



# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

September 9, 2021

## Meeting Agenda

**Welcome and Housekeeping:** Dina called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm. She asked folks to sign into the chat to assist with keeping attendance. And she reminded the group that the meeting is being recorded to assist with completing the minutes.

*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

**Josh Fisher (Veteran Leadership Program)** announced they will be holding a Veteran's Stand Down in Pittsburgh on October 9<sup>th</sup>. He stated that they still have space for agencies to table at the event. If interested email Josh at: [fisherj@vlpwpa.org](mailto:fisherj@vlpwpa.org)

**Susan Tomlinson (HeadStart - Dads Matter Program)** noted that they are recruiting Dads for the Dads Matter program. She noted that they are funded to serve 200 Dads and to date they have served 185. 77 of those have completed the program. She noted that a new cohort is starting in Oct. Meetings take place from 5:30-7:30. The program offers case management, job development, and helps with financial planning. The program office is located at the Beaver Valley Mall and Susan's contact information is 724.728.2110. The program flyer will be forwarded after the meeting.

**Desiree Cokel (VA Pittsburgh)** announced that the Veterans Initiative Group through the Dept. of Labor is hosting a Resource Fair on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 3pm. The flyer will be forwarded after the meeting.

**Nancy Grieco (Red Cross)** announced that there were three events since our last meeting creating 4 cases of 19 clients (10 under the age of 18) and utilizing \$3,290 of funds. She noted that the Beaver County Red Cross is currently responding to Hurricane Ida as well as disasters in other areas.

**Jessica Luis (Fair Housing Law Center)** announced the Fair Housing training being offered through the Self Determination Housing Project. She noted that their Protection and Enforcement grants have been renewed which provide outreach and education. She reported that they settled cases totaling \$230,000 last year. And there is currently a case in federal court regarding the denial of emotional support animals. She will keep us updated on the outcome. She reminded the group to send any suspected discrimination cases to them for investigation.

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**Heather Slaughter (Self Determination Housing Project/INGLIS)** noted in addition to the training above, there are PREP trainings including service animals, and Housing Choice Vouchers available this month too. Dina sent the information yesterday.

## 2. AGENDA

### ERAP update

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina reported that the ERAP program has obligated about \$5 million of the \$10 million dollars. She stated that the funds have to be spent by the end of Sept. 2022 so the program is on track. She mentioned that another \$3 million is coming to Beaver County but she is unsure of the timeline and if the guidelines might change. She or CDP or the Franklin Center will keep this group updated. She stated that the biggest challenge is getting all of the required documents from clients. She informed the group that people can self-attest to the criteria and they can work with the Franklin Center on completing those forms. She noted that the Treasury Dept is really pushing communities to get this funding out efficiently and accurately.

### Eviction Moratorium Ended

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina noted that the United States Supreme Court has ruled the CDC Eviction Moratorium as unconstitutional stating that it requires an act of Congress. Dina shared an email from our HUD Deputy Regional Director, Jane Miller, that outlines the programs that can assist to prevent evictions. Dina highlighted that ERAP can be sought in cases where households are behind in rent but have not received an eviction notice yet. She reported that the ERAP program is working closely with the magisterial courts to hold off on evictions if the ERAP funding is pending. If you are working with someone who is facing an eviction and who has applied for ERAP, call Marlene Landrum at Community Development to determine the status of the case. If the funds are obligated the court should hold off on the eviction. She then clarified if a household has received an eviction notice they should call The Cornerstone to access Homeless Prevention funds through ESG. She explained that the ESG funds that came through the Cares Act have an increased income threshold of 50% of the Federal Poverty Line (typically it is 30% of the FPL). If you are uncertain, call The Cornerstone for guidance. Chris Anderson noted that they have already seen an increase in need. She stated that folks in need of Homeless Prevention should bring the eviction notice, proof of income, and ID. If they do not have ID they can still begin the process at The Cornerstone and the team will work with them to obtain the required ID.

Penny stated that one of her tenants have been waiting for almost 2 months for ERAP assistance. She inquired if it was possible for the ERAP applicants to receive documentation when they have been approved so landlords know that the funding is coming. Dina directed her to connect with Cassandra about the case. And Dina stated she would share this suggestion with CDP and the Franklin Center as the program is intended to provide relief to landlords as well. She thanked Penny for her input.

### CoC Funding Opportunities – Requests for Proposals

**Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina explained that the CoC funds support Friendship Homes, CARL, Crescent Commons, Salvation Army RRH, Safely Home, Coordinated Entry, HMIS, and planning. She reported the last

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competition awarded just shy of \$2 million. There are 2 Bonus opportunities in the Competition this year. The first is the CoC Bonus totaling \$145,000 which can be used to fund: PSH, RRH, Joint TH-RRH, CE, or to expand an eligible renewal. The second one is the DV Bonus totaling \$436,000 (due the government appropriating the funds but not spending any last year) which can be used to serve people with DV status in RRH, Joint TH-RRH, CE, or in an eligible renewal. Dina noted that she sent the Request for Proposals last week and they are posted on the CDP website. If you are interested in applying, closely read the NOFO and the RFP to ensure both the agency and the project are eligible. Proposals are due by 4:00 pm on 9/30 at the CDP office. Dina reminded the group she is available for technical questions, but she cannot advise on specific agencies or programs. She encouraged interested applicants to also review the Strategic Plan for our gaps in services. This is also posted on the CDP website. She stated the proposals will be scored using an objective tool. Selected proposals will then be invited to complete the HUD application in e-snaps and Dina will be available to assist with that process. She highlighted that this Competition has placed emphasis on partnerships with health care providers. She noted that many programs are already working closely with healthcare partners and that an MOU would help to demonstrate this to HUD. Dina stated that she will be working on the CoC portion of the grant which reflects on the system, outcomes etc. She may be reaching out to you for information or an MOU to demonstrate the strong partnerships we have in Beaver County. Once all projects are submitted in e-snaps the projects are then ranked which Dina noted to be very difficult since each program is very much needed in this work. She stressed that this year Tier 1 of the ranking is equal to the amount of the renewal funding. She stated the CoC Competition is a good time to look at what we are doing well, who is at the table, who should be at the table, and where can we grow. It's a good time to firm up partnerships and formalize procedures. This funding supports the majority of the beds in our CoC so it is very important that we do everything we can in this competition to demonstrate our hard work, commitment, and outcomes.

### **Bed Availability**

### **Dina Ciabattoni**

Dina noted a number of openings in the PSH programs. She reflected on the decreased number of Households on the PSH list and the increased number on the RRH list. She stated that they do expect the overall number of people coming through CE to increase in the coming months.





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**NEXT MEETING: October 14, 2021**

## **SAVE THE DATES & OPPORTUNITIES**

**9/10/2021 Beaver County Zero Suicide Town Hall meeting** 10am - 1:30 pm. Click here to join:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81584838779?tk=tBIYCxz2Y1L2BlfCskBX-cLDiL8TLigPozLwZir7Mgw.DQMAAAAS tXYexYtRVRNSVI6Y1FVdUM4eXlqSVZrRIZRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&pwd=M3FNaGpRRnhxMUVraGUzOWIWODZ0dz09&uuid=WN\\_dKNmvVjoTZKjsEcDd-u2pw](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81584838779?tk=tBIYCxz2Y1L2BlfCskBX-cLDiL8TLigPozLwZir7Mgw.DQMAAAAS tXYexYtRVRNSVI6Y1FVdUM4eXlqSVZrRIZRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&pwd=M3FNaGpRRnhxMUVraGUzOWIWODZ0dz09&uuid=WN_dKNmvVjoTZKjsEcDd-u2pw)

**9/14/21 Prepared Renter Education Program Part 1** at 11 am. To register, visit:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vDoQFuBqRF2-t5lw4IKC1Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vDoQFuBqRF2-t5lw4IKC1Q)

**9/30/2021 CoC Bonus Funding Proposals Due** by 4 pm at Community Development Program (1013 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Beaver Falls, PA)

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

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bridging-the-racial-divide-courageous-conversation-session-c-tickets-162598665987>

**11/5/2021 Drug & Alcohol Town Hall Meeting** Details coming!!

**Information on NA meetings** throughout the county (both in person and online), visit: [beavervalleyyna.org](http://beavervalleyyna.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 9/9/21 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.

Amy Frederick	BCCYS
Paul Lebanik	St. Vincent DePaul
Wendy Beeching	Neighborhood Legal Services
Josh Fisher	Veterans Leadership Program
Chris Renda	BCCYS
Cyndi Gilkey	Neighborhood Legal Services
Nancy Grieco	Red Cross
Jan Davis	TRAILS Ministries
Aarin Pasquale	LIFE Beaver County
Harry Angelo	Job Training
Shante Thompson	CRS
Kevin Huwe	DON Services
Desiree Cokel	VA Pittsburgh
Melissa Grimes	Housing Authority of Beaver County

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Cathy Smith	Community Development Program
Chris Anderson	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Jessica Luisi	Fair Housing Law Center
Lori Gaghan	Staunton Clinic
Beth Curran	HeadStart/Early Headstart
Susan Tomlinson	Dads Matter/Private Industry Council
Erin Rathbun	Beacon Health Options
Jodi Pavlinch	BCCYS
George Ifill	Gateway Health
Renee Sannan	Salvation Army – Beaver Falls
Mandy Baker	Hope House
Jessica Sabol	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Heather Slaughter	Self Determination Housing Project/Inglis
Cassandra Remler	Community Development Program
Matthew Stahoviak	BCBH
Maria Townsend	Maria Townsend - evaluator
Dina Ciabattoni	CoC Coordinator
Angela Pope	CCBC/KEYS
George Beegle	HMIS
Casey Seevers	CYS
Rich Pirozzi	VA HUD-VASH
Penny Jones	Landlord/ACRE
Darryel Spencer	Housing Authority

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Dina Ciabattoni &lt;ciabattodinidina@gmail.com&gt;

**HUD MID-ATLANTIC NEWS on Safeguarding Renters and Homeowners**

1 message

Miller, Jane E &lt;jane.e.miller@hud.gov&gt;

Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 3:44 PM



To HUD Stakeholders and Partners:

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that invalidated the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) eviction moratorium, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is using every tool at our disposal to help safeguard the millions of the nation's individuals and families now in danger of losing their homes.

Our programs and resources protect HUD-assisted households from eviction and should be sought out by all Americans who are seeking assistance in avoiding eviction, relocating to new homes in the event an eviction moves forward, and fighting unfair evictions. Through our Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, we are ready to protect people of color, families with children, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, and others who may disproportionately face eviction through discriminatory policies and practices.

HUD also has a responsibility to assist landlords, owners, public housing authorities, and all of our stakeholders in weathering this public health crisis.

HUD and our partners are taking a broad range of actions to help prevent evictions. They include the following:

**Fighting unfair evictions** – HUD is making over \$19 million available to fair housing partners to help them respond to possible fair housing violations, many of which relate to the pandemic and evictions. The funds will enable private fair housing enforcement organizations to respond to fair housing inquiries and complaints, conduct fair housing testing, and implement education and outreach activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will also be used to address fair housing issues affecting individuals and families experiencing housing instability, including those who may face displacement due to discriminatory evictions and foreclosures. HUD is also ramping up funding and education for HUD-approved housing counseling agencies to work with clients to understand their options if they are facing eviction.

**Providing legal assistance** – HUD is making \$20 million available to non-profit or governmental entities to improve the availability of legal assistance at no cost to low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction. These funds will provide services in areas with high rates of evictions or prospective evictions, including rural areas. This grant program plays an integral role in helping individuals and families—including people of color, people with limited English proficiency, and people with disabilities—avoid eviction or minimize the disruption and damage caused by the eviction process.



**Keeping people housed** – HUD has instituted an eviction moratorium to protect borrowers with HUD-supported or FHA-insured mortgages. This includes people living on Tribal lands with HUD Section 184 Indian Home Loans. HUD will also act to require public housing authorities and owners participating in HUD's project-based rental assistance program to provide tenants facing eviction for non-payment of rent with additional time and other protections to allow them the opportunity to secure emergency rental assistance that may stave off eviction entirely. For the duration of the presidentially-declared national emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD will extend the time its programmatic regulations require before a tenant must vacate a unit once a notice of lease termination for non-payment has been issued from 14 days to 30 days, consistent with CARES Act protections and the protections already in place for FHA-insured Multifamily mortgages where the borrower is under a forbearance agreement. Additionally, in order to initiate eviction, HUD may require additional steps of covered landlords.

**Connecting people with rent and utility relief** – HUD is working with the Department of Treasury to help Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) grantees connect tenants behind on rent and utilities with financial assistance. Throughout this year, HUD has brought our expertise on housing programs to Treasury, providing advice and assistance on program design and implementation, and engaged HUD-approved housing counseling agencies. As part of a whole-of-government approach, we call on state and local ERAP grantees to lean into the flexibilities provided in this program and get assistance out quickly to those who need it the most.

**Providing Tools to Help Public Housing Authorities, HUD-assisted Landlords/Tenants, and People Experiencing Homelessness** – HUD program offices have delivered webinars, created documents answering frequently asked questions, granted waivers to ease administrative burdens created by the pandemic, and are distributing relief resources such as Emergency Housing Vouchers and additional assistance to people experiencing homelessness as quickly as possible.

HUD is here to help. You can find more information [on our website](#), and if you are located in Western Pennsylvania, please feel free to contact Pittsburgh Field Office Director Michael Horvath by [e-mail](#).



Jane E. Miller  
Deputy Regional Administrator  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Mid-Atlantic Region (Region III)  
Philadelphia Regional Office

Housing Program	Type	Availability	Units/Beds	Occupancy	Administrator
Crescent Commons*	Permanent	10	24	58%	Housing Authority
Friendship Homes*	Permanent	0	33	100%	Salvation Army
BC On-Call	Emergency	0	2	100%	The Cornerstone
Community Residential*	Permanent	0	41	100%	Housing Authority
Stone Harbour*	Transitional	3	12	75%	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	10	17	41%	BCCYS
Women's Center	Emergency	5	24	79%	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	2	3	33%	BCCYS/SA

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

### Wait List Details

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: \$30,400

### 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: 14 (10)

TH: 8 (8)

RRH: 18 (27) 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)