



# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

October 14, 2021

## Meeting Agenda

**Welcome and Housekeeping:** Dina called the meeting to order and asked partners to sign into the chat. She also reminded the group that the meeting will be recorded to assist with writing the minutes – not for posting or sharing.

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

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## 1. OPEN DISCUSSION

**Heather Slaughter (Inglis)** reported on the training series that Inglis is offering this month. She noted that Dina will forward the flyer with all the details after the meeting.

**David Simons (ABC Associates)** mentioned that they are offering a series of D&A trainings. He will forward the flyers to Dina to share with the group. He also mentioned that they are hiring to fill two counselor positions.

**Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator)** asked the group if Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> would work better for the next meeting due to the second Thursday being Veteran's Day. She asked for preferences to be indicated in the chat.

**George Ifill (Gateway Health)** announced that Highmark has acquired Gateway which enables Gateway to fall under Blue Cross/Blue Shield. He assured the group that all coverage will remain the same. What will change is their name which will be Highmark Whole Care. If anyone has questions they can email George at: [gifill@gatewayhealthplan.com](mailto:gifill@gatewayhealthplan.com) He also mentioned Gateway's partnership with the Housing Authority to provide Resource Fairs next week – Monday through Friday 2 – 5pm. He will forward the information to Dina for her to share with the group.

**Nancy Grieco (Red Cross)** reported since our last meeting that the Red Cross handled 4 single family fires and 1 multi-family fire which resulted in 7 cases affecting 19 people (4 children and 2 seniors).

## 2. AGENDA

### Women's Center Training

**Mary Ann McDevitt**

Mary Ann announced that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. She reflected on how the pandemic gave abusers more tools such as isolation, power, control, and lack of privacy in the home (making it difficult to reach out for help). She stated that it didn't necessarily mean more abuse but more ways to do it. In the last year, the Women's Center rendered 5,000 nights of shelter to victims which is a 1,000 more than the previous year. 404 Protection for Abuse

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orders were rendered which is on par with previous years. The hotline fielded 2,286 calls last year with 1,086 DV clients getting some kind of WC services. Mary Ann reminded the group that the WC is very much still operating and using hotels as needed to accommodate social distancing. She mentioned that masks can be a trauma trigger for some clients. She noted that the Education Dept is still available to provide trainings. They can come on site to do so. The WC continues to provide advocacy at the courthouse and in the ER. She reminded the group that the Women's Center also serves men with their full complement of services. She did note that men tend to be less likely to reach out for help. She provided the following tips to our partners: 1. Remember that homelessness is the presenting problem. There could be many other underlying issues including DV, 2. Give the client options, 3. Remind the client that they are capable of making good choices, and 4. Be on alert for a person with the client who is controlling or manipulating the situation or the person's responses or if the person seems to make the client uneasy. Referrals to the WC can be directed to: 724.775.0131. Questions can be directed to Mary Ann at: [mmcdevitt@womenscenterbc.org](mailto:mmcdevitt@womenscenterbc.org)

### **Salvation Army's Homeowner Program**

**Aaron Bingle**

Aaron shared that The Salvation Army received Community Development Block Grant-CV funding from the Community Development Program. These funds will be used to support low and moderate income homeowners who have had a decrease in income due to the pandemic. Funds can be used to pay mortgages, utilities, and back taxes. Arrears can be paid back 6 months and can go back as far as February 2020. Future payments are not permitted. The program runs through March 2022. Eligible applicants will have proof of income, proof of the need, and photo ID. See attached PowerPoint for more details. Questions can be directed to Aaron at: [aaron.bingle@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:aaron.bingle@use.salvationarmy.org) or 724.846.2330.

### **Racial Equity policy & Steering Committee selection process**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina shared the recently adopted Racial Equity policy passed by the CoC Steering Committee on 9/24/21. She stated that the committee felt the antidiscrimination and antiharassment policies did not adequately address racial equity, so the Racial Equity policy was created. Dina noted that the policy was emailed to everyone prior to the meeting. She stated that this policy will become part of the CoC policies which the CoC and ESG funded programs are required to follow. However, she noted the CoC Policies are also meant to guide all of our CoC partners regardless of how they are funded. So she asked everyone to review the policies with their agencies and consider whether their agency and clients could benefit from implementing the policy or something similar. She thanked everyone for their continued partnership at this meeting and in the effort to end homelessness and asked that partners at least consider whether such a policy would enhance their efforts.

Dina also reviewed the CoC Governing Board (aka locally as the Steering Committee) Selection Process which was emailed to the group prior to the meeting. She noted that the Steering Committee (SC) is responsible for the CoC Policies & Procedures, analysis of outcomes, identifying gaps, and planning accordingly to fill them. They are the oversight board for the CoC. HUD requires that we review the member selection process every 5 years with the SC and with our partners. She noted that the SC should be representative of relevant organizations in the

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effort to end homelessness. Dina noted we know it takes a robust continuum of partners to do this work and as such all attendees at this meeting are considered relevant organizations. She also explained that the SC is committed to having a homeless or formerly homeless person on the board. She acknowledged this lived experience as a level of expertise that those who have not been homeless do not have. As the SC oversees the CoC, we need this expertise. She noted that we are in the process of appointing a new person to fill this role. She also noted that the SC recognizes the need for a healthcare partner. We will invite folks to fill these specific roles, but if you have interest, please let Dina know. The SC meets quarterly, and we ask members to try to attend at least 3 of the meetings. Members are asked to sign a Conflict of Interest form and to recuse themselves from any votes that they have a personal or professional interest in. A new change to this process, is that we will ask the Commissioners to recognize new members. Dina asked if there were any questions on the selection process. There were none so she put it to vote in the chat. The majority of attendees did approve the selection process.

## **Update on CoC Competition**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina provided an update on the current CoC Competition. She stated that it looks like we will be applying for about \$1.9 million with the majority of that being renewal funds (renewing programs include Friendship Homes, Crescent Commons, CARL Program, SA RRH, Safely Home, Stone Harbor, CE, HMIS, and planning). She noted that an RFP was put out for new projects and that we received two. These new proposals are to expand 2 renewal projects – SA RRH and CE. She explained that these new projects address needs identified in our Strategic Plan so we are excited to include them in the 2021 CoC Application. She reminded the group that the final decision on which programs are funded is made by HUD. She noted that we are required to submit the projects in a ranked order for funding priority. The Ranking Committee will be meeting next week to rank the projects. She noted that the ranking process is very difficult as we recognize the critical need for each of our projects. She explained that 100% of the amount equal to our renewal amount can be placed into Tier 1 this year which is a safer position for funding. She noted that all Tier 1 projects are reviewed and funded (or not) across the nation before Tier 2 is reviewed. Tier 2 is based on our overall CoC score and the amount of available funding left. The overall application is due on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Dina will be working on the CoC portion of the grant in the coming weeks. She will be reaching out to partners for formalized agreements that reflect our partnerships. She noted that the written agreements demonstrate to HUD the strong partnerships we have.

## **Bed Availability**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina noted that PSH and TH waitlists have gone down while the RRH waitlist went up. She noted that it does not appear the overall numbers of households accessing Coordinated Entry have changed. She highlighted that Crescent Commons has 5 openings. She reminded folks that households must be Chronically Homeless for this program. Timelines are very helpful for establishing this criterion. Remembering exact dates can be difficult but rough estimates are helpful as well. So if you are working with a homeless household helping them to establish such a timeline can be helpful. Also clients of CC will need an advocate – this can be most anyone who can help hold the household accountable to meetings, appointments, and doing the work to meet

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their housing stability goals. She also pointed out the SA RRH has openings as does Safely Home which is RRH for household with DV status.

**NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2021**

## **SAVE THE DATES & OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**10/1/21-11/1/21 Women's Center Take a Walk Through History Fundraiser** Tickets can be purchased at: <https://wcbctickets.weebly.com/>

**10/21/21 Courageous Conversations: Housing & Faith Equity** from 10 am – 12 pm. To register, visit:

**11/30/21 The Cornerstone's Party with a Purpose** 7pm to 9 pm on Zoom. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://cornerstonebeaver.networkforgood.com/events/35206-tcbc-s-5th-annual-party-with-a-purpose>

**Information on NA meetings** throughout the county (both in person and online), visit: [beavervalleyna.org](http://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 10/14/2021 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.

Brett Campbell	Central Outreach Wellness Center
Aaron Bingle	The Salvation Army
David Simmons	ABC Associates
Michelle Medlin	Lifesteps
Matt Stahoviak	Beaver County Behavioral Health
Jaime Kinkead	Beaver County Rehabilitation Center
Mary Ann McDevitt	Women's Center
Marissa Moyer	CRS
Branden Dudek	Central Outreach Wellness Center
Penny Jones	Landlord Partner/ACRE
Dianne Funkhouser	CareerLink

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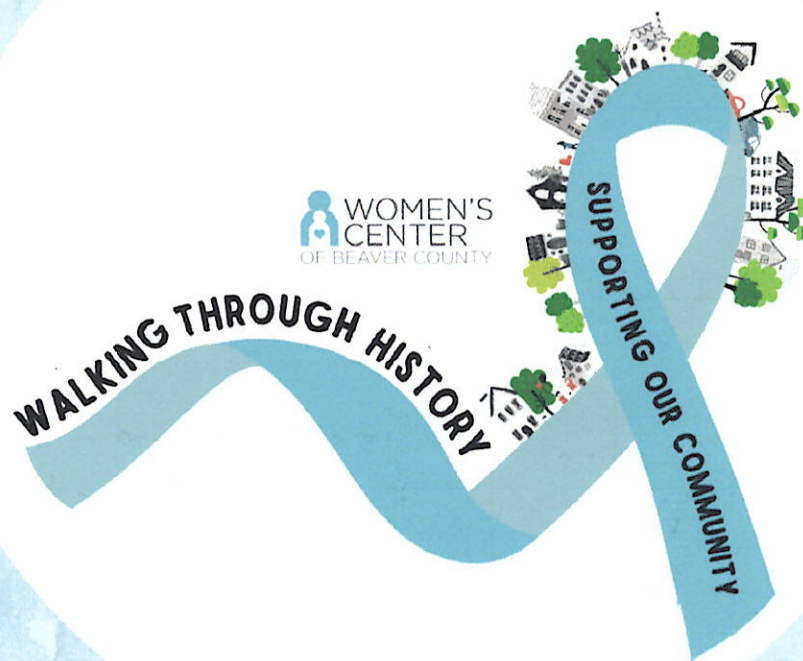
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Raeanne Barlow	3 <sup>rd</sup> Step Church Recovery Ministry
Amy Frank	Harmony House/Lighthouse
Ben DiNardo	Community Development Program
Casey Seevers	CYS
Heather Slaughter	Inglis
Sarah Crotty	Sisters of Saint Joseph
Beth Curran	Head Start/Early Head Start
Susan Tomlinson	Dads Matter
George Ifill	Gateway Health
Ashley McLaughlin	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
George Beegle	HMIS
Paul Lebanik	St. Vincent de Paul
Justin Ritchie	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Lindsay Johnson	CYS
Erin Rathbun	Beacon Health Options
Cyndi Gilkey	Neighborhood Legal Services
Melissa Grimes	Housing Authority
Nancy Grieco	Red Cross
Darryel Spencer	Housing Authority
Denise Divittis	Domestic Relations
Deborah Ferguson	Glade Run/ EPIC
Darcy Casey	Housing Authority
Angie Pope	CCBC/ KEYS Program
Lori Gaghan	Staunton Clinic
Vicki Zanotti	Allies for Health & Wellbeing
Josh Fisher	Veterans Leadership Program
Marvin Moreland	Deliverance Temple Ministries
Dina Ciabattoni	CoC Coordinator

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# TAKE A WALK THROUGH HISTORY FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 1—NOVEMBER 1, 2021 BEAVER, PA



- 🌳 Self-guided Historical Walk through Beaver narrated by Author and Historian, Val Brkich.
- 🌳 3 different Tour Routes available October 1 through November 1 and can be taken at your leisure.
- 🌳 \$25 for one route, \$35 for 2 routes, \$40 for all 3 routes. The active link will be sent to your email once the Walk opens on October 1.
- 🌳 **Call 724.775.2032 for more information.**
- 🌳 **Link to register:** [wcbctickets.weebly.com](https://wcbctickets.weebly.com)
- 🌳 All proceeds benefit the Women's Center of Beaver County

# CDBG-CV

The Salvation Army

Aaron Bingle

1

## Funding

- Homeowners
- Pay up to 6 months
- Pay:
  - Mortgages
  - Utilities
  - Back Taxes (Local, School, Municipality)

2



## Funding Requirements

- Affected by COVID
  - Proof of loss of income
    - Pay Stub, Unemployment, Bank Statement, Letter from Employer
- Low and Moderate Income
  - Income Survey

3

## Application Documents

- Photo ID
- Pay Stubs or Tax Return Document
- Income Survey
- Utilities
  - Copy of Utility Bill
- Tax Statement
  - From the tax assessment office
- Mortgage Statement from Lender

4



## Questions?

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Aaron Bingle

The Salvation Army

724-846-2330

[aaron.bingle@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:aaron.bingle@usc.salvationarmy.org)



## Policies for Housing & Homeless Coalition Review

### 26. Racial Equity Policy

The Beaver County Continuum of Care recognizes that racial equity in our service provision and outcomes not only further advances our work to eradicate homelessness in the County, but it is also ethically sound. This policy will guide our efforts to building and maintaining equity in our programs.

#### CORE BELIEFS

- All people deserve a safe, healthy place to live.
- All people deserve equitable access to resources to help them secure a safe, healthy place to live.
- We understand that the people we serve do not all enter the system with the same resources; therefore, we strive to build equity (trying to understand and give people what they need to secure stable housing) into our programs.

#### GOALS

- To reduce disparities in positive program exits.
- To reduce disparities in how households are referred to various programs.
- To reduce disparities in length of time homeless.
- To reduce disparities in the rate of returns to homelessness.

CoC and ESG funded programs are expected to:

- Have and implement racial equity and non-discrimination policies. Such policies should be reviewed with new employees at orientation and with the whole team on at least an annual basis.
- Create an environment of inclusion and equity. These efforts should extend to service provision, hiring practices, employee relations, and program outcomes.
- Review program data on a biannual basis to determine where disparities are occurring. The CoC Coordinator will be available to assist with this work.
- Provide the team racial equity training at least on an annual basis. Trainings may include (but are not limited to):
  - Implicit bias
  - Equity versus equality
  - *Inclusion, Diversity, and Awareness Council* trainings including the Courageous Conversations series
  - *Beaver County Collaborative Action Network* trainings
  - Other relevant trainings that become available and meet the programs' unique needs
- Conduct participant satisfaction surveys to determine what works and what doesn't work.
- Include feedback from people with lived experience into decision making.

The Continuum of Care will:

- Provide information on relevant trainings.
- Assist with program data analysis and development of action steps for addressing disparities.
- Monitor CoC data for disparities and develop actions steps for addressing them.
- Include people with lived experience in decision making.
- Seek guidance from experts and people with lived experience to continue developing racial equity into our Continuum of Care.
- Review and update this policy as needed to attain the goals of equity as described above.

*Adopted by the CoC Steering Committee at the 9/24/2021 meeting.*



## Policies for Housing & Homeless Coalition Review

### **27. CoC Board Selection Process**

According to 24 CFR 578.5, the Continuum of Care is responsible to establish a board to act on behalf of the Continuum using the process established as a requirement by [§ 578.7\(a\)\(3\)](#) and must comply with the conflict-of-interest requirements at [§ 578.95\(b\)](#). 578.5 also states that the board must:

- (1) Be representative of the relevant organizations and of projects serving homeless subpopulations; and
- (2) Include at least one homeless or formerly homeless individual

In Beaver County, this board is our CoC Steering Committee. It will meet on a quarterly basis under the guidance and leadership of the CoC Coordinator.

In addition to the HUD requirements listed above, Beaver County is also committed to the work of including individuals on the Steering Committee who are black, indigenous, and/or people of color and other marginalized populations who often face homelessness at higher rates than non-marginalized populations.

The process for board recruitment includes:

- The Collaborative Applicant (CA) and Continuum of Care Coordinator will invite entities who are representative of the organizations and programs who serve households who are homeless.
- The CA and CoC Coordinator will also seek partners who render relevant ancillary services to households who are homeless.
- New members will be recommended as their expertise is needed and to replace members who leave the board.
- Entities who are interested in serving on the board may submit a letter of intent to the CoC Coordinator who will review the request with the Collaborative Applicant to render a decision.
- The CA and CoC Coordinator will then vet candidates for potential conflict of interest issues prior to recommending them to the Commissioners as a new member to the board. The Commissioners will review the recommendations and will make the final decision on approval.

Board Members are expected to:

- Follow all requirements listed throughout the Governance Charter and to uphold the policies in the CoC Policies & Procedures
- Avoid Conflicts of Interest through recusal when such issues surface.
- Make every effort to attend at least 75% of the annual meetings.

The CoC Coordinator will review this process with the Housing & Homeless Coalition every 5 years and seek their vote for either continued approval or amendment. Coalition members will be notified in advance of the meeting when the vote will be held.

*Adopted by the CoC Steering Committee through electronic vote on 9/30/2021.*



# Current Beaver County Housing Inventory Availability

October 2021

Housing Program	Type	Availability	Units/Beds	Occupancy	Administrator
Crescent Commons*	Permanent	5	24	79%	Housing Authority
Friendship Homes*	Permanent	0	33	100%	Salvation Army
BC On-Call	Emergency	0	2	100%	The Cornerstone
Community Residential*	Permanent	1	41	98%	Housing Authority
Stone Harbour*	Transitional	3	12	75%	CRS
CRS Transitional	Transitional	3	15	80%	CRS
Help House	Transitional	0	11	100%	Housing Authority
Harmony House	Transitional	2	4	50%	BCCYS/SA
BCCYS Housing	Emergency	6	17	65%	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	6	N/A	N/A	Salvation Army
Safely Home*	Permanent	10	16	38%	Housing Authority
Lighthouse	Transitional	2	3	33%	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.
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
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: \$30,4

## Housing Authority

Ambridge Towers	Ambridge	vacancies	Must be 45 yrs+ or permanently disabled
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
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## Coordinated Entry Waitlists

( ) indicates last month's count

PSH: 11 (14)

TH: 4 (8)

RRH: 29 (18) Includes all RRH prgms



## 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: [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: 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)