



United Way
of Lancaster County

Minutes:

**CROSS PROBLEMS AND
HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK**

Monday, July 15, 2019

2:30 pm, Conference Room 1, Burle Business Center

ATTENDANCE

In the absence of a committee Chair, Toni Gainer presided.
See attached sign-in sheets for attendants.

WELCOME

Toni Gainer opened the meeting with welcome and introductions. Agendas, minutes, and all materials are posted online on the 211 website: www.pa211east.org

FOCUS TOPICS

Community Action Partnership (CAP) Navigation Services, Presented by Rhiannon Giberson

CAP's Navigation Services are designed to coach and support clients. The program works with clients who are ready to make a lifelong commitment to self-sufficiency. Staff use the GRIT Assessment, as well as the Strengths Matrix to assess clients at the start of the program. Navigators work to guide clients through life changes. There is no time limit on provision of services. Staff also provide street outreach for unsheltered clients or clients in shelter, to work to obtain housing. The program helps clients navigate the systems, but also assists with navigating the community and building social capital. Navigation Services have a person centered planning base. The program is moving away from crisis clients and instead focusing on stable clients who have the most chance for success. The aim is to develop a transformational relationship to support the client. Discharge from the program occurs when the client chooses to discontinue services or when a client becomes non-responsive to services (per policy). Navigators carry a smaller case load to provide more intensive services. The goal is to assist clients out of poverty.

Navigation Services provides a program with parents in the school district (parent defined as a teen who is pregnant or parenting a child while still enrolled in school).

Referrals can go through email (navigation@caplanc.org), by completing the application found on the CAP website.

Mid Penn Legal Services, Presented by Catherine Schultz and Laurie Baughman

Lancaster is the largest of the Mid Penn Legal Services offices. They provide services for individuals who are experiencing poverty, and handle only civil cases (not criminal cases).

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Clients must be at 125% or less of the poverty level. The goal of the organization is to meet the needs of the community.

Family services is one of the largest volume of clients. Child custody orders are handled when there is no order or if the family is unable to work issues out internally. Custody is usually filed by a biological parent, but can also be filed by grandparents or by a person(s) acting as a parent (without support of the parent(s)). A representative is appointed to facilitate the discussion and decision making; if this does not work, the case goes to court. Custody resources are provided. Custody workshops are held for information.

Eviction prevention services are provided. There is a principle that tenants can withhold rent for failure of a landlord to provide major repairs. It is recommended that a tenant speak with a legal representative prior to withholding rent. Tenants should provide the request of home repairs in writing to the landlord, with pictures when applicable. Section 8 case managers should be kept informed. Clients can request a housing inspection. Rent withholding should be done only with legal guidance. Eviction guidelines were given and reviewed. There are post-judgement appeals that can be filed if eviction is ordered by the court. Mid Penn Legal Services also handle home foreclosures and mobile home eviction.

For Three Strikes Law notifications, clients should seek legal advice for appeals. An "occupant" is defined by the lease agreement. There are extra protections for domestic violence clients or clients with disabilities.

The Clean Slate Law is newly enacted involving the sealing of dropped charges and minor convictions after 10 years. This is not the same as expungement. A video was shown explaining this law and the process involved. A tutorial for this process is also listed online. Mid Penn Legal Services does not typically apply for pardon requests on a client's behalf. Old child abuse accusations can be removed.

Low income tax payer issues are handled by Mid Penn Legal Services, such as missing refunds, and Internal Revenue Services (IRS) debt. Clients up to 187% of the poverty level can be served.

Community Legal Services video primer on checking online criminal dockets:

<https://youtu.be/n5lt-4wayjc>

General legal information/brochures: www.palawhelp.org

Resources on rights of persons with disabilities in housing from the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. The resources listed at the bottom of the page include a fact sheet on emotional support animals and a detailed guide on fair housing rights which includes information on reasonable accommodation and structural modifications: <http://www.bazelon.org/our-work/mental-health-systems/housing/>

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CHART UPDATES

The reminder was given to utilize 211 to obtain resources. Millie is the new bilingual CHART worker.

EMPOWER LANCASTER UPDATES

No update.

LANC CO MYHOME UPDATES

No update.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER UPDATES

No update.

AGENCY GOOD NEWS, SHARING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Link meeting scheduled on Thursday (July 18, 2019) covers a variety of housing topics.

Rhonda from BHDS is leaving to further her education.

Jen Koppel asked for a volunteer to Co-Chair this meeting; anyone interested should contact her at jennifer.koppel@pennmedicine.upenn.edu.

The Donation Station at 211 will be handled via email; information to be released in the near future.

Upcoming topic suggestions can be sent to Toni Gainer.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, September 16, 2019 at 2:30 pm at Burle Industries, New Holland Avenue, Lancaster.

Minutes and Agendas are posted to: www.PA211East.org.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Toni at gainer@uwlanc.org

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Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition