



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

December 9, 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 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. Email ciabattodina@gmail.com for the meeting link and to provide input and feedback.

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

1. OPEN DISCUSSION

Marlene Landrum (Community Development Program) reported that there are still Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds available. Applications can be picked up the CDP office, TCBC, and the Franklin Center. They can also be found on the CDP website at:

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

And households can apply through COMPASS at:

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome>

Mary Ann McDevitt (Women's Center) reported they are currently at full capacity and cannot take new clients unless someone is fleeing intimate partner violence. All others in need of shelter should contact The Cornerstone. She noted that the WC is having trouble moving folks along due to limited affordable housing options. Cyndi Gilkey from Neighborhood Legal Services noted that they see the same struggle with people they assist through their eviction assistance.

Heather Slaughter (INGLIS) noted that there is a vacant 811 unit in Koppel Tower. Folks must have a disability and be at risk of institutionalization. Dina noted that the bus doesn't go to Koppel so transportation needs should be considered. Contact Inglis with questions at:

SDHP811@inglis.org or Lisa Kessler from the Housing Authority at:

LKessler@beavercountyhousing.org

Nancy Grieco (Red Cross) reported since our last meeting there were 2 fires resulting in 2 cases, affecting 3 people (1 under the age of 17 and one over the age of 65).

Emily Linkenheimer (Family Decision Making Group) announced that they are providing Christmas assistance and will be wrapping gifts on the 19th at 10 am at The Prevention Network. Interested helpers can contact Emily at: e.linkenheimer@thepreventionnetwork.org

Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator) provided details on two Christmas Dinners. See the Save the Dates for more information. She also asked folks to add her email address to their contacts as many of her messages bounced back today.

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2. AGENDA

USDA Grant update

Kevin Huwe

Kevin shared some recent changes to the USDA grant for home repairs program. He noted that payments up to \$6,000 can now be made and the household does not have to have a disability. He explained the program will address accessibility issues first then other projects that address health and safety. He noted that eligible homes must be in rural areas. Match requirements are in place and he reflected on the success of meeting this requirement by partnering with the Community Development Program. Questions about the grant program can be sent to the main office at: 724.652.5144.

Entrepreneurial training series

Lisa Diaz

Lisa presented on the entrepreneurial training offered through Job Training. She stated the program is set up to help people start their own business. She noted that one does not need to be the smartest person to start a business rather they must have an idea that they truly believe in. Eligible applicants must be a Beaver County resident, have a low income, and have an idea. The program can provide bus passes. The course consists of 10 classes and clients will receive a certificate at the end. The program addresses both soft and hard skills. She noted that people with a more assertive nature tend to do well in the course. She noted that a large part of the program is providing support. She stated that a new course starts on January 10th. She said that courses can be offered off site as long as there is a committed group of people attending. If interested call: 724.728.2020 ext 112.

Homeless Person's Memorial Day/Commissioners' Proclamation **Dina Ciabattoni**

The Homeless Persons Memorial will be held on Dec. 21st which is the first day of winter and the longest night of the year. It is also the day that many communities across the country hold this event so we will be standing in solidarity with them as well. The event will start at 5:00 pm and will be held on Zoom. Dina noted that due to covid concerns it was decided to use Zoom again. Hopefully next year we can be in person. The link can be found in the Save the Dates. She asked folks to bring a candle – real or virtual. The event tends to be somber as we remember those who died while homeless, but it is also an opportunity to refresh our commitment to the work to prevent such deaths. In Beaver County we had 5 people die while homeless this year. Dina also shared that the Commissioners acknowledged the event this year through a public Proclamation that we received this morning at the Court House. In attendance were: Ros Johnson, Ashley McLaughlin, Marcy Scott, Jan Davis, Penny Jones, Darcy Casey, Marlene Landrum, and Dina Ciabattoni. Dina reminded the group that the Commissioners very much have homelessness on their radar and trust us in providing the services and the effort to address it. They approved our request for a proclamation within 24 hours and one Commissioner approached Marlene and Dina after the meeting to pitch an idea. She expressed appreciation for their support.

Point in Time survey

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina stressed that the previous date for the Point In Time survey she shared has been changed. **The date for the survey is January 25, 2022.** She noted that we will be attempting to do outreach this year. Outreach volunteers will be paired with someone they already spend time

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with and with someone with experience. She noted that there are specific ways of doing outreach effectively and being paired with someone with this knowledge will help make the experience impactful for everyone including the client. We will also need volunteers to help with packing supplies, hanging flyers, and getting the word out. She noted that we will not be doing drop in centers for concern of transmitting the virus. However, she intends this just for this year as the drop-in centers generally had a good response both of homeless and near homeless households. And although the PIT survey is required by HUD and results in a formal report to them, it also enables us to identify and assist a number of precariously housed households. We also use the information locally for our planning efforts. Email Dina at: ciabattodina@gmail.com if you're interested in volunteering. Also feel free to join the next planning meeting on 1/5/22 at 1:30 pm. The meeting will likely be on Zoom.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina again highlighted the 811 opening. The criteria can be found on page 2 of the chart. She noted an increase in both the PSH and RRH waiting lists. This indicates an overall increase in the number of households accessing Coordinated Entry. She recalled the discussion at the beginning of the meeting about lack of affordable housing and noted that we may be facing a bottle neck.

NEXT MEETING: January 13th, 2021

SAVE THE DATES & OPPORTUNITIES

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

12/16/2021 Winter Gear Give Away and Vaccine Clinic 10 am – 12 pm at The Cornerstone 600 6th Street Beaver Falls, PA

12/21/2021 Homeless Memorial at 5:00 pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85847200504?pwd=bEJlUa3MwSDBPR2pLb2oyYTlNNlFVUT09>

12/25/2021 Free Christmas Dinner from 11 am – 2pm at Central United Methodist Church at 1227 6th Avenue Beaver Falls, PA 15010. Meal delivery is available by calling 724.846.3474.

12/25/2021 Free Christmas Dinner from 2-6pm at 621 Friendship Rd, Darlington PA 16115 (Big Beaver Borough VFD). RSVP to 724.846.8342 by the 20th.

1/5/2022 Point In Time Planning meeting at 1:30 pm. Location to be determined. Email Dina if you're interested in helping to plan the survey.

1/25/2022 Point In Time survey ALL DAY!

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.

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The 11/18/21 Housing & Homeless Coalition Meeting was held on Zoom due to social distancing guidelines. Below is a list of attendees who signed into the chat.

Michelle Medlin	Lifesteps
Barb Reed	OARS
Heather Slaughter	Inglis
Deborah Ferguson	Glade Run EPIC
Shante Thompson	CRS
Tracy Irwin	BCBH
Erin Rathbun	Beacon
Emily Linkenheimer	Family Decision Making Group
Jan Davis	TRAILS
Matt Stahoviak	BCBH
Casey Seevers	CYS
Lori Gaghan	Staunton Clinic
Mandy Baker	Hope House
Carrie Miller	PA Cyber
Kevin Huwe	DON Services
Branden Dudek	Central Outreach Wellness Center
Mary Ann McDevitt	Women's Center
Denise DiVittis	Domestic Relations
Cyndi Gilkey	Neighborhood Legal Services
Racanne Barlow	3 rd Step Church Recovery Ministry
Paul Lebanik	St. Vincent De Paul
Rich Pirozzi	VA Pittsburgh
Melissa Grimes	Housing Authority
David Simons	ABC Associates
Vicki Zanotti	Allies for Health & Wellbeing
Nancy Grieco	Red Cross
Wendy Beeching	Neighborhood Legal Services
Payton Gutierrez	Southwestern PA Legal Aid
Alexa Mapstone	Columbia Gas
Stephanie Titus	Glad Run
Marlene Landrum	Community Development Program
George Ifill	Gateway Health
Angela Pope	CCBC Keys program
Abby Opal	Mental Health Association
Cassandra Remler	Community Development Program
Dina Ciabattoni	CoC Coordinator
Lisa Diaz	Entrepreneurial Training/Job Training

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Christmas Dinner

Where: 621 Friendship Rd, Darlington, PA 16115

Attire: Come as you are

When: December 25th 2pm-6pm

Cost: Free

Whose welcome: Everyone

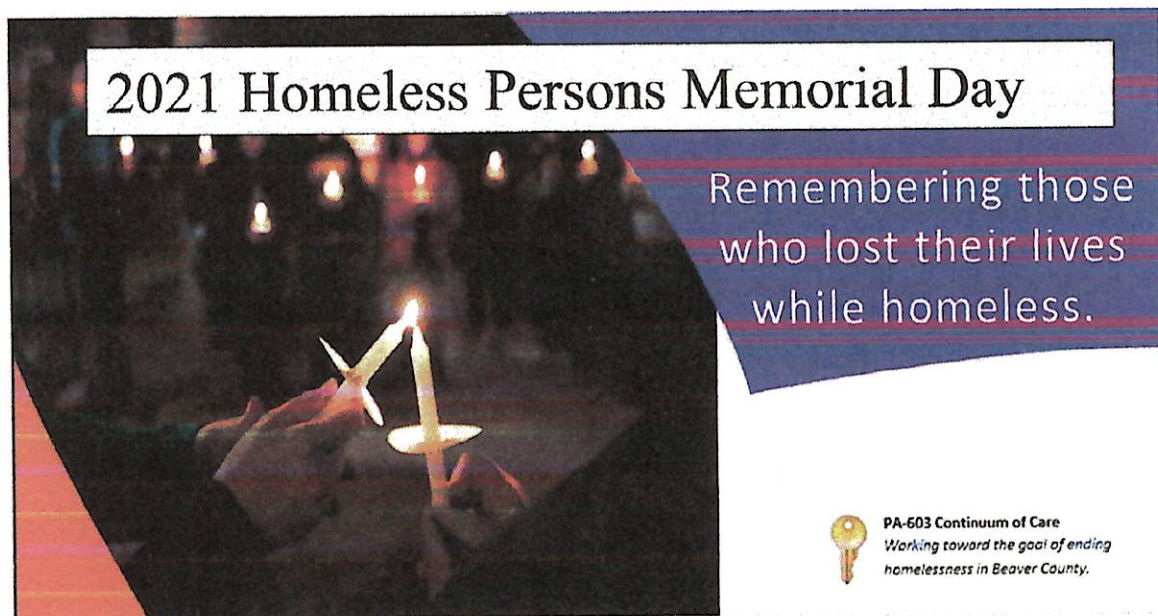
What to bring: Your appetite

Please RSVP with number attending by December 20th

724-846-8342

Food donation are welcomed, but not required

Santa will not be attending our dinner and presents will not be passed out



2021 resulted in at least five deaths of Beaver County residents who were homeless. Please join us in remembering them and recommitting to the work of preventing such loss in 2022.

December 21st
at 5 pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85847200504?pwd=bEJUa3MwSDBPR2pLb2oyYTlNNlFVUT09>

Please bring a lit candle or download a Virtual Candle on your phone to enhance the memorial. We also welcome your comments and personal reflections throughout the event.

Questions or requests for a copy of the Zoom link can be directed to Dina at ciabatonidina@gmail.com

Housing Program	Type	Availability	Units/Beds	Occupancy	Administrator
Crescent Commons*	Permanent	4	24	83%	Housing Authority
Friendship Homes*	Permanent	0	33	100%	Salvation Army
BC On-Call	Emergency	0	2	100%	The Cornerstone
CARL*	Permanent	1	41	98%	Housing Authority
Stone Harbour*	Transitional	6	12	50%	CRS
CRS Transitional	Transitional	4	15	73%	CRS
Help House	Transitional	0	11	100%	Housing Authority
Harmony House	Transitional	0	4	100%	BCCYS/SA
BCCYS Housing	Emergency	5	17	71%	BCCYS
Women's Center	Emergency	0	24	100%	BC Women's Center
Women's Center	Transitional	3	10	70%	BC Women's Center
SA Rapid Rehousing *	Permanent	4	N/A	N/A	Salvation Army
Safely Home*	Permanent	0	16	100%	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.
Scottswood Apts	Hopewell	1BR elderly/disabled	Taking Applications
Valley Terrace	Aliquippa	1 eff. And 2-3BRs	Taking Applications
ValleyView	New Brighton	0-1BR; 9-2BR; 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: \$30,4

Housing Authority

Ambridge Towers	Ambridge	vacancies	Must be 45 yrs+ or permanently disabled
Brodhead	Beaver Falls	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.	1 vacancy	*See back for more information
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Coordinated Entry Waitlists

() indicates last month's count

PSH: 14 (9)

TH: 7 (7)

RRH: 41 (30) 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

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

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

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

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

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

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