



United Way
of Lancaster County

Minutes:

**CROSS PROBLEMS AND
HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK**

Monday, March 21, 2016

2:30 pm, Blair Room, Community Services Center

ATTENDANCE

Toni Gainer, United Way 2-1-1, presided. Attendants: Beth Crosby, Love INC/Homes of Hope; Guy Boyer, Steven Pagden, Dominique Miller, TLC/TABOR; Ann L. Linkey, Laura Wilmer, Lenara Porter, Sarah Fritz, Kiyana Jefferson, Desiree Lener, Sonya Cirilo, Tabor; Autumn Nauman, LCBHDS; Amanda Grosh, Kimberly Stober, Lodge Life Services; Beth Bulat, D&A Commission; Teresa Danforth, Lancaster County Housing Authority; Evalina Dombrowski, Clare House; Vicky Stuart, CSG; Jody Heinrich, LCCEH; Brian Long, PA LINK to Aging/Disabilities; Dawn Horst, Healthy Beginnings; Amanda Nissley, Bridge of Hope; Olga Rodriguez, DVS-Bridge House; Juli Vesper, Tracy Broderick, DVS; Krystle Whitley, Salvation Army; Jennifer Poff, Genesis J. Hernandez, Sol Pellerito, CHI St. Joseph Children's Health; Sandra Valdez, UDS; Joan Yunginger, ESSN; Lori Walton, APPS/SOS; Ashley Eager, Good Samaritan Shelter; Marcy Mercer, K. Frederick, Francesca Zola, LGH Health; Theresa Whitesel, Nurse Family Partnership, LGH; Melvin Faye, Lauren Ressler, Hempfield S.D.; David Miller, IHELP-CSG; Rhonda Slinghoff, Lanc. Co BHDS; Lindsay Hess, Lancaster County Council of Churches; Lori Haines, Lancaster City Housing Authority; Fran Rodriguez, Lancaster County Community Fund; Deb Cone Halsey, Lancaster County CTC; Samantha Vollrath, Lancaster Housing Opportunity Partnership, Carla Sarricca, MTSD; Becky Ortega, Jasmyne King-Smith, Homeless Student Project SDL; Yeissel Cordero, RMO; Melissa Demotta, Berks Co. I.U.; Laurie Baughman, Catherine Schultz, Midpenn Legal Services; Cate Njue, EDSI Solutions; Matt Kirkley, Chuck Albrecht, Water Street Ministries; Mackenzie Lynch, VA Medical Center; Sara Matthews, Cerene Brown, Volunteers Of America; Tamala Delgado, United Way 2-1-1.

WELCOME

Toni opened the meeting with welcome and introductions.

FOCUS TOPICS

**Medical Legal Partnership, Lancaster Office of MidPenn Legal Services,
Presented by Laurie Baughman, Catherine Schultz**

Overview of Midpenn Legal Services

Has its largest office in Lancaster and provides services and staff in 12 other offices across 17 counties in South Central Pennsylvania. Catherine Schultz is the current manager for the Medical Legal Partnership and has been with them for 11 years. She also assists with unemployment compensation and public benefits.

The umbrella corporation is the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network.

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- On their website at www.palegalaid.net there is contact information for other legal services in other states. The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network has a second website at PALawHelp.org which has basic information for anyone involved in a legal issue.

MidPenn Legal Service is primarily funded from the corporation and it is a federal government entity. So there are certain prescriptions on what kinds of work and who is eligible for their services. They also receive funding from local agencies in Lancaster as well as state agencies like Department of Human Services, Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network and United Way of Lancaster. Midpenn Legal provides services for people that are at 125% poverty level or below. Lancaster County total population is about 523,000 of that 71,204 people live at 125 % poverty level or below. And these are the people that are eligible for services. Legal advice, representation and education are provided to those who qualify.

Areas of representation include:

- Consumer, Family, Housing, Public Benefits which includes Unemployment Compensation and Social Security and other benefits that are government derived. Midpenn Legal works in the employment field as well.
- Midpenn Legal provides emergency based services such as, Protection from Abuse orders and a new kind of protection order that was created for Victims of Sexual Violence or Intimidation, certain custody actions. They provide services as well as work in concert with the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic.
- Midpenn Legal works with custody actions but does not provide representation for CYA in dependencies or termination cases because the parents have statutory right to council. They also work with Reductions of Public Benefits, Sherriff sales, Liens and Judgements against clients, as well as Mortgage Foreclosures, Lockouts, Relocations and Changes Of Care.
- Midpenn Legal works with utility terminations for water, heat and electric. Depending on what the termination is, there are many benefits for low income clients like the CAP(Customer Assistance Program). Also clients with Protection from Abuse Orders or any other order make be entitled to payment arrangements. There are laws that may restrict utilities from being shut off and certain procedures must be followed. Midpenn Legal may be able to make negotiations for a client, such as, more time before a lock out or setting up a payment plan. The sooner they are contacted and connected with legal assistance the faster the problem can be addressed before it goes to court.

Family Law: Melissa Swears, Katy Zimmerman, Stephanie Longenberger

- They deal with custodies, divorces, domestic violence PFAs, Victims of Sexual Violence and Intimidation orders.
- Midpenn provides a Pro Se clinic for clients interested in filing on their own and going through the process. Divorces and custody work are mostly handled through the clinic.

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Child Custody is the highest area where people ask for assistance Midpenn does not have the available resources to provide to everyone.

- Midpenn will first screen them to see if they fit in one of their custody services. If they want to file for custody they will link them up to get advice. Midpenn mostly provides Pro Se assistance through the Clinic. A paralegal will assist a client with the paperwork and filing but will not represent them. Midpenn Legal will try to take cases with more emergent issues and specific safety concerns for children. Melissa Schweers works in Family Law and Katie Zimmerman does the Custodies and Stephanie Logenberger does the PFA work.
- For under-age, unaccompanied youth, Midpenn will work with the bar association and their volunteer attorney program to help them find representation.

Housing Law

- Focuses on working with people in Subsidized and Public Housing who are trying to preserve their housing. Most of this work is done in informal and administrative processes and not in a courthouse. Midpenn provides advice to anyone with a Notice To Quit or threat of eviction or a Lock Out. They may be referred for advice and if their case goes to court, they may be provided with an attorney.
- If the eviction is due to lack of payment of rent, they will not go to court but will advise on helping them understand the process. There are protections and legalities in the law in terms of getting them a little more time to get money saved up to move and find new housing or stay in the unit. There are different kinds of defenses for people who live in housing that is not up to standards and may be able to get deductions to help minimize their debt or help them go through the process.
- Agencies can help their clients with calls to Midpenn. The agency can then send their information and Midpenn will open a case and add them to their files. Additionally, MidPenn has an attorney who works on elder issues exclusively.

Public Benefits: Valerie Case, Paul Sternberg, Michael Goldberg

- Midpenn works with Medical Assistance denials, terminations, deductions, SNAP, Social Security Insurance, SSD claims, SSI, Unemployment. SNAP Eligibility has changed for people that do not have dependents or a disability. Some individuals may be eligible for a waiver. In order for them to stay eligible for food stamps for a three year period they must work a certain amount of hours a week or volunteer for a certain amount of hours per month to meet the criteria. If they are unable to meet the criteria they would only be eligible for SNAP for three months out of a three year period.

Employment Law:

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- They work with Criminal Expungements, Family Medical Leave and Barriers to Employment and work on trying to remove those barriers. However, Midpenn is barred from doing any work in the criminal realm, therefore they will not provide representation in Criminal Court. However, Midpenn can do an appeal for an Expungement if it is seen as a barrier for employment.

Special Projects:

- The Low Income Tax Payer Clinic works with people that have a case with the IRS. They may contact Midpenn Legal and will connect with an attorney that is based in another County but does serve Lancaster.

Elder Law: Linda Timberlake

- This service is funded by the Office of Aging and provides legal advice for seniors age 60 and over. They provide services in Power of Attorney, Guardianship, Public Benefits, PFA and Housing.

Medical Legal Partnership

- The Medical Legal Partnership is funded by a grant from the United Way of Lancaster County. The partnership project is with Care Connections at Lancaster General Health. The Medical Legal Partnership takes the legal services that Midpenn provides and essentially embeds them in a healthcare setting in order to provide direct legal assistance to patients. The Medical Legal Partnership provides training and education to medical providers and their staff and looks at issues for joint systemic advocacy. The Partnership takes a different approach to the traditional legal service model where people come to them seeking emergency services. It's an opportunity to try to look at things further upstream in a more preventive fashion.
- Care Connections is project at Lancaster General Hospital focused on high utilizers of medical services. Health care spending is 52.5% and a very narrow segment of these patients account for almost half of the healthcare cost. The same is true of patients whose insurance is Medicaid - a very small percent of these patients account for a huge segment of the healthcare cost. That reality lead LGH to look at developing a special project that looks at high utilizers. It takes patients and transitions them temporarily from their primary care provider to the center disciplinary team that consists of many different disciplines and positions, such as Community Based Care Navigators, Community Health Workers, Social Workers, Behavioral Health Workers, Chaplains, Pharmacist.
- Through this project they have added legal services and intensive financial case management services. The Medical Legal Partnership has a case manager that is dedicated to Care Connections patients. The typical high utilizer is someone who has multiple chronic illnesses such as Heart problems, COPD, Diabetes, Mental Health Challenges, Intellectual Disabilities, long term, hard to manage conditions or they have

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other social and/or financial barriers that stands in the way of them maintaining their good health.

*Future note: The Medical Legal Partnership's goal is to look for funding to restore their Medical Legal Partnership with SELHS and expand their services to health care providers across the county.

Community Foundation, At theTable initiative, Presented by Fran Rodriguez

The Lancaster Community Foundation was started in 1924. it manages over 95 million dollars in trust and endowments. Wealthy people leave their estates in the hands of the Community Foundation. Some may leave instructions on how they want their money spent within the community. The Lancaster Community Foundation's manages these funds. Last year the Community Foundation funded 3.5 million dollars in grants to nonprofits benefiting Lancaster county residents. The Community Foundation is in it's 6th year with the Extraordinary Give. Last year they raised \$6.1 million, all benefiting Lancaster County residents.

- **The Community Foundation's At The Table initiative** invites people in the community to gather on Friday May 20 and 21 to have a conversation about their hopes and dreams for Lancaster. To host an **At The Table initiative** an individual needs to sign up and they will receive a tool kit by mail or email. Included in the kit are questionnaires and instructions needed to engage a group in a conversation. The group may gather over a coffee, lunch, dinner or a beer. The Foundation hopes to gather that feedback and plan for the future of Lancaster. The Community Foundation also hopes to gain more perspective from the Lancaster County community.

The Extraordinary Give will be held on Friday November 18th.

- The Community Foundation's would like to see many more nonprofits get engaged in this amazing opportunity. Agencies can double the money they raise through this event with a match from The Community Foundation.
- The website is LANCFOUND.ORG. and it describes all the grant opportunities that were unveiled last February 2016. The Foundation has four cycles of grant giving that nonprofits are eligible for.

LCCEH UPDATES

Winter Shelter: Lindsay Hess

- This is the last week for Winter Shelter and then they will pass the baton to The Water Street Mission. Most of all of the women and children will stay at the WSM Community Emergency Shelter now that the weather is warmer and the numbers are not as high. It was a light season this winter the average served was about 20-25 women.

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- The Emergency Preparedness Group was formed due to the heavy snowfalls in January. It was determined that the YWCA is not equipped to be a shelter in place facility. The YWCA had no means for cooking food or enough capacity for a day time shelter. The Emergency Preparedness Group is partnering with the Water Street Mission. In the future, the women will not have a choice to stay at the YWCA. They will be given a 24 hour notice and the emergency plan will be put into place.

The Water Street Mission has the staff and capacity on very short term basis to handle all the people coming to their facility. The Winter Shelter has been running well and has a wonderful partnership with the Coalition and Chart.

The YWCA does not have medical beds -only the "boats" with a mattress inside it. However, for women that are physically unable to get up from the floor, they may be able to raise the bunk for them in some instances. The staff will put 2 or 3 beds high and put the mattress on top so the beds are not low to the ground. The Winter Shelter will not be able to accommodate women in wheelchairs due to the volunteer capacity of not being able to meet the potential special needs. The YWCA may be open to women with a service dog.

CHART: Sara Fritz

- Dana is going on maternity leave and Sara Fritz will be the point of contact for any question or concerns. Dana will be sending out a detailed email to all the providers that would need to know.

CaseWorthy:

- No updates. Latest upgrade was in October 2015.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER UPDATES

School District of Lancaster:

- The Homeless Student Project has new partners. The Kindergarten Round Up begins on April 4th 2016. Go to the School District of Lancaster Enrollment Center on 251 S. Prince Street -3rd. floor. Phone 717.291-6140. For Pre K-3 and 4, parents can register at www.lancaster.k12.pa.us and complete the form on the computer. The School District of Lancaster is encouraging parents to register as soon as possible. If there in a Homeless situation contact Becky or Jazmine at the Homeless Student Project. They may be able to move them up on the list, but they need to still fill out the application online.
- Parent Involvement is having their Spring Parent Academy on April 7,14,21,28th from 5:30-7:30pm. Dinner, transportation and childcare will be provided. The workshops will be held at McCaskey East on topics such as Kindergarten, Drugs and

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Reproductive Systems, etc. Parent Involvement will be writing letters for parents needing volunteer hours.

- Manheim Township would like to partner with and help the community. The Community Outreach Program would like to get Manheim Township children involved in and learn about the community. The Community Outreach is having an event where they will be collecting items for Manheim Township families. The clothing bank, Lydia's Closet is located at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (corner of Delp Rd. and Lititz Pk) and is open to Township residents with school aged children (K-12). The dates and times that it is open are: April 2, May 7th, and June 4th from 10am-12pm. The clothing bank will be sending summer hours as soon as they have them.
- If there any agencies that would benefit from students assisting in their projects or events, or if there are items we could collect for you, please contact Tony Aldinger, Director of Community Outreach at Aldingto@mtwp.net. Or feel free to email Carla at: sarricca@mtwp.net. Please call 717.735.3208, if you have any questions or have families that need assistance.

GOOD NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- United Way VITA-Presented by Toni Gainer
- Introduced new HSPN Meeting sign-up sheet
- Mental Health America of Lancaster County announced that they are having an Annual Pasta Buffet and Auction on Friday, April 1, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on 64 Hershey Avenue, Lancaster.
- Community Foundation's At The Table, gather anytime on May 20 or 21 with family or friends to talk about hopes and dreams for the community. Share ideas and inspirations. Post discussions and photos on social media using Hashtag #AtTheTableLanc.
- Lancaster County Council of Churches' new hours for the Food and Clothing Bank are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays, 9:30am to 12:30pm. Hours are for both banks. Caseworker referrals Monday, Tuesday, Friday. Caseworkers may come to Dock B from 2 to 4pm.
- Homes of Hope in Manheim Township, Warwick and Ephrata have openings for families. Call Homes of Hope directly, they take agency referrals and self-referrals.

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, May 16, 2016 at 2:30 pm at Burle Industries, New Holland Avenue, Lancaster. **Focus topics** will be: DVS, WSM, YWCA & Off The Streets.

Minutes and Agendas are posted to: www.pa211east.org.

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

Prepared by:
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United Way 2-1-1