

February 10, 2022 Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Housekeeping: Dina called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm. She asked everyone to sign into the chat for attendance keeping purposes. And she reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded to assist with the minutes – not to 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. Email ciabattonidina@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

Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator) shared several updates. She mentioned the PHFA Homeowners Program and a tax refund for Homeless Foster Youth (flyers about each of these programs were emailed ahead of the meeting and are attached to the minutes). She also mentioned that Duquesne Light Company will be resuming shut offs soon. She noted that households will be notified several times ahead of the shut off. For assistance with setting up a payment plan, contact Duquesne Light CAP at the Cornerstone – 724.846.6400.

Cyndi Gilkey mentioned that Neighborhood Legal Services is available to assist with applications for the homeowners' program and for people facing foreclosures. She noted in the first week of the Homeowners program that the state has received 5,000 applications totaling \$80 million with \$39 million already distributed. Dawn Bartha confirmed that the total allocation for the Homeowners program is \$350 million.

Nancy Grieco (Red Cross) reported that the RC handled 8 fire cases involving 19 clients (7 were under the age of 18 years old). Although their cases remain open at this time no housing needs were identified. She did note that The Cornerstone was helpful in meeting some of the other needs. Nancy also noted that locally and statewide residential fires are on the rise. She did remind everyone about the free Smoke Detector and installation program.

Don Walker (Head Start/Early Head Start) announced a student recruitment event on March 16th on Facebook. See flyer for additional details.

Don also noted that the City of Aliquippa provides free PCR Oral Covid testing every Saturday from 9 am – 12 pm at their Municipal Building at 581 Franklin Ave. See flyer for more info.

Herta Madder (BCBH) shared information from the National Federation of Families. She noted that they provide a wide variety of trainings for various audiences – children, teachers, parents etc. She encouraged folks to check out their newsletter which can be found here:



https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-Federation-on-the-Move--February-Edition.html?soid=1102207116207&aid=PilcalM315s

Alexa Mapstone (Columbia Gas CAP) reminded the group that she is available to do outreach and training on the Columbia Gas CAP programs. She noted that there is now a QR code that can determine eligibility for the assistance programs within a few minutes. See attached flyer with QR code. She noted that folks can print the flyer or she can give you printed copies.

Harry Angelo (Job Training of BC) asked about what help is available for a 17 year old homeless youth. Marie mentioned that they had received this case and she referred it on to CYS. The TCBC CYS Liaison can assist should CYS determine the youth in fact does need housing. The CYS Liaison at the Cornerstone is Justin Richey and he can be reached at 724.846.6400 ext 360.

Cynthia Gilkey (Neighborhood Legal Services) noted that they recently represented someone at a HA hearing along with Life Beaver. She reported that Life Beaver did a great job of helping to demonstrate the supports in the person's life. She wanted to publicly acknowledge Life Beaver's positive contribution in this case.

2. AGENDA

Bridges Out of Poverty

Captain Martin

Captain Martin shared that The Salvation Army is offering a Bridges Out of Poverty training free of charge on March 24-25th. She did note there is a \$20 fee to cover meal costs. The training is 2 full days and will take place at Camp Allegheny in Ellwood City. She stated that the training covers how people cope and process information differently based on their income status. She shared that the training was eye opening for her and she encouraged all to attend. She did note that overnight accommodations could be arranged at the Camp as well. See attached flyer for registration details.

At-home Covid tests

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina stated that some shelters and hotels are requesting Covid status prior to accepting a client. Through partnership with BCBH we know have at home tests available. These are available to programs with congregate settings and for any households facing barriers to shelter without a negative test result. She noted that these programs do have tests and we still have some in stock. Let Dina know if you need tests for homeless clients you serve who are facing housing barriers without a test result. Branden Dudak from Central Outreach Wellness noted that the Omicron variant is not always showing up on at home tests and he suggested the PCR tests. He also noted that the symptom presentation is different from other variants showing up in the sinuses and with headache and fever. Dina agreed that a PCR test should always been done if symptoms or exposure has occurred. The at home tests are for on-the-spot confirmation of negativity when required for housing.



ERAP update Dina Ciabattoni

Dina provided a correction that the ERAP-2 funds can be spent until Sept. of 2025. She had indicated otherwise at the last meeting. She went on to report that \$7.2 million was spent of the original \$10 million allocation which does need to be spent by the end of Sept. 2022. Over 3,000 households have been assisted to date.

Preliminary Point in Time survey result

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina shared preliminary unsheltered Point In Time results. She reported 7 people making up 3 households who were unsheltered on the night of the survey – the night of January 25th into the morning of the 26th. She reminded the group that we also did a sheltered count that night through HMIS data and she will have that information at the next meeting. She acknowledged the work to plan the survey and thanked everyone for their efforts from presentations, to creating flyers, to hanging flyers, and visiting sites while using best practices to mitigate virus transmission. She stated that the survey would not be possible without this dedicated help.

Bed Availability Dina Ciabattoni

Dina shared the bed availability chart and pointed out that there are two errors – Stone Harbour and CRS Transitional have one opening each. She noted that both Corak Towers and the 811 unit in Koppel currently have vacancies. Finally, she reviewed the Coordinated Entry wait lists and noted a reduction on each list. She highlighted that there has been a 20% decrease in the number of people coming through CE in the last year compared to prior to the pandemic. She reminded the group that Crescent Commons has openings, but folks need to be chronically homeless to be eligible. Timelines of homelessness can help establish this eligibility.

NEXT MEETING: March 10, 2022

SAVE THE DATES & OPPORTUNITIES

INFORMATION ON QUARANTINE/ISOLATION: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html

3/24/22-3/25/22 Bridges Out of Poverty training from 8:30-3:330 pm. Offered by The Salvation Army. Call 724.846.2330.

Various Trainings offered by BCBH can be found here: http://www.bc-systemofcare.org/training/

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 1/13/22 Housing & Homeless Coalition Meeting was held on Zoom due to social distancing guidelines. Below is a list of attendees who signed into the chat.



Harry Angelo	Job Training
Matt Stohaviak	ВСВН
Lori Gaghan	Staunton Clinic
Marie Timpano	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Brett Campbell	Central Outreach Wellness Center
Herta Madder	BCBH
Sheila Good	Housing Authority
Eric Caplinger	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Erin Clark	CYS
Mary Ann McDevitt	Women's Center
Casey Seevers	CYS
Don Walker	Private Industry Council - Head Start
Mandy Baker	Hope House
Carrie Miller	PA Cyber
Kevin Huwe	DON Services
Branden Dudek	Central Outreach Wellness Center
Adam Loverich	BCRC
Jodi Pavlinch	CYS
Cyndi Gilkey	Neighborhood Legal Services
Erik Kerr	Lifesteps
Kate Willette	The Children's Institute
Raquel Mullen	The Women's Center
Darcy Casey	Housing Authority
George Beegle	HMIS
Vicki Zanotti	Allies for Health & Wellbeing
Nancy Grieco	Red Cross
Marc de Jeu	First Presbyterian Church Beaver
Sister Sarah Crotty	Sisters of St. Joseph
Alexa Mapstone	Columbia Gas
Denise DiVittis	Beaver Co. Domestic Relations
London Hicks	The Children's Institute
Angela Pope	CCBC Keys Program
Teresa Lukes	Beaver Co. Association for the Blind
Chris Anderson	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Amy Jurich	Harmony House/Lighthouse
Dina Ciabattoni	CoC Coordinator
Monique Anderson	Lighthouse/Harmony House
Bryan Shannon	The Cornerstone of Beaver County



MORTGAGE AND HOUSING-RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR PENNSYLVANIA HOMEOWNERS

The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund (PAHAF), administered by Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), supports homeowners in the Commonwealth who were financially impacted due to the pandemic.

ELIGIBLE HOMEOWNERS

Applicants who are eligible will meet the following criteria:

- Household income is equal to or less than 150% area median income (AMI), which varies by locality. Note: PAHAF Program priority will be given to households at or below 100% AMI.
- * Homeowner owns and occupies the property as their primary residence
- Property is in Pennsylvania
- Homeowner experienced a financial hardship after January 21, 2020 (including a hardship that began before January 21, 2020 and continued after that date)
- Homeowner cannot receive the same assistance for mortgage payment, mortgage reinstatement, property charges, and/or utility payment from another federal, state, local, nonprofit, or tribal source
- Homeowner's first mortgage is a conforming loan and meets the federal limits for the year in which the loan was taken

AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE FOR HOMEOWNERS

These assistance programs help homeowners prevent mortgage delinquencies, default, foreclosure, displacement, and utility disconnection. The maximum amount of assistance for any homeowner under the PAHAF is \$30,000 or up to 24 months of assistance.

- ◆ Mortgage Reinstatement: Funds to bring a first mortgage current and to pay other housing-related costs.
- Mortgage Payment: Forward payment assistance for up to 6 months or until the maximum per household assistance cap of the lesser of \$30,000 or 24 months is reached.
- Property Charges: Funds for past due property taxes, reverse mortgage insurance premiums, homeowner association (HOA) fees, condominium fees, or common charges that put ownership of the property at-risk including mortgage foreclosures and displacement of homeowners.
- Utility Payment: Funds to resolve delinquent payments for utility services, particularly if no other assistance
 program currently exists, and that there is imminent loss of utility disconnection, liens, possible foreclosure,
 or homeowner displacement.

See the limits on the types of assistance available and how we are prioritizing applications on our website.

PAHAF.ORG 88

888-987-2423

Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number HAF-0131 awarded to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.



Help Homeless and Foster Youth Get a \$1,502 Tax Refund in 2022



This tax season, there are special rules for homeless and foster youth that were achieved through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Qualifying youth experiencing homelessness and youth from foster care are eligible for a \$1,502 tax refund through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). At the

present time, these provisions are only for tax year 2021.

Who Qualifies?

- The EITC is for low-income individuals who worked full-time, part-time, as an employee, as a contractor, or on a cash basis who have made even \$1 in wages.
- Youth must be independent (i.e. provide for themselves and live apart from a parent for more than half the year) in order to claim the EITC on their own behalf.
- Qualified homeless and foster youth are individuals who are at least 18 years old, without qualifying children, who are otherwise eligible for EITC.
 - Qualified homeless youth are individuals who certify that they are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless, or who is at risk of homelessness, and who is self-supporting.
 - Qualified former foster youth are individuals who, between the ages of 14 and 17, were in foster care and who provide consent for the entity or entities who administered the foster care program to disclose information related to their status as a former foster youth.
- Individuals must have been born after 1/1/1998, and before 1/2/2004.
- Qualified homeless and foster youth can receive the EITC, even if they are
 full-time students. This is a departure from previous tax years, and of special
 importance to vulnerable youth who are still in high school or pursuing higher
 education.

How Do Youth Claim This Credit?

- Youth simply need to attest that they qualify by <u>checking the box on line 27</u> on the form 1040 when they file their tax returns. No documents are needed now, so youth should not delay filing their tax return!
- If the IRS needs more information, McKinney-Vento liaisons, homeless service providers, and financial aid administrators can provide documentation. These professionals should inform youth of the EITC benefit, and be prepared to offer documentation for youth who are asked for information by the IRS.

What if a Parent or Other Person Fraudulently Claims a Youth as a Dependent?

- The IRS will not accept a tax return from a youth who has already been claimed as a dependent on another tax return. Youth whose returns are declined because they have been claimed as a dependent will need to file taxes by mail. The IRS will send a letter to both parties asking for more information. One party will need to amend their tax return.
- The potential being fraudulently claimed is another reason that it is so important
 for youth to check the box on line 27 of the 1040. Checking this box gives the IRS
 context on any competing claims, and will help the IRS resolve the duplicate
 claims so that homeless and foster youth can get their credit.
- Youth may apply for an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN) to protect their ability to file on their own behalf. If a youth files an IP PIN, the youth must use that PIN to file taxes electronically. If the PIN is lost, the youth would need to file by paper, which will take many months to process. The IP PIN application is available at www.irs.gov/getanippin. Youth can access the application to enroll into the IP PIN Program, or if they are already enrolled, they can retrieve/view their IP PIN. This is the quickest method to get an IP PIN.

What about tax credits for homeless or former foster youth who have children of their own?

- Youth experiencing homelessness or from foster care with children of their own may claim a child as part of their EITC if:
 - The child is their son, daughter, grandchild, stepchild or adopted child; younger sibling, step-sibling, half-sibling, or their descendent; or a foster child placed with you by a government agency.

- The child must be under 19, under 24 if a full-time student, or any age if totally and permanently disabled.
- The child must live with the youth in the U.S. for more than half the year.
 Time living together doesn't have to be consecutive.
- The credit amount depends on income, marital status, and family size. In 2021, the maximum credit is worth up to \$6,728.
- The Child Tax Credit is another important resource for young families. More information can be found here.

Are there state earned income tax credits?

 Yes! Beyond the federal EITC, 29 states and D.C. have adopted state EITCs. See this <u>state EITC map</u> to see if your state offers a tax credit.

Is Free Help Available?

 Yes! There are many free options to file: <u>Free File</u>, <u>Volunteer Tax Assistance</u> sites, and <u>Low Income Tax Credit sites</u>.

How Can I Get More Information?

- Check out resources from our partners, John Burton Advocates for Youth, including a webinar on Tuesday, February 1st at 1pm Eastern/10am Pacific. <u>Tax</u> <u>Filing 101: Expanded Federal and State Tax Credits Put Money in the Pockets of</u> <u>Transition Age Youth (2022)</u>
- Friday, January 28th, 2022, is EITC Awareness Day! <u>Learn more</u> on how to participate.



Division of the Private Industry Council Apply Now for 2022-2023 school year

High quality early educational program at NO cost to you!

Head Start/Early Head Start of Beaver County's Scan code below to complete Pre-Application!

Virtual

Community Day!

When: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Time: 9:30AM to 6:00PM

Where: facebook

Who can sign-up: Families with children ages 6 weeks to 5 years

Documents needed to complete application:

- Child's Proof of Birth
- Proof of Family Income*
 - Child's Shot Record

*We will not be able to process the application without ALL of the above items.

Log on to meet our teachers and other staff, virtual tours of the classrooms, playgrounds and buses, ask questions, and fill out an application.



Call for details: 724-728-2110



The City of Aliquippa & A-1 Disaster Resources

PRESENTS

NO COST PCR ORAL COVID TESTING!!



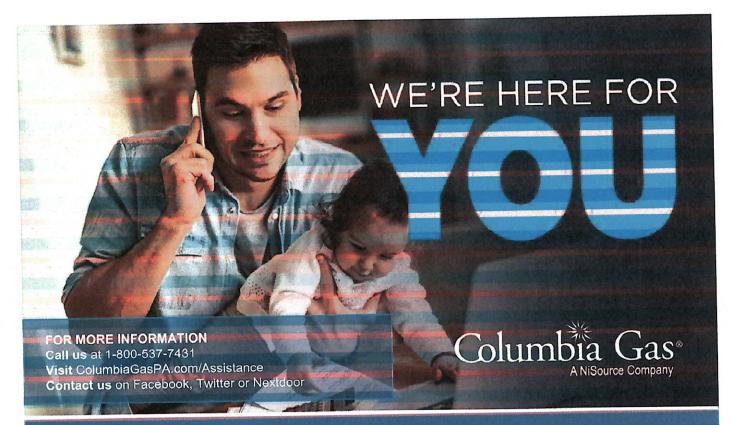
Come out & get tested to help keep our community safe!!

No Cost COVID-19 testing is available to all members of the public!! Children can be tested with parental consent. 18+ and older MUST bring a copy of an ID. Insurance name/policy # required. Patients with no insurance are accepted as well!! All results will be emailed to the Patient/individual

EVERY SATURDAY 9AM TO 12PM!!

LOCATION:

City of Aliquippa Municipal Building 581 Franklin Ave, Aliquippa 15001



Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania offers a variety of customer assistance programs. You can increase your home's energy efficiency, enroll in an affordable payment plan, or apply for assistance with overdue balances. To find out which programs fit your needs, SCAN THE QR CODE on this page to enter your information into the eligibility calculator or CALL US AT 1-800-537-7431.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- WarmWise Low Income Usage Reduction Program
- WarmWise Audits and Rebates
- WarmWise Energy Efficiency Information

AFFORDABLE PAYMENT PLANS

- Customer Assistance Referral & Evaluation Services (CARES)
- Customer Assistance Program (CAP)
- Budget Payment Plan
- Budget Plus

ASSISTANCE WITH OVERDUE BALANCES

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- CRISIS Program
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
- Dollar Energy Fund



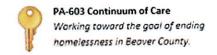
BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY TRAINING

The Salvation Army in Beaver County will be offering the Bridges Out of Poverty training on March 24-25, 2022. The training will take place at Camp Allegheny (140 Jenkins Circle, Elwood City, PA). The two-day training runs from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm each day. Lunch will be provided along with snacks.

The cost is \$20 per person. Please send your check and the registration information below to: The Salvation Army, 414 16th St, Beaver Falls, PA 15010. Registration is due by March11, 2022.

Name:	
Phone Number:	
Email:	
Agency:	
Dietary restrictions:	

See attached information on the training.



2022 Point In Time Preliminary Results

UNSHELTERED COUNT

- 6 adults
- 1 child

TOTAL: 7 people, constituting 3 households

SHELTERED COUNT

	DC		
-	P.3	П	

- TH:

- RRH:

- ES:

TOTAL:

Housing Program	Type	Availablity	Units/Beds	Occupancy	Administrator	
Crescent Commons*	Permanent	2	24	95%	Housing Authority	Housing Authority Refer thru Coordinated Entry
Friendship Homes*	Permanent	0	33	100%	Salvation Army	Refer thru Coordinated Entry
BC On-Call	Emergency	0	2	100%	The Cornerstone	
CARL*	Permanent	0	41	100%	Housing Authority	Refer thru Coordinated Entry
Stone Harbour*	Transitional	11	12	8%	CRS	1 male or female opening
CRS Transitional	Transitional	14	15	7%	CRS	1 female opening
Help House	Transitional	0	11	100%	Housing Authority	
Harmony House	Transitional	1	4	75%	BCCYS/SA	CYS referrals only.
BCCYS Housing	Emergency	4	14	71%	BCCYS	CYS referrals only
Women's Center	Emergency	7	24	71%	BC Women's Center	
Women's Center	Transitional	being used for quarantine	10	#VALUE!	BC Women's Center	
SA Rapid Rehousing *	Permanent	2	N/A	N/A	Salvation Army	Refer thru Coordinated Entry
Safely Home*	Permanent	2	16	88%	Housing Authority	
Lighthouse	Transitional	3	3	%0	BCCYS/SA	CYS referrals only.

^{*}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		Taking applications.	Srs. 1 year; Disabled 1+ year. Purge annually
Scottswood Apts	Hopewell	1BR elderly/disabled	sabled Taking Applications	
Valley Terrace	Aliquippa	1 eff. And 2-3BRs	Taking Applications	
ValleyView	New Brighton 0 -1BR; 11-2BR;		2 - 3BR Taking Applications	1BR: 32 applicants; 2BR: 4 apps; 3BR: 6 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 waitli	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	ently disabled
Brodhead	Beaver Falls	vacancies	Public Housing; also 45+ or permanently disable	permanently disable
Eleanor Roosevelt	Aliquippa	many vacancies	Must be 45 yrs+ or permanently disabled	ently disabled
Sheffield Towers	Aliquippa	vacancies		
Corak Towers	Midland	vacancies	Must be 45 yrs+ or permanently disabled	ently disabled
*Applications accepted for all HACB sites.	- all HACB sites		-	
811 Program	Koppel/Roch. 1 vacancy	1 vacancy	*See back f	*See back for more information
Coordinated Entry Waitlists	lists			
PSH: 6 (10)		() indicates last month's count	th's count	
TH: 2(10)				

RRH: 31 (40) Includes all RRH prgms

Description of Beaver County McKinney Vento Supportive Housing Programs

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. Community Assisted Residential Living (C.A.R.L.) is a permanent supportive housing program for homeless households with a disability. It is a The program is not funded to provide case management services. Contact information: Melissa Grimes <u>mgrimes@beavercountyhousing.org</u>

capacity the program should house approximately 31 people. Individuals and families live in scattered sites. The program is not funded to provide 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 case management services. Contact information: Darcy Casey darcycasey@att.net

and non-chronically homeless individuals and families and with disabilities. In addition to housing, the program is funded to provide moderate case Friendship Homes is a 33 bed scattered permanent supportive housing program administered by the Salvation Army for both chronically homeless 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: mscott@crscares.org

Coordinated Entry and who need longer term financial assistance (up to 2 years). Individual assessment will determine length of financial support Salvation Army Rapid Re-Housing is a medium term rapid re-housing program for homeless households who score for rapid re-housing through 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 Referrals come from CE and are verified by the Women's Center. Contact information: Darcy Casey at darcycasey@att.net support to clients.

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