$26,600; 2 people: \$30,400

**Housing Authority**

Ambridge Towers	Ambridge	vacancies	
Brodhead Apts	Beaver Falls	vacancies	
Eleanor Roosevelt	Aliquippa	vacancies	
Sheffield	Aliquippa	vacancies	

\*Applications accepted for all HACB sites.

811 Program	Koppel/Roch.	1 unit in Koppel	Vacancy	*See back for more information
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**Coordinated Entry Waitlists**

PSH: 12  
TH: 11  
RRH: 0

**The Housing Authority's main office remains closed. Walk-up and high rise units are now being rented and HCVs are being issued.**

## Description of Beaver County McKinney Vento Supportive Housing Programs

**Community Assisted Residential Living (C.A.R.L.)** is a tenant based rental model administered by the Housing Authority of Beaver County in which rental assistance vouchers in the form of Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) will be issued to the chronically homeless or homeless households with an illness or a disability. The Program focuses on households with the longest length of homelessness, homeless households with children, veterans, and victims of domestic violence. It is a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program within Beaver County's Continuum of Care. Individuals and families live in scattered sites. The program is not funded to provide case management services.

Contact information: Renee Speaker [hacbspeaker@comcast.net](mailto:hacbspeaker@comcast.net)

**Crescent Commons** is a permanent supportive housing program administered by the Housing Authority of Beaver County which provides housing vouchers to participants who are chronically homeless with disabilities and who have exhausted all other housing options. At full operational capacity the program should house approximately 31 people. Individuals and families live in scattered sites. The program is not funded to provide case management services. Contact information: Darcy Casey [darcycasey@att.net](mailto:darcycasey@att.net)

**Friendship Homes** is a 33 bed scattered permanent supportive housing program administered by the Salvation Army for both chronically homeless and non-chronically homeless individuals and families and with disabilities. In addition to housing, the program is funded to provide moderate case management services. Contact information: Jaime Kinkead [Jaime.kinkead@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Jaime.kinkead@use.salvationarmy.org)

**Stone Harbour** is a transitional supportive housing program administered by Cornerstone Recovery and Supports (CRS) which provides supportive housing for 12 chronically homeless individuals struggling with co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse, as well as those with legal histories. Individuals live in a single site in Freedom PA. The program is funded to provide on-site case management services. Contact information: Marcy Scott: [msscott@crscares.org](mailto:msscott@crscares.org)

**Salvation Army Rapid Re-Housing** is a medium term rapid re-housing program for homeless households who score for rapid re-housing through Coordinated Entry and who need longer term financial assistance (up to 2 years). Individual assessment will determine length of financial support and types of supportive services offered. Contact information: Jaime Kinkead at [Jaime.kinkead@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Jaime.kinkead@use.salvationarmy.org)

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### **811 Program** (not a McKinney Vento program)

A subsidized housing program for disabled adults (age 18-61) who are either in an institution or at risk of institutionalization and who are able to reside in the community with supports. Criteria include:

- Disabled and Medicaid eligible. Also eligible for long-term services and supports
- Income at or below 30% AMI
- Eligible for the Housing Authority

Questions and/or applications can be directed to Lisa Kessler at [hacblk@comcast.net](mailto:hacblk@comcast.net)