



United Way  
of Lancaster County

Minutes:

## **CROSS PROBLEMS AND HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK**

Monday, May 19, 2015

2:30 pm, Blair Room, Community Services Center

### ATTENDANCE

Doug Hopwood, TLC, Chair, presided. Attendants: Beth Crosby, Love INC/Homes of Hope; Marcy Mercer, LGH-ER; Guy Boyer, Sheila Brownell, Wendi Horst, Steven Cayden, TLC/TABOR; Sarah Fritz, Ann L. Linkey, Dana Robertson, Yvonne Zeiset, Laura Willmer, Kristine Forry, Marge Mower, Dominique Miller, Kiyana Jefferson, Lenara Porter, Tabor; Autumn Nauman, China McNeal, LCBHDS; Sarah Billings, LHOP; Amanda Grosh, Jennifer Gehman, Lodge Life Services; Matt Barnett, D&A Commission; Chuck Albrecht, Water Street; Fay Schwartz, Amedisys; Teresa Danforth, Lancaster County Housing Authority; Lori Hanes, Lancaster City Housing Authority; Eva Dombrowski, Clare House; Jen Koppel, Jason Harnish, LCCEH; Rebecca Hahn, Vanessa Philbert, Gate House; Wendy Walton, Jessica Rosas, LGH; Raeanna Metzger, YWCA; Joan Yunginger, ELANCO Social Services Network; Brian Long, PA LINK to Aging/Disabilities; Allison Weber, Spanish American Civic Association; Channel Lowery, Kristin Labezius, CSG; Kelley Doyle, Lancaster CAO; Melissa Rhynes, Bridge of Hope; Rick Groff, Neighborhood Services; Karen Pfortsch, Deaf and Hearing Services; Kristin Jones; Lancaster County Office of Aging; Ellie Reist, Milagro House; Lenny Walton, Scooter Haase, The Homeless Coalition; Amanda Funk, New Choices/New Beginnings; Tamala Delgado, United Way 2-1-1.

### WELCOME

Doug opened the meeting with welcome and introductions.

### FOCUS TOPICS

#### PA LINK to Aging and Disability Services

Brian Long, presented:

Brian noted that the LINK is more than just aging and disabilities-it is a resource for everyone. Recently the Commonwealth and the federal government has redefined LINK as a Resource Center to get accurate, unbiased information about long term living issues.

Brian encouraged all to be "partners" in this collaborative effort. There is a LINK in every county in Pennsylvania. Aging Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) are in every state. Brian is contracted to serve Lancaster, Lebanon and Berks. Website is: [berkslancasterlebanonlink.org](http://berkslancasterlebanonlink.org). There is a tab for each county on the website. Information about Cross Training Meetings and workshops is listed here. Events are posted on the website. Meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in Lancaster County.

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Link doesn't spend money on collaterals and ancillaries. Link has community conversations and other special projects. Uses limited funding to help make things better for the community.

- Recently held workshops for aging and LGBT populations, aging and sexuality and Ethics in Social Work and social capital, which were all well attended. Host Popcorn and Movie nights for the over 60 population and those with vision loss; support from VisionCorps is provided. If you have a topic you would like to hear about, the LINK will try to find the presenter and host the forum.
- Provides the Emergency Preparedness Program called Feeling Safe, Being Safe , directed to people with disabilities. The plan gives a bracelet with a USB on it with the person's information embedded. In the event of an emergency and they need to leave their home quickly, they will have all their pertinent documentation, i.e. medication, vision problems, contact information- anything thing they want to provide. Brenda Pittman is the Co-presenter of the Feeling Safe program.
- Monthly meetings are open to all, to share information and all minutes are posted on the website. Locations vary.
- NWD: No Wrong Door focus groups are being held across the state. NWD means anyone who calls in - a resource for them will be found. Resource Center # 1.800.753.8827.
- Brochures were distributed on a variety of long term living and elder care issues. If you need copies, email or call Brian.

### **Homeless Coalition, Next 5 Year Plan:** Lenny Walton, Scooter Haase

Lenny gave a brief update on the issues that came out of the focus groups that were held a few months ago. Main focus areas:

- Creating Strategies and Partner Committees
- Increasing Housing affordability and availability
- Methods to achieve housing
- Off street alternatives- not all comfortable with CHOC, several others needed
- Increase direct service providers' focus on areas like employment, transportation
- Emphasis on programs for people leaving prison
- Moving with the direction of HUD and other funders.
- Funding changes- be more in tune
- Need for increased involvement from the private and public sectors.

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The first meeting will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup>. It was recognized that the work is huge and that representation will be needed from a variety of community sectors; and those involved will change as the project focus shifts. However it was decided to start with a smaller group to begin the work. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, the members and/or organizations will be: Doug, Kristen, Community Life Network, Assets, Careerlink, Lancaster city police department, William Harvey-Ephrata police, Debbie Stewart (architectural firm), Bob Totaro (land development), Ray D'Agastino (LHOP), Lisa Riggs (econ).

Faith-based committee has developed a survey that will go out to over 300 churches. This will help us see where the gaps are and the positive things that are happening. Already have 2 models for action:

- First Model: Hempfield United Methodist Church wanted to do something around homelessness. They were connected with a woman who was ready to leave a shelter but needed help with \$200 a month/rent. They committed to financial and mentoring services for a year and negotiating additional services as needed.
- Second Model: East Chestnut Mennonite Street Church wants to buy a house and dedicate it to helping the homeless.

Lenny explained the term "Housing Blitz. The concept is that you look at a specific time period in advance and pick a number of housing units you would like to develop within that time period, i.e. 6 months. You align all the agencies that have housing options, or the possibility of housing and include the City and County programs to try to get to this number of units.

As you drive this number, the process will begin to show the pitfalls along the way and also the agencies who aren't connected. Lenny compared it to a business model around creating a new project. It has been successful in a number of communities. The National Housing Alliance has suggested Lancaster as a good community to do this and would be willing to come and assist us. This work helps break the surface and reveal a lot of the issues that come up in creating more affordable housing.

Doug encouraged the group to have their own congregations/groups who may be interested in preventing homelessness to contact the Coalition.

### LCCEH: UPDATES

#### CHART

Dana Robertson, reported:

- Trying to see people on a regular basis, spring time tends to pick up for referrals. There are still people on the list for RRH Program. Try to meet with them as soon as they enter

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the shelter. The flow is more manageable. Typically meeting with people within 24 hours.

### CaseWorthy

Jen, reported:

- CaseWorthy is the new software that Lancaster County will be using for our HMIS. Cut-off date for ServicePoint will be 06/19/2015. Begin June 19 and June 24<sup>th</sup>, paper data will need to be collected. June 24<sup>th</sup> the system will go live at 9:30 am. Historical data will be three years. Coalition also has the data in excel spreadsheets.
- “Super user” trainings start tomorrow. After roll out of the initial phase, customization for other partners will begin.

Karen (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) reported that many services tell their clients who are homeless that they cannot accommodate them due to lack of funding, interpretation, and accessibility. Many are getting “lost and falling through the cracks” on the streets. The group was also reminded that providing accessible services is a mandate and the Coalition needs to be aware of this and take it into consideration in future funding discussions. Jen noted that the Coalition’s strategic plan speaks to the need of working collectively and with as much impact as possible and also welcomed the opportunity to have this discussion.

Karen also noted it is not helpful to ask a person who is deaf to write or finger spell. This lends to more frustration to an already stressful situation when someone is homeless.

### Coalition Structure Update

Jen, reported:

The LCCEH is in the process of leaving the umbrella of county government and will be moving to a contract with Lancaster General Hospital. LGH will provide the non-profit umbrella for the coalition staff to work as the facilitators of the Coalition. Jen attributed the move in this direction to all the hard work of ALL the partners over the last 5 years.

They have outgrown the physical space and will be moving as of June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 620 N. Duke Street. County emails will remain the same for now and they will be using cell phones for a bit until the new office gets set up. It is a 2<sup>ND</sup> floor walk-up, not accessible; however, the Council of Churches has given them the ability to work out of the new N. Queen Street location when necessary.

Shooting for July 1 as the official day they become LGH employees.

In the meantime, as they divest from the County they are doing some things that will help shape the vision and work of the LCCEH moving forward:

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- Leadership Council meetings will be officially open to the public
- Coalition staff be scheduling open discussions and forums with the providers – they want to know what is needed from them
- Conversations around Housing Locators. A grant was available for a short term solution; however, a committee has been also created to explore more permanent solutions. First meeting in June.
- RMO, working with Allison and Melanie how can we partner differently to work wit this population.

### Training Opportunity

Jason, reported:

Lancaster Housing Authority is running a series of training on “Housing First”. First training on June 4<sup>th</sup>, flyers were available. Jen explained the value of attending the training even if a case worker feels they know what Housing First is!

### SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER UPDATES

- None

### HOUSING DISCUSSION (GOOD, BAD, UGLY)

Doug Hopwood, reported:

Barrier: After-hours housing, DVS full, released from ER, cannot go to WSM, etc. nowhere else to go

Solution: A quick band-aid – motel room for one night to solve the immediate problem, sometimes this can help until CHART opens the next day.

Barrier: What do we have for a person with any disability who is homeless, they may need care, or are in a wheel chair cannot go to WSM

Solution: Possibly using Governor Tom Wolf’s Medicare Expansion money.

Barrier: Single females/males who are ready to be released from prison, no place to go, cannot put down the Mission as an address. So they end up staying in prison longer, or giving another address, but still showing up at the Mission.

Barrier: Aging out population...Have a transitioning program, but certain criteria required. No other solutions, many sleeping in cars, etc.

### AGENCY NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WSM: Turning people away for walk in shelter.

### Volunteers for Organizational Updates/Presentation Topics at Next Meeting

Sarah Billings: LHOP's Rental Housing Search Engine

- Bring questions and phone numbers for housing search listing.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, July 20, 2015 at 2:30 pm in the Blair Room located at 630 Janet Avenue. Focus topics TBA. Minutes and Agenda will be posted to the PA211East website. Please contact Toni or Doug with any suggestions.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Toni at [gainer@uwlanc.org](mailto:gainer@uwlanc.org) or 717.824.8118; or Doug at [dhopwood@tabornet.org](mailto:dhopwood@tabornet.org).

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