



# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

May 13, 2021  
Meeting Agenda

**Welcome and Housekeeping:** Dina called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm. She asked everyone to sign into the chat and reminded them that the meeting is being recorded to assist with the minutes. It will not be shared.

*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 on Zoom until further notice. The meetings are recorded to help prepare the meeting minutes but will not be shared or posted.*

**Review of April Minutes:** Archived Coalition Meeting Minutes are available at [www.bccan.org](http://www.bccan.org)

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## 1. OPEN DISCUSSION

**Dina Ciabattoni** (CoC Coordinator) had several announcements. First she shared the sad news that Lynell Scaff unexpectedly passed away. Dina stated that Lynell had been a regular participant at this meeting as the Director of BCCAN and she also touched so many of our organizations through the many trainings they offer. Dina asked for a moment of silence to remember her and her family.

Dina also reported the Unemployment Compensation system is being updated. There is a webinar on these changes on May 17, at 1:00 pm. **UPDATE:** More information on the new system can be found here: <https://www.uc.pa.gov/unemployment-benefits/UCBenMod/Pages/Quick-Tips.aspx>

Dina also shared the Participant Satisfaction Survey. She asked partners to provide the survey (using the online link found below or the paper form that Dina emailed) to clients who have exited from CoC residential programs. The survey is a result of the work of the Racial Disparities committee, and they are seeking to learn about clients' personal experiences – what worked and what didn't work well. She noted that there is also an option if survey participants would like to further discuss their experiences in focus groups. See attached survey.

Finally, she shared that there are Personal Protective Equipment and cleaning supplies at the Community Development Program. She encouraged agencies to stock up so we don't get caught off guard like we did at the beginning of the pandemic. Contact Cassie 724.770.2040 to arrange pick up.

**Amy Frank** (Harmony House/Lighthouse) shared that Lighthouse currently has 3 openings. She reminded the group that eligible clients must have CYS involvement and some recovery time. For more information, call 724.728.3350.

**Josh Fisher** (Veteran Leadership Program) introduced himself as the Outreach worker for VLP which is a new position for the agency. He noted that he can help connect veterans to RRH, TH, assist with disability applications etc. He is available to assist veterans as needed. He can be reached at:

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fisherj@vlpwpa.org Cyndi Gilkey asked for him to connect with her as Neighborhood Legal Services has resources available for veterans as well. Dina noted that the most recent VA CHALENG survey revealed one of the greatest needs for both male and female veterans is legal services so she thanked NLS for targeting their services to veterans. Nancy Grieco asked him if he works for the Cornerstone and he stated that he does not. She then asked who at The Cornerstone works with veterans. Marie answered that is Chris Anderson (canderson@cornerstonebeaver.org) and Bryan Shannon (bshannon@CornerstoneBeaver.org). Marie noted that VLP is a good organization and she welcomed Josh. Nancy stated that she would pass along the contact information for Josh, Chris, and Bryan to her colleagues at the Red Cross.

**Nancy Grieco** (American Red Cross) reported 2 house fires since the last meeting affecting 3 adults.

**David Simmons** (ABC Associates) reports that they have resumed administering Vivitrol inside of their facility. He also reported that their D&A counselors are operating under a hybrid model. They will meet with people face to face if the person passes a screening protocol.

**Cynthia Gilkey** (Neighborhood Legal Services) reported that their offices remain closed, but they are rendering services over the phone. She said they are able to meet face to face as needed.

**Heather Slaughter** (Self Determination Housing Project) reported that they have a number of upcoming webinars including but not limited to landlord engagement, equity inclusion, etc. She will email the information to Dina. **UPDATE:** Dina forwarded the email to Coalition members.

## 2. AGENDA

### Eviction Moratorium update

### Cynthia Gilkey (Neighborhood Legal Services)

Cyndi reported that the current state of the CDC's Eviction Moratorium is a bit confusing. She stated the Federal District in Washington D.C. ruled that the Eviction Moratorium (EM) was unconstitutional. She reminded the group that the EM only protects people from being evicted for non-payment of rent and the household must complete a declaration in order to be covered by the EM. The Fed. District court ruling is being questioned as to whether it applies to local counties. She stressed that Neighborhood Legal Services plans to argue if the Federal District's determination is upheld that it doesn't apply at the local level. She went on to report that the Justice Department appealed the decision, and the stay (a temporary halt to the decision) was granted – meaning the EM is currently still in place until June 30th. However, because the stay is temporary the EM could still be ruled unconstitutional prior to the June 30th deadline. Cyndi has agreed to keep this group updated as the EM status is challenged. Dina asked Cyndi that if it is determined to be constitutional does she have any sense of whether the EM will be extended. Cyndi responded that her opinion is that it will not be extended. She reminded that group that Neighborhood Legal Services can assist in eviction proceedings. Since the EM is currently still in place, Dina will re-send the declaration forms to this group as folks are not protected if they do not have a completed declaration form.

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## **Vaccine Clinics**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina shared that the vaccine clinics being offered in partnership with Central Outreach Wellness are well underway. The Cornerstone and Women's Center both sponsored clinics. The second shot clinic will be held at The Cornerstone on May 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 -3:30pm. Folks are also welcomed to come receive a first shot at this clinic too. And the Salvation Army will be hosting a first shot clinic on this Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-3:30 during their meal distribution. See attached flyer. She stressed that folks do not need an appointment, nor do they need proof of insurance. She also clarified that the vaccine is Pfizer so children 12 and older are welcomed at the clinic. Parental permission is required. Central Outreach will be returning to the sites to administer the 2nd doses. She thanked the three host agencies for making their spaces available and extending the reach of the clinic. She also thanked Central Outreach Wellness for their critical piece in generously sharing and administering their vaccine supply to our clients. She also thanked Branden Dudek for making this important connection!

## **Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina reported that the ERAP program is rolling out. There were a few obstacles initially that needed worked out, but the program is now picking up pace. She reminded the group that households and landlords can apply. Applications are available on COMPASS at:

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome> and on the Community Development Program website at:

<http://www.beavercountypa.gov/Depts/CommDev/Pages/default.aspx>

The application can be printed from the CDP website and Dina stated that she can deliver to agencies printed forms as well. She reminded the group that submitting the application is only the first part – the household will have to submit additional documents to demonstrate eligibility. Cyndi stated that some clients think the Landlord must sign the application. Dina clarified that is not the case. The case workers will work with landlords to obtain necessary information if the tenant cannot get it from the landlord initially. Dina also mentioned for utility arrears a report of the missed payments from the utility company is required. This is to show that the missed payments occurred during the eligibility period. She asked the group to help their clients navigate this hurdle as utility payments are being delayed when this document is missing. She noted overall that missing documents (proof of income, copies of lease, bills etc) are the biggest cause of delayed payments. Although the program is working on how to streamline this any help that our partners can lend is also greatly appreciated. She reminded the group that Beaver County has been allotted \$10 million and that it will require all of us pulling together to get this much needed assistance out to households and landlords.

## **Outreach**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina referenced the Coordinated Entry numbers on the Bed Availability chart and discussed that the numbers have been coming down over the last few months. She reflected that it is likely because people are not getting evicted but that it doesn't mean homelessness has magically ended. Because we suspect there are still folks who are unsheltered and we historically expect an uptick in unsheltered

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people as temperatures warm up, we are going to conduct an outreach event. This will be the first such event in over a year due to the pandemic. She stressed that we will still have to be very careful conducting outreach now – masks, social distancing, hand washing etc. She explained that we will organize teams to cover certain areas in the county as we have done in the past. She asked for people who have done outreach before either in Beaver County or elsewhere to please consider volunteering and to place their information in the chat. She is hoping to conduct the event on May 21<sup>st</sup> if possible.

## Bed Availability

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina pointed out that many programs currently have openings. This is problematic because we know there are folks who could benefit from the programs and the openings leave the programs underspent on their grants. She is hopeful that funders will be understanding of this as limited unit turnover has had an impact on the number of people presenting for services.

## NEXT MEETING: June 10, 2021

### SAVE THE DATES/FURTHER INFORMATION

**TRAININGS AVAILABLE!!** On Motivational Interviewing; Cultural Competency & Social Services; and The Culture of Poverty. VISIT, <https://www.bc-systemofcare.org/training/>

**CoC Client Satisfaction Survey** Please share with anyone who has resided in a CoC residential housing program. A paper survey is available and can also be found at, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TWCWZL6>

**VA CHALENG Survey** for homeless/formerly homeless veterans and staff who serve them. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHALENG2021>

**Online PA Tax Hub** for personal income tax and Rent Rebates filings: <https://mypath.pa.gov/>

**Information on NA meetings** throughout the county (both in person and online) visit, [www.beavervalleyna.org](http://www.beavervalleyna.org)

**The PA Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Program 24 hour hotline** for those seeking substance use treatment. 1.800.662.4357

The 5/13/21 Housing & Homeless Coalition Meeting was held on Zoom due to social distancing guidelines. Below is a list of attendees who signed into the chat or were visibly present.

George Beegle	HMIS
Michelle Medlin	Lifesteps Early Head Start
Carrie Miller	PA Cyber
Joshua Fisher	Veterans Leadership Program

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Cyndi Gilkey	Neighborhood Legal Services
David Simons	ABC Associates
Shante' Thompson	CRS
Abby Opal	Mental Health Association
Barb Reed	OARS Aliquippa
Nancy Grieco	American Red Cross
Kate Willette	The Children's Institute
Kevin Huwe	DON Services
Sr. Sarah Crotty	Sisters of St. Joseph
Melissa Grimes	Housing Authority of Beaver County
Amy Frank	Salvation Army - Harmony House/Lighthouse
Lakeshia Robinson	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Sylvia Jenkins	WCBC
Lori Gaghan	Staunton Clinic
Monique Anderson	
Lynn Bailey	Harmony House
Kristy Minton	CYS
Jamie Hinkle	Beacon
Sabine Kane	BCRC
Marie Timpano	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Harry Angelo	Job Training of Beaver County
John Oster	PA Cyber
Mandy Baker	Hope House
Mary Ann McDevitt	Women's Center
Maria Townsend	Maria Townsend Associates, LLC
Heather Slaughter	Self Determination Housing Project
Darryel Spencer	Housing Authority
Branden Dudek	Central Outreach Wellness Center
Herta Madder	BCBH
Sylenthia Siebenlist	Children's Institute
Matthew Stahoviak	BCBH
Natalie Meade	Head Start/Early Head Start
Dina Ciabattoni	CoC Coordinator
Penny Jones	ACRE
Renee Sannan	Salvation Army – Friendship Homes/RRH

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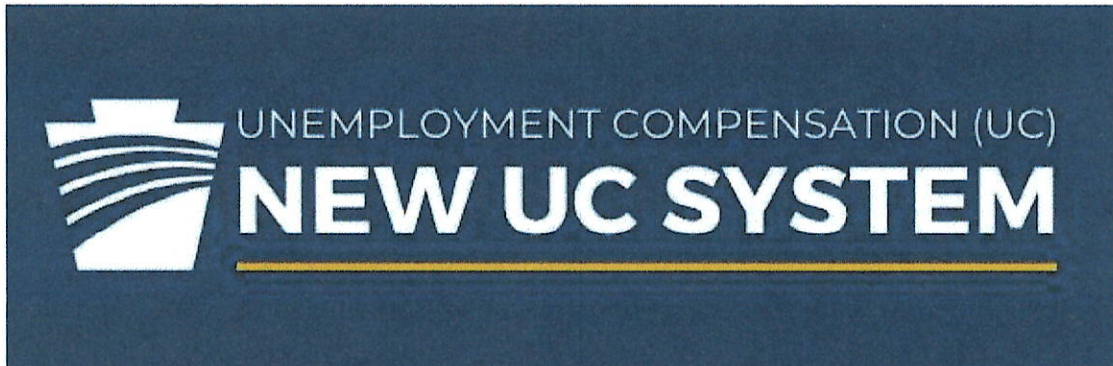
Dina Ciabattoni <ciabattodina@gmail.com>

**FW: NEW Unemployment Compensation System Coming - SAVE THE DATE!**

1 message

**Dianne Funkhouser** <dfunkhouser@washingtongreene.org>  
To: Dianne Funkhouser <dfunkhouser@washingtongreene.org>

Mon, May 10, 2021 at 2:14 PM



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Monday, May 17, 2021 - 1:00 PM**

For the upcoming transition to the NEW Unemployment Compensation (UC) System, our staff will be presenting an instructional workshop to teach you everything you need to know as an employer to get the most out of our new system!

**Get ahead and start learning how to use the  
new UC system!**



## Participant Satisfaction Survey

Think about the system of partners who assisted you through the housing crisis you experienced. This system is called the Continuum of Care and it includes partners like: The Cornerstone, Coordinated Entry, The Salvation Army, CRS, The Franklin Center, Crossroads, The Housing Authority and many more. Please then answer honestly about your experiences and outcomes. You can email additional comments to [ciabottonidina@gmail.com](mailto:ciabottonidina@gmail.com). And use this email address to let us know if you'd like to participate in a focus group to further discuss your experiences.

Thank you for taking the time to share your experience with us!

**Did you secure a housing option that met your needs?**

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

**Did the Continuum of Care (CoC) partners treat you with respect and dignity when they were assisting you?**

DISRESPECTFUL \_\_\_ NEUTRAL \_\_\_ VERY RESPECTFUL \_\_\_

**Did you feel that the CoC partners had your best interests in mind?**

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

**Did the CoC partners help you address challenges like: finding a place, filling out an application, communicating with the landlord etc?**

\_\_\_ NO HELP OFFERED WITH CHALLENGES

\_\_\_ SOME HELP OFFERED WITH CHALLENGES

\_\_\_ VERY HELPFUL WITH CHALLENGES

Continued on back →

*If you would like to participant in further discussion of these issues:  
email [ciabottonidina@gmail.com](mailto:ciabottonidina@gmail.com), or call 724.987.0714, or talk with your case manager or staff  
from the program you were enrolled in.*



**What was the biggest problem you encountered while working to secure housing?**

- Trouble finding a place that met my needs such as: affordable, near supports and services that are important to me, safe, utilities being included etc.
- Took too long to find a place.
- CoC partners were slow to respond to my questions, calls, etc.
- CoC partners weren't supportive.
- Landlords were difficult to communicate with.
- Something else.

**What was the best part of your experience with CoC partners?**

- Finding a safe place to live.
- The support the CoC partners gave me.
- Finding a place I can afford.
- Something else.

**How likely is it that you would recommend the Continuum of Care to a friend or colleague?**

Not likely Extremely likely  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

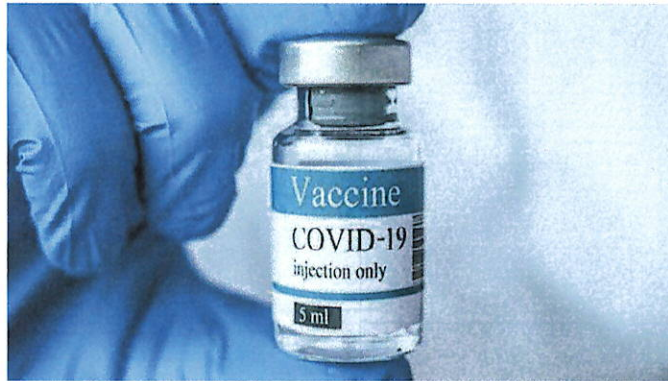
**Please indicate your race. This will help us to learn more about achieving equitable outcomes for all of our participants.**

- White
- Black
- Native American/Alaskan Native
- Multi-Race
- Other

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH US!

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from the program you were enrolled in.*





# Covid-19 Vaccinations

When: Sunday May 16, 2021

Time: 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Where: The Salvation Army in Beaver Falls  
(414 16<sup>th</sup> Street Beaver Falls, PA 15010)

You do not need an appointment or insurance.

*Offered in partnership with The Salvation Army, Central Outreach Wellness, and the Beaver County Continuum of Care.*



PA-603 Continuum of Care  
Working toward the goal of ending  
homelessness in Beaver County.



Housing Program	Type	Availability	Units/Beds	Occupancy	Administrator
Frescent Commons*	Permanent	7	24	71%	Housing Authority
Friendship Homes*	Permanent	3	33	91%	Salvation Army
BC On-Call	Emergency	0	2	100%	The Cornerstone
Community Residential*	Permanent	4	41	90%	Housing Authority
Stone Harbour*	Transitional	5	12	58%	CRS
CRS Transitional	Transitional	2	15	87%	CRS
Help House	Transitional	0	11	100%	Housing Authority
Harmony House	Transitional	1	4	75%	BCCYS/SA
BCCYS Housing	Emergency	14	17	18%	BCCYS
Women's Center	Emergency	0	24	100%	BC Women's Center
Women's Center	Transitional	0	10	100%	BC Women's Center
SA Rapid Rehousing *	Permanent	2	N/A	N/A	Salvation Army
Safely Home*	Permanent	5	16	69%	Housing Authority
Lighthouse	Transitional	3	3	0%	BCCYS/SA

\*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	1-1BR; 5-2BR; 0 - 3BR	Taking Applications	1BR: 22 applicants; 2BR: 0 apps; 3BR: 3 apps
Spring Run	Monaca	Full	Taking Applications	1BR: 2yrs; 2BR: very short; 3BRs:18-24 mos
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	Must be 45 yrs+ or permanently disabled	<p><b>The Housing Authority's main office remains closed. Walk-up and high rise units are now being rented and HCVs are being issued.</b></p>
Corak Towers	Midland	vacancies	Fair market ren	
Eleanor Roosevelt	Aliquippa	many vacancies	Must be 45 yrs+ or permanently disabled	
Sheffield Towers	Aliquippa	vacancies		
*Applications accepted for all HACB sites.				

811 Program	Koppel/Roch.	No vacancies	*See back for more information
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**Coordinated Entry Waitlists**

**PSH: 7 (9)**  
**TH: 8 (6)**  
**RRH: 26 (29)** Includes all RRH prgms  
 ( ) indicates last month's count

## Description of Beaver County McKinney Vento Supportive Housing Programs

**Community Assisted Residential Living (C.A.R.L.)** is a permanent supportive housing program for homeless households with a disability. It is a tenant based rental model administered by the Housing Authority of Beaver County. The Program focuses on households with the longest length of homelessness, homeless households with children, veterans, and victims of domestic violence. Individuals and families live in scattered sites. The program is not funded to provide case management services. Contact information: Melissa Grimes [mgrimes@beavercountyhousing.org](mailto:mgrimes@beavercountyhousing.org)

**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: Renee Sannan [Renee.Sannan@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Renee.Sannan@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: [mScott@crscares.org](mailto:mScott@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: Renee Sannan [Renee.Sannan@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Renee.Sannan@use.salvationarmy.org).

**Safely Home** is a medium term rapid re-housing program for homeless households fleeing DV situations. The Women's Center will also provide support to clients. Referrals come from CE and are verified by the Women's Center. Contact information: Darcy Casey at [darcycasey@att.net](mailto:darcycasey@att.net)

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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)