



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

July 8, 2021

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Housekeeping: Dina called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm. She asked folks to sign into the chat for recording attendance. She also alerted members that the meeting is being recorded to help her complete the minutes. It will not be shared or posted.

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.

Archived Coalition Meeting Minutes are available at www.bccan.org

1. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mary Ann McDevitt (The Women's Center) announced that they will be transitioning to full capacity next week. For people whose needs are better met in a hotel, funding is still available.

Dianne Funkhouser (CareerLink) reported that they too are fully open and available to meet with people face to face. They welcome walk-ins and are holding in-person workshops. She stated that clients are not required to wear masks but staff are still making masks available for those who prefer to wear them. All staff are back in the office at this time.

Heather Slaughter (Self Determination Housing of PA) announced that SDHP is offering several webinars in July and August. She sent the flyer to Dina to forward to the Coalition. Dina emailed the information to Coalition members after the meeting.

Lesley Kaluzne (American Red Cross) reported that Pennsylvania is among the top states with the highest rates of deaths from fires. She noted that ARC continues its preparedness trainings and they can now do them face to face. She also reported that the smoke detector program in partnership with the fire departments is still in operation as well. In fact she reported smoke detector events in Beaver Falls, New Brighton and other communities. If you need a smoke detector or are interested in a training call: [724-480-3168](tel:724-480-3168).

Susan Tomlinson (Dads Matter) reported that the program graduated a class of Dads yesterday. She noted that a new cohort started on Monday. She explained that the group can meet in person or virtually and they meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30. The next group will begin on August 18th. She reminded the group that the Dads Matter program is for Dads and father figures who have substance use, mental health, or criminal issues. The program empowers them to shape their children's lives, enhance their relationships, and improve their financial well-being. To access the program call: [\(724\) 728-2110](tel:724-728-2110).

Dina Ciabattoni (Continuum of Care Coordinator) shared that Beaver County Behavioral Health is conducting a survey on the human services plan. A link to the survey is below. She noted that the results from the survey help to inform how the Block Grant is allocated. Both

The mission of the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County is to provide support, direction, and collaboration in effectively addressing the issues of homelessness and affordable, sustainable housing in Beaver County by identifying and utilizing all available resources.



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

clients and service providers are welcome to complete the survey which should be available for about another week.

Dina also provided the Red Cross report noting that there were 2 fires in June affecting 2 clients. She also shared Beaver County's Fiscal Year stats: 36 disasters, 62 cases, 162 residents (58 children) were displaced. Lesley Kaluzne then took over the report. See above.

Dina reminded the group about the Free Vision Screening and Eyeglasses event on July 22nd at 616 Fourth Street Beaver Falls. For an appointment, call: 724.506.6477.

She also reported on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. She stated that the program has obligated \$1.8 million for rental and utility arrears. She noted that 392 households have been assisted. (She provided a correction from the last meeting. When she reported the number of households she erroneously reported services instead. Households can have multiple services). She states that the program is processing applications more quickly now that some initial challenges have been worked out. She noted that there is over \$1 million in pending applications. She stated that the biggest delay is obtaining all of the documentation needed to establish household eligibility. She noted any help with obtaining these documents is greatly appreciated and any ideas on how we can streamline that process are very much welcomed.

2. AGENDA

Men's Emergency Shelter update

Chris Anderson

Chris reported that The Cornerstone closed on the building for the Men's Emergency Shelter on June 25th. She noted that WTW Architects has been hired to assist with the design of the new space. They will be touring the space in the coming days and she noted that the TCBC team already has some ideas around design and use of the space. She expects the rehab to start in early fall and a possible opening in February or March. Dina thanked Chris for this important update and reminded the group that Feb/March is the best estimate for an opening at this time but as always there could be some delays.

Upcoming funding opportunities

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina announced that there are two funding opportunities coming up soon. See attached summary. She noted that these are not new opportunities but neither of them had a formal competition last year due to the pandemic. The first one is Home4Good through PHFA and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh. In the past this has funded an expansion of a TH program by adding RRH funds/opportunity, and the Outreach position. It follows a broader definition of homelessness than HUD does. It also has historically been more flexible in how it can be spent as it is intended to fill gaps in our service delivery complement. She stressed that this summary is just to get folks thinking and that the guidelines will outline all details for this competition. She stated that those guidelines are scheduled to be available on July 15th which we will then review them and shortly thereafter we will provide instructions for how to apply locally. **UPDATE:** The guidelines, local instructions, and all necessary information to apply were emailed to Coalition members on 7/15/21. In the coming days they will also be posted on

The mission of the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County is to provide support, direction, and collaboration in effectively addressing the issues of homelessness and affordable, sustainable housing in Beaver County by identifying and utilizing all available resources.



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

the Community Development Program website at:

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

The other funding opportunity is our big pot of money – the Continuum of Care funding through HUD. She noted that this funding is used to support: Friendship Homes, Crescent Commons, the CARL, SA RRH, Safely Home RRH, HMIS, Coordinated Entry, and Planning. She noted that we intend to renew (or possibly reallocate portions) all of this funding. She also noted that historically there is an opportunity to secure new additional funds through Bonuses. She stated that she cannot predict if HUD will make Bonus funds available again this year. The Notice of Funding Opportunity will outline these details of the competition and should be released anytime now. She reminded the group that CoC funding does follow the HUD definition of homelessness and can only be spent on PSH, RRH, TH, HMIS, CE, and Planning. She stated that once the NOFO is released, it will be reviewed on the local level and then instructions will be provided shortly thereafter if there are opportunities for new funding. She noted that this competition requires the CoC to rank the renewal projects for funding priority and then we are also competing with CoCs across the nation as well.

She reminded the group that she is available for technical questions on both opportunities.

Eviction Moratorium

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reported that the moratorium has been extended to July 31st. She included the updated declaration forms in everyone's packet and reminded the group that households are not protected from eviction if they do not fill out a declaration form. She noted that there are still three weeks to help folks behind on their rent to get assistance (ERAP, ESG, SSVF, HAP) before the moratorium lifts. She stated that these homeless prevention funds could likely still help households even after they receive an eviction notice, but that it becomes more complicated and more traumatizing for households when they face this housing instability. She noted that there will likely be a one to two month delay after the moratorium lifts before we will start to see people be locked out. A question was asked about what can be done if a landlord will not sign the W-9 for ERAP. Dina stated she would look into this and get back to the group. **UPDATE:** Every effort is made to engage the landlord and obtain the signed W-9; however, if that is not effective, the check can be made out to the tenant. The tenant must confirm that they will give it to the landlord.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina noted a mistake under the Housing Authority listing. Corak Towers is in fact Public Housing where folks pay 30% of their income (not Fair Market rent as indicated on the chart). She thanked Darcy Casey for catching the mistake. She then noted that Crescent Commons (PSH) and Safely Home (RRH for households in DV situations) have several openings. If working with folks who could benefit from those programs, refer them to Coordinated Entry. Stone Harbour has openings but Marcy Scott confirmed she has people engaged for each of those spots. Dina reflected on the CE waitlists noting that it went down by 8 households in the last month compared to it having gone up 16 households in the previous month. She also reported that over the last 6 months there were two months that CE screened about half of the average

The mission of the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County is to provide support, direction, and collaboration in effectively addressing the issues of homelessness and affordable, sustainable housing in Beaver County by identifying and utilizing all available resources.



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

number. She clarified in an average month about 30 households are screened. She reflected that the fluctuations are likely due to moratoriums ending and then being extending and just all of the unpredictability that the pandemic has created.

She also apologized for not introducing Brett Campbell from Central Outreach Wellness Center (Northside location). He is their new Housing Coordinator. She stated that the Coalition recognizes that it takes a team with our many different services and strengths to take one household from homelessness to stable housing. She welcomed his extra set of competent hands in our work.

She thanked everyone for coming and stated that if folks have suggestions for future topics, presenters etc to please let her know as she strives for this meeting to always be relevant to your services, strengths, and challenges.

NEXT MEETING: August 12, 2021

SAVE THE DATES & OPPORTUNITIES

Human Services Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021HSBG>

TRAININGS AVAILABLE!! VISIT <http://www.bc-systemofcare.org/training/>

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 Rebate filings: <https://mypath.pa.gov/>

Information on NA meetings throughout the county (both in person and online), visit: beavervalleyna.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.

The 6/8/21 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.

Marissa Moyer	CRS – Stone Harbour
Alexa Mapstone	Columbia Gas
Lakeshia Robinson	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Marcy Scott	CRS

The mission of the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County is to provide support, direction, and collaboration in effectively addressing the issues of homelessness and affordable, sustainable housing in Beaver County by identifying and utilizing all available resources.

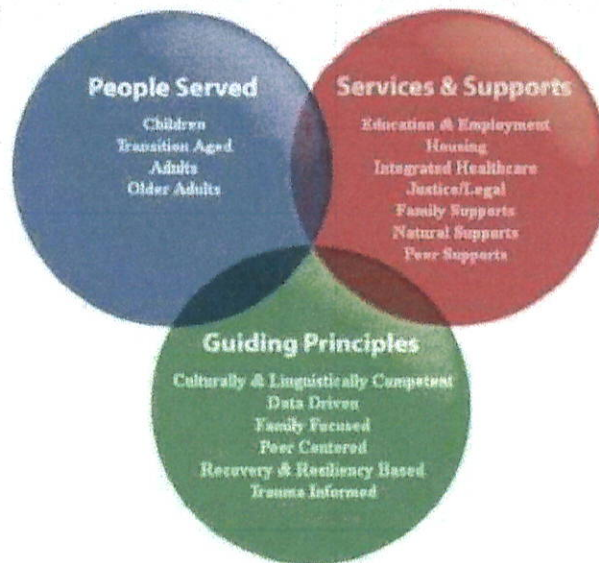


Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

Cyndi Gilkey	Neighborhood Legal Services
Denise DeVittis	Domestic Relations
Dianne Funkhouser	CareerLink
Michelle Medlin	Lifesteps/Early Head Start
Brett Campbell	Central Outreach Wellness Center
Lesley Kaluzne	American Red Cross
Shante Thompson	CRS
Kevin Huwe	DON Services
Wendy Beeching	Neighborhood Legal Services
Melissa Grimes	Housing Authority of Beaver County
Renee Sannan	Salvation Army
Chris Anderson	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Pastor Marvin Moreland	Deliverance Temple Ministries
Lori Gaghan	Staunton Clinic
Sabine Kane	BCRC
Susan Tomlinson	Dads Matter/Private Industry Council
Erin Rathbun	Beacon Health Options
George Ifill	Gateway Health
Raeanne Barlow	3 rd Step Recovery Ministry
Paul Lebanik	St. Vincent De Paul
Harry Angelo	Job Training of Beaver County
Branden Dudek	Central Outreach Wellness Center
Mandy Baker	Hope House
Mary Ann McDevitt	Women's Center
Jessica Sabol	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Heather Slaughter	Self Determination Housing Project
Bryan Shannon	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Darcy Casey	Housing Authority
Herta Maddar	BCBH
Sylenthia Siebenlist	Children's Institute
Matthew Stahoviak	BCBH
Darryel Spencer	Housing Authority
Dina Ciabattoni	CoC Coordinator
Angela Pope	CCBC/KEYS
Marla Talasky	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Amy Frank	Harmony House/Lighthouse

The mission of the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County is to provide support, direction, and collaboration in effectively addressing the issues of homelessness and affordable, sustainable housing in Beaver County by identifying and utilizing all available resources.

Beaver County System of Care



We need to hear from you.

Click here to take the annual System of Care (SOC) Stakeholder Survey:

[https:// www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021HSBG](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021HSBG)

For more information or a printable version of the survey, please contact ssantoro@ahci.org

Visit us at www.bc-systemofcare.org



FREE

**VISION SCREENING &
NEW EYEGLASSES!!!**

WHERE : Beaver County Association for the Blind
616 Fourth Street
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

WHEN : Thursday July 22, 2021
ONE DAY ONLY!

TIME : 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm

**To schedule an appointment,
Call Terry: 724-506-6477**

Financial Availability Requirements
BCAB is NOT responsible for glasses supplied by Mission Vision.
In order for Mission Vision to keep this a free service you will
NOT be given a copy of your prescription.



Upcoming Funding Opportunities

The Beaver County Continuum of Care will be responding to two upcoming funding opportunities. Although the formal announcements and guidelines have not been provided yet, below is a brief description to get agencies thinking about these funds and the best ways to use them. As further details become available, the CoC Coordinator will email them to Housing & Homeless Coalition partners along with instructions for requesting the funds.

Home4Good (PHFA and Pittsburgh Federal Home Loan Bank)

“Home4Good is a newly created program developed by the Federal Home Loan Bank Pittsburgh and PHFA to address unmet and critical needs in the existing Continuums of Care across the Commonwealth. The initiative will provide a flexible source of funding for organizations working to address homelessness in Pennsylvania with the primary objective of ensuring that if an individual is faced with homelessness it is rare, brief and non-recurring. ... The Home4Good Program Request for Proposals will be looking for innovative applications to ensure the comprehensive and coordinated effort being implemented by communities can be achieved” (<https://www.phfa.org/mhp/serviceprovider/>).

The PHFA guidelines will outline eligible activities in this year’s competition. In the past we have received funding for expanded RRH opportunities, and last year we used it to create the Outreach Coordinator position. This funding usually follows a broader definition of homelessness than the HUD definition. The guidelines should be released by PHFA around July 15th. The CoC will put together instructions for requesting these funds shortly thereafter.

HUD CoC Funding

CoC funding is used to support the communitywide commitment to ending homelessness (<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>). Our CoC funding supports three PSH, two RRH, and one TH programs. It also funds HMIS, Coordinated Entry, and Planning. Last year, we received \$1,928,806. We plan to renew (or reallocate, TBD) these funds. Historically, HUD makes additional funding (beyond the renewal amount) available through various Bonuses. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will report whether Bonuses are available this year and if so, it will detail for what the Bonuses can be used. We expect the NOFO announcement any time now. The CoC will then put together instructions for requesting these Bonus funds shortly thereafter.



Eviction Protection Declaration

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued an order that may protect you from being evicted or removed from where you are living. **This means that you may be able to stay at the place where you live through JULY 31, 2021, if you qualify.**

How to use this form

1. See if you qualify for eviction protection under the CDC order. If you'd like help from an expert, contact (800) 569-4287 or go to <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/rental-eviction/> to get contact information for a local HUD-approved housing counselor.
2. Sign the declaration that you qualify, on the next page.
3. Give the signed declaration page to the individual or company you rent from (for example, building management, landlord, etc.). Keep a picture or copy for your records and call your expert back if there's a problem.

1. Do I qualify?

If you can check at least one box in each column, you qualify.

Column A

- I received a stimulus check (Economic Impact Payment) in 2020 or 2021
- I was not required to report any income to the IRS in 2020
- In 2020 or 2021, I earned (or expect to earn) **less than** \$99,000 as an individual or **less than** \$198,000 as a joint filer

You are likely to have earned under **this amount if you receive any** of the following benefits:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

AND

Column B

I cannot pay my full rent or make a full housing payment because:

- My household income has gone down substantially
- I have been laid off from work
- My work hours or wages have been cut
- I have extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses¹

None of the above — You do not qualify.

None of the above — You do not qualify.

You checked at least one item in each column? Your income level qualifies.

[Check the first box on the next page]

¹Defined as 7.5% or more of my adjusted gross income for the year

2. My Declaration that I qualify

By checking the boxes below, I declare that each statement is true.

- My income level qualifies for the reasons explained above
- I have done my best to make timely partial payments that are as close as possible to the full payment and to get government assistance in making my rent or housing payments. ²
- If I were evicted, I have no other available housing options, so I would:
 - Probably become homeless, **or**
 - Have to move to a homeless shelter, **or**
 - Have to move in with others who live in close quarters.
- I understand that after I sign:
 - Unless I come to an agreement with my landlord, I am still responsible for rent, back rent, and any fees, penalties or interest under my lease.
 - I must still follow the conditions of my lease.
 - Unless I come to an agreement with my landlord, if I fail to make my required payments, I could be evicted when this temporary halt of evictions ends.
 - I can still be evicted for reasons other than not paying rent or not making a housing payment.

Troubleshooting tools for tenants

Find emergency rental financial assistance

Call (800) 569-4287 to find a listing for local HUD-approved housing counselors

Report problems with debt collection

Submit a complaint to CFPB cfpb.gov/complaint

Report discrimination

Submit a complaint.
Call HUD at (800) 669-9777

I sign this declaration³ under penalty of perjury. That means I promise that the statements above are the truth and that I understand that I can be criminally punished for lying.

You sign here:

X _____

Date: _____

3. Give this signed page to the individual or company you rent from.

ATTN LANDLORDS: Thank you for your compliance. If you violate the CDC's eviction Order, you and/or your business may be subject to criminal penalties, including fines and a term of imprisonment.

²Calling a local expert is the best way to figure out all the help that is available to you. Find a listing for a local HUD-approved housing counselor by calling (800) 569-4287.

³If you have already signed an eviction moratorium declaration, you do not need to submit another one.

Current Beaver County Housing Inventory Availability

JULY 2021

Housing Program	Type	Availability	Units/ Beds	Occupancy	Administrator
Crescent Commons*	Permanent	10	24	58%	Housing Authority
Friendship Homes*	Permanent	1	33	97%	Salvation Army
BC On-Call	Emergency	0	2	100%	The Cornerstone
Community Residential*	Permanent	3	41	93%	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	2	4	50%	BCCYS/SA
BCCYS Housing	Emergency	11	17	35%	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	10	16	38%	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.

Subsized 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	3-1BR; 5-2BR; 0 - 3BR	Taking Applications	1BR: 20 applicants; 2BR: 6 apps; 3BR: 5 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>The Housing Authority's main office remains closed. Walk-up and high rise units are now being rented and HCVs are being issued.</p>
Corak Towers	Midland	vacancies	Public Housing	
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
-------------	--------------	--------------	--------------------------------

Coordinated Entry Waitlists

PSH: 9 (7)
 TH: 9 (11)
 RRH: 31 (40) 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:Melissa.Grimes@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)

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