



United Way of  
Lancaster County



Minutes:

**CROSS PROBLEMS AND  
HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK**

Monday, July 16, 2018

2:30 pm, LGH conference room, Burle Business Center

ATTENDANCE

Chair Doug Hopwood presided as chair.  
See attached sign-in sheets for attendants.

WELCOME

Doug opened the meeting with welcome and introductions. Agendas, minutes, and all materials are posted online on the 211 website: [www.pa211east.org](http://www.pa211east.org)

FOCUS TOPICS

**Early Intervention: Developmental Resources for Families**, Presented by Marlene Jennings

Early Intervention is a resource for parents with children birth to 5 years. There are 2 programs, birth to 3 years, and 3 years to 5 years. There is no cost to families with a child with a developmental delay (25% delay). Family must reside in Lancaster County. Clients can self-refer or a professional can refer them. Referred families complete an entrance survey. Early Intervention staff go into the home and coach parents with things to work on.

Any child under 3 who experiences homelessness is tracked/monitored until age 3. This is identified by family self-report on entry survey.

Children aged 3 to 5 are seen by Intermediate Unit (IU) 13 Intervention. An evaluation is completed with the child and family. After the evaluation, if the child needs adaptations, the IU will work on a plan. Significantly impaired children can be treated in a special education classroom (preschool). The goal of the program is to bring the child up to their age developmental level and enter kindergarden as normal. If this is not possible, the IU works to transition the child to a special education class at kindergarden.

Handouts provided for each program. Contact for the birth to 3 year program is: 717.399.7394 (Behavioral Health and Developmental Services) and for the 3 to 5 year program: 717.606.1601 (IU 13). Accommodations for non-English speaking families are available for meetings and parent coaching; therapy with the actual child (once of language age) can be done in English or Spanish. The wait time for an evaluation is about 3 months from the time a family schedules.

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### **Early Head Start**, Presented by Christina Dimitriou

Early Head Start programs in Lancaster County are center based. The goal of the program is to provide wrap around care for children in poverty to get them Head Start and kindergarden ready. This is a grant funded program; OCDEL receives the grant from the federal government. The program serves children from 6 weeks to 3 years. If there are no Head Start openings when a child reaches age 3, the Early Head Start program will hold them until a spot becomes available. There are 88 spots at 5 different child care locations throughout Lancaster County. There are a set number of seats available for Early Head Start children, and classes are mixed with private pay children whenever possible.

This is an income eligible program; families must be at 100% of the poverty level or lower, homeless or doubled up, a foster child, and/or receiving Supplemental Security Income. If income changes during the course of the program, the child is not removed from the program (until age 3). There are also eligibility criteria for parents: parents must be working or in school a minimum of 20 hours per week. Child Care Subsidy is strongly encouraged; this supports the child through school age and provides full day, full week coverage for Early Head Start. Clients are prioritized based on child criteria. The referral process can be initiated by email: [Patricia\\_Dimitriou@iu13.org](mailto:Patricia_Dimitriou@iu13.org), fax: 717.606.1995, or phone: 717.947.1427.

Early Head Start is education based. The instructor/child ratio is 1:4, and no more than 8 children are in a class. Teachers must have an early childhood degree or certification. The program serves the family as a whole, with a self-sufficiency goal for each family. The family service worker provides additional services, such as case management, home visits, weekly center visits, and goal setting. The Early Head Start program provides health monitoring, including medical, dental, testing, immunizations, and screenings. Disabilities are also monitored. Mental Health consults and one on one observations are conducted, when needed. Coaching of both the child and parents is a priority. Tracking and monitoring outcomes is a requirement. Self-sufficiency is tracked on achievement.

### **Mayor's Office, Neighborhood Engagement**, Presented by Milzy Carrasco

Milzy Carrasco is the newly appointed Director of Neighborhood Engagement. Since her start in this position, she has worked on crisis management and making plans to move forward. She has been working closely with the Lancaster County Coalition to End Homelessness (LCCEH). The Mayor's Office is working to come up with a plan to serve individuals who desire to stay in homes and those that do not. A core group met with service providers and landlords to work on a solution to house displaced clients. The group had issues with putting more people into the homeless system where there are already clients waiting. A process was established for displaced clients. These clients go to Community Action Partnership's (CAP) Navigation Program prior to becoming homeless, then to CHART once eligible.

Milzy was thanked for her presence at this meeting. This is the first time anyone from the city has attended this meeting. The floor was opened to field comments from the group for Milzy.

- There is a need for open and accepting shelter in Lancaster for people to stay, regardless of hours.

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- Engagement with landlords is needed to provide quality and affordable housing. The city may need to look at zoning for rooming houses. Blighted properties and selling them to organizations for rehabilitation and affordable renting. Relaxing entry criteria to house clients.
- Ability to serve elderly and disabled population; there are currently issues for clients staying in shelter due to inability to get up and down from the floor.
- Continued engagement with the Mayor's office on a regular basis.

### CHART UPDATES

No update

### LANCASTER COUNTY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS (LCCEH) UPDATES

No update

### SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER UPDATES

No update

### AGENCY GOOD NEWS, SHARING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder was given to please complete the Community Health Needs Assessment survey that was distributed.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 2:30 pm at Burle Industries, New Holland Avenue, Lancaster.

Minutes and Agendas are posted to: [www.PA211East.org](http://www.PA211East.org).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Toni at [gainer@uwlanc.org](mailto:gainer@uwlanc.org)

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