



United Way  
of Lancaster County

Minutes:

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

Monday, September 15, 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, Steven Pagden, Sheila Brownell, Dominique Miller, Wendi Horst, TLC/TABOR; Ann L. Linkey, Dana Robertson, Sarah Fritz, Laura Willmer, Andrea Grill, Kiyana Jefferson, Marge Mowrer, Tabor; Autumn Nauman, LCBHDS; Amanda Grosh, Lodge Life Services; Matt Barnett, D&A Commission; Teresa Danforth, Lancaster County Housing Authority; Eva Dombrowski, Clare House; Jason Harnish, LCCEH; Brian Long, PA LINK to Aging/Disabilities; Kelly Quinn, Healthy Beginnings; Melissa Rhynes, Bridge of Hope; Olga Rodriguez, DVS-Bridge House; Tara Montgomery, Gaudenzia, Inc.; Major Sidney Anderson, Salvation Army; Jennifer Puff, Genesis J. Hernandez, CHI St. Joseph Children's Health; Sandra Valdez, UDS; Joan Yunginger, ESSN; Juli Vesper, Tracy Broderick, DVS; Lori Walton, APPS/SOS; Ashley Eager, Good Samaritan Shelter; Theresa Whitesel, Nurse Family Partnership, LGH; Melvin Frye, Lauren Ressler, Hempfield S.D.; Samantha Vollrath, IHELP-CSG; Rhonda Slinghoff, Lanc. Co BHDS; Lindsay Hess, Jim Amstutz, Lancaster County Council of Churches; Lori Haines, Lanc. City Housing Authority; Paige Duncan, Millersville University; Raeanna Metzger, YWCA; Fay Schwartz, Amedisys Home Health; Bobbi Frick, Lisa McDonald, Lancaster Head Start; Katie Reiff, Conestoga Valley S.D.; Carla Sarricca, MTSD; Wendy Walton, LGH Downtown Family Medicine; Tammy Garza, Mary Beth Stover, EARN/PA CareerLINK; Allision Weber, SACA/Tec Centro; Toni Gainer, United Way 2-1-1.

### WELCOME

Doug opened the meeting with welcome and introductions.

### FOCUS TOPICS

#### **CHI-St. Joseph Children's Health, Presented by Genesis Hernandez**

Most know St Joseph Health as the provider of the Brush, Brush , Smile bus. However, in addition to the bus, there is a new strategic plan for Catholic Health Initiative (CHI) that includes Advocacy. For this purpose the county is divided into "zones" and each zone has an assigned advocate. The Advocates work one on one with families, who have children, ages 0-18 years, who:

- do not have health insurance
- do not have no access to care or their benefits
- need help understanding their benefits
- need connected to a medical home

Advocates also help their families to connect with other resources.

Initially the work begins with the child's dental and health needs. Advocacy workers will schedule an intake, usually the same day as the referral, to meet and determine any other

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needs, i.e. sign up for insurance, help with transportation, etc. They will continue to work with the family until their goal plan is met- could be up to 3 years. The program also serves undocumented families. As long as they can prove income eligibility (for dental) they will treat them, no other questions asked.

CHI is also a grant maker. Grants are offered twice a year, Fall and Spring, 25 grants (\$10,000) will be awarded for a variety of health initiatives.

### **LHOP, Lancaster Rental Housing Search Tool, Presented by Nathan Roth**

Nathan first gave a brief overview of LHOP and stressed that it is essential for people to know they have fair housing rights. LHOP offers:

- Tenant/landlord handbook offered in numerous languages, Braille and a video
- Telephone Assistance (handles approximately 150 calls/month)
- First-time homebuyer classes for households with income up to \$52,000
- Assistance for closing costs and down payment up to \$5000, zero % interest rate
- Self-guided resource room with access to computers and printed materials
- Helps landlords purchase properties to rent affordably, call LHOP, ask for Jim Shultz
- Partners with Younger Realty Group to provide the Investor's Certification Series (workshops)

Housing Search Engine - <http://www.lhop.org/findrentals/>

Nate provided a walk-thru of the Search Engine and its many features. Helpful sections include calculating moving costs and a formula for calculating how much you can afford to pay for rent (generally 30% of your income). For those without internet access, a list can be mailed to them by calling 1-877-428-8844.

LHOP is always looking for additional landlords to list their properties on the website. Benefits:

- It is free
- Provides statistics for the landlord
- Prevents having to duplicate or recreate the property listing

Notes: Waiting Lists depends on the property or the population. Must wait for turnover. It is also very important to abide by the lease agreements. County housing will be putting out 20-30 vouchers in the future; some will go to homeless preference referral by the Coalition. (1 out of 5)

County Housing purged their list this year and pared it down to about 275. 50 vouchers were given out earlier this year

Nathan also touched upon some focus points in LHOP's strategic direction:

- Creation of a legal clinic for housing issues (lock outs, condemnations)
- Disability rights (home ownership and the ABLE Act)

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- Adoption of uniform property maintenance codes by municipal governments
- Resource guide explaining the differences in housing and how to find it

EVERYONE is looking for housing--- Nate offered some tips:

- Do the budget on the search engine first to determine what you can afford
- Go to a variety of resources, newspapers, online sites, etc.
- Talk to neighbors
- It was also noted that Roommate matching is something that is being explored for our community. A series of presentations on Home Sharing was presented by organizations who have done this very successfully in Chester County and Baltimore.

### **Tec Centro, Presented by Allison Weber**

The tech school is SACA's newest venture. ESL and GED classes are offered free of charge.

In addition, Career Pathways courses are offered:

- Culinary arts
- Construction/manufacturing(OSHA certified)
- CNA
- Pharmacy Technician
- Banking/Sales
- Dental Assistant

A tele-communications program will be coming soon. Tec Centro works with local employers to find out what the needs are in the workforce. Students graduate with a living wage job, pursue higher education or both.

In addition, the Employment Services component provides help with resume development and finding employment. Services are offered Monday –Thursday beginning at 8:30 am. They have a 90% job placement rate after completion of the program.

Allison noted there is a waiting list for the classes but the turnaround time is pretty quick(3-6 months).

Tec Centro will be opening a CAFÉ' at the end of October. Students from the Career Pathways will be working there.

### LCCEH UPDATES

CaseWorthy: software patch will be installed and HUD required updates

PIT Count: 10 people fewer than last summer

CHART: starting interviews for FT Chart Worker

### SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER UPDATES

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- Manheim Township: clothing bank for school age children is held at St. Peter's Church , located on corner of Delp Road and Lititz Pike.
- School District of Lancaster: Contact School Social Worker for school uniforms. DO NOT call the Pearl St Church.
- Conestoga Valley S.D.: Food and Clothing Bank on Gehman Rd, Tuesday and Thursday. CV residents only

### DISCUSSION

Doug gave a quick overview of the Off the Streets program. The program, run mostly by volunteers, provides rent and furniture assistance to those who are homeless. AGENCY REFERRAL ONLY. Client must be able to maintain the housing. They do not need to go through CHART. Assistance is provided once in a lifetime.

### GOOD NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

DVS will be hiring a FT bilingual psotion for the 6am-2 pm shift. Visit CAP website for details.

UDS is always hiring good, caring people with a clean background for a variety of their programs.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, November 16, 2015 at 2:30 pm in the Blair Room, 630 Janet Avenue. **Focus topics:** Energy Assistance

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) or 717.824.8118; or Doug at [dhopwood@tabornet.org](mailto:dhopwood@tabornet.org).

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