



United Way  
of Lancaster County



Minutes:

**CROSS PROBLEMS AND  
HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK**

Monday, January 23, 2017

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

ATTENDANCE

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

WELCOME

Doug opened the meeting with welcome and introductions. Minutes were posted online.

FOCUS TOPICS

**Elizabethtown Community Housing and Outreach Services (ECHOS)**, Presented by Deb Jones

The winter shelter program is ongoing (November through April). The program serves the homeless and those at risk for becoming homeless in the Elizabethtown, Bainbridge, and Rheems areas (Elizabethtown school district). They provide information and referrals, housing locating services, and moving services. ECHOS operates in collaboration with Elizabethtown College and is based on campus; they have 4 staff members. Since their establishment in July 2016, they have housed 6 families and avoided 12 evictions. They do not receive any Rapid Rehousing funding, so all funds come from Elizabethtown College and those raised by the Elizabethtown community. (Supplies as well have been provided by the community.) ECHOS assists with short-term planning/case management for clients.

The issue was shared with the afterhours escort by Elizabeth Borough Police; Deb Jones will follow-up on this.

**Gaudenzia, Inc**, Presented by Tara Montgomery

Brochures were distributed.

The Vantage House offers long-term housing for women and 2 children (up to age 12), for drug and alcohol treatment. The typical plan is a 6 month treatment plan (can be shorter or longer depending on specific case). It is for clients in and outside of Lancaster County. Clients on medication replacement therapy are accepted.

Family Alternatives is for families and includes case management for drug and alcohol clients, helping family units to remain intact.

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Bair O'Malley House Apartments are for women and children, coming directly from a Gaudenzia program. It includes after treatment case management.

### **Behavioral Health and Development Services (BHDS) Mental Health Housing Programs,** presented by John Stygler

Handouts of programs/services distributed. These will also be available electronically.

BHDS provides housing services for clients with serious mental illness; clients must be registered with the county. They serve approximately 500 clients. BHDS helps people who need housing, but also provides housing assistance to keep clients in their current housing; they take clients with zero income and no natural support. Clients must meet Adult 1 Criteria (1 Of 5 diagnosis) and have a need for mental health case management.

BHDS also funds the Path Outreach Program.

Discussion was had regarding client criteria/exclusions. Clients are thoroughly reviewed by BHDS on a case basis: clients are not immediately excluded based on criteria. (Sex offenders may or may not be accepted; arson and drug manufacturing may or may not be accepted.)

### **Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) STAR Program,** presented by Mary Jensen

The STAR Program was started after 911, to train community leaders to help populations impacted by trauma. EMU of Lancaster is offering this training opportunity March 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> in Lancaster at the EMU classrooms at Greenfield. The program costs \$750 per participant and is capped at 25 participants. Continuing Education Credits are currently not offered for this.

Handouts were distributed. These will also be available electronically.

### **United Way VITA,** presented by Toni Gainer

VITA provides free tax preparation services to any client who earns less than \$62,000 per year. Clients should call 211 to schedule an appointment or visit the website to put their information in. Tax preparation includes federal, state, and local taxes, as well as the housing rebate. Funds availability is still based on the IRS. VITA services are available in Berks, Lebanon, Schuylkill, and Lehigh Counties. Bilingual clients can be served at 2 different sites; there are also 2 dates for services for refugee clients.

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

### **Winter Shelter**

YWCA, Becky Saner

The YWCA has seen an average of 20 clients per night (7-41 overall). Seven families have been housed within 2 nights. CHART intakes are going well.

Columbia, Guy Boyer

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Columbia has seen an average of 5-7 clients per night. They have housed 1 family and 1 individual. The location will be moving from its current rotational location to the Vision Shelter.

ECHOS Shelter, Deb Jones

Recently, the service area has been expanded to include Mount Joy, Maytown, and Marietta (for emergency shelter only). They have served an average of 2-3 individuals per night.

**CHART**, Dana Robertson

Dana will be moving on to a new position, and CHART is looking to replace this position and add a third CHART worker. Any interested individuals should contact Ann Linkey. Dana was commended for the great work she completed with the CHART program; the committee at large was commended for their collaborative work.

**LCCEH**, Jason Harnish

The Point in Time (PIT) count will occur this Thursday. Volunteers are needed for the 5:30 AM time slot are needed. Interested individuals should contact Jason Harnish to volunteer.

### SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER UPDATES

K3, K4, and K5 enrollment will start in April; children must be the appropriate age by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

### AGENCY GOOD NEWS, SHARING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Domestic Violence case discussed for resolution ideas. Emergency shelter on the weekends and daytime for families is needed. Further discussion is needed to resolve these issues.

Marcy Mercer (case worker at Lancaster General Health) was recognized for all her great work.

There is a screening of Resilience at McCaskey East on Thursday at 6 PM in the auditorium. The event is free and the link for registration will be distributed electronically.

### VOLUNTEERS FOR ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES/PRESENTATION TOPICS AT NEXT MEETING

Collaborators and Navigators to give updates at an upcoming meeting.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, March 20, 2017 at 2:30 pm at Burle Industries, New Holland Avenue, Lancaster.

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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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