

NAME	AGENCY/ADDRESS	SERVICE PROVIDED	TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 412 UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)	EMAIL ADDRESS
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NEXT HOCC MEETING

THURSDAY August 25, 2005

1:30PM-3:00PM

LOCATION: COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES CORPORATION

374 LAWN STREET, PGH, PA 15213

TEL: (412) 621-4706, should you need directions.

Adrienne reports that we are scheduled through 9/05 at Lawn Street. There may be space issues at the time, as CHSC has after-school programs that may affect the meeting space. If meeting place changes, it will be updated in the minutes as the change occurs.

Diane McMahon took the notes for Becky LaBovick at the August 25, 2005.

REMINDERS:

None this meeting

Agenda:

- Finalize Engagement Center Proposal

If you would like to add to the agenda, please email or call Becky LaBovick at labovickr@upmc.edu or 412-578-7734 by the previous day to the next meeting.

THURSDAY 8/25/05 1:30pm Meeting @ CHSC Lawn Street

- Meeting officially begins at 1:33 p at CHSC 374 Lawn Street

ENGAGEMENT CENTER PROPOSAL

- Mac begins with explaining the revisions in the Engagement Center proposal – structure has changed to be more reader friendly.
- Jonathon Cox – explains that the revisions explains more to the general public, acronyms are explained, and more reader friendly regarding the homeless situation in Pittsburgh.
- Fred Fowler – asks what is the difference between the two drafts?
- Jonathon – go further in the introduction
 - Pittsburgh has x number of homeless people living on the streets
 - Why are the people on the streets?
 - Why are they not getting into shelters?
 - Expand on what the purpose of the engagement center.
 - Put purpose in the opening paragraph so you know what you are reading about.
- Fred comments that the reading is very accessible and easily understood.
- Chris – it doesn't explain how homeless people are doubled up living in houses. Talk about how in the past 30 years low income housing is on the decline – talk about how living on minimum wage forces people into a homeless situation.
- Fred- why is the issue not being addressed – why is that a problem? Why are people living on the streets a bad thing – talk about why it is deleterious for people to come downtown because people are living on the streets. Talk about why living on the streets is what we do not want to see.
- Jonathon – could talk about living on the streets as being a problem from PDP perspective – but also look at the wider community perspective

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- Chris – look at the business perspective – look at different angles and talk about how all these issues can impact the development of the engagement center
- Fred – looking at the budget and the benefit of helping society by addressing the problem.
- Chris – Atlanta just passed an ordinance about panhandling – where there was a 300-bed shelter built by the business community – then there was the panhandling ordinance – this was on NPR. This was in the tourist area of Atlanta – the ordinance carries only for this certain area in the city.
- Jonathon – expand introduction and take what is on page three and push to the back – which is the recommendations from visits – push this to the back of the proposal.
- Jonathon – What is an engagement center? Tie in the following components – and put A., B., C., etc...
- Stephanie - talked about the new project that she is responsible for
- Fred- audience described in the last paragraph is a way to open up talk and start dialogue into the process. When Fred wrote a proposal for the Damp Shelter – it was more written up to distribute to homeless providers and there was no response to the request, which originated out of the Mayor’s office. It is good to start with a focal point to spread the information around.
- Chris – when working on the Damp Shelter, there was no funding available for the project. It may have not worked because it was led by a single organization rather than a collaborative approach among interested parties. It was difficult getting buy-in. The city was not willing to give \$150,000 because of a political point with Barbara Burns.
- Fred- at the last 10 yr plan to end homelessness meeting Phil Pappas said: “This is a great plan, but it is not until the 15-20 people that have their fingers on the levers of power then there will not be a tangible change in the situation.” Get proposal in the right people’s hands to make this plan happen.
- Mac- thinks the fact that there is a budget for people to look at that it will help move the plan forward. The article helped last Sunday – which is an opening to the public and explains the intentions of the group. The document helps with this process.
- Chris – so maybe this is a test...homelessness interest waxes and wanes. Hopefully this is not a waste of paper and something will come of it – may be an exercise in futility.
- Jonathon – change in city administration may have an impact – but the county pretty much determines where the money is. It is possible that this may play out to our advantage. It is all speculative at this point.
- Chris – in many cities there has been a partnership between the city and the businesses to make the Engagement Center. It is different in Pittsburgh because the city and the county funding is disconnected. So how do we tap into this here since social services do not come from the city. The city has a stake – they want to clean up the streets.
- Jonathon – the social services community has different motives than the business and political community. But they all have the same goal.
- Chris – working together may create something that might help with this problem. It may be more expensive to bounce people around the system then provide housing.
- Mac- especially look at why you think the issues are not being addressed.

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- Jonathon – is the 200-400 number accurate – it needs to show where the people are.
- Stephanie – our database has all the street homeless tracked. According to their tracking system they would say there are 200 people on the streets in the greater Pittsburgh area.
- Jonathon – if there is an engagement center – there will probably be a small number that will not come into the center – need to add that there will always be a small number that will choose to live on the streets.
- Mac – time factor should be acknowledged, as it will take time to get people to come in off the streets. There are a few that Mac knows that would choose not to come in – but they also do not want to be visible on the streets.
- Jonathon – an Engagement Center will go a long ways toward helping the currently chronically homeless numbers – it may make a huge difference (50%?) but will not completely eradicate the problem.
- Mac – topography allows or disallows privacy for those living on the streets. Philadelphia, for example, does not have that many places for people to camp out in privacy. In Pittsburgh, there are many more areas to “hide out” in – for example the McArdle Roadway is a place that is away from the public.
- Chris – compared to most other cities – we have a relatively smaller problem. If you offer housing and don’t put restrictions – I think most people would accept that – this is part of the solution – but not the solution. Could probably capture a large segment of the population. But there will be those who will continue to live on the streets. This will not go away instantly. But it may be easier in Pittsburgh because we have a small population.
- Mac – this is probably only about 5% of the population – they are the most visible.
- Chris – if we fill our spaces – that is what we can do.
- Stephanie – building relationships with the chronically homeless should be elaborated on – because these people need the most time – and that is why there must be more one-on-one to make this a successful venture. Take small steps toward the solution.
- Mac- partner with someone that can provide Housing First units.
- Chris – 25-50 emergency shelter – plus 25 Safe Haven. Instead of shelter beds – then have beds that do not have any time limits. No 60-day limit. This way the beds would be available for targeted on street people. Then they can stay in beds until they can be moved onto housing spots.
- Fred – Need to think about time related to infrastructure. OBH needs to keep 10 yr plan & engagement center plan as part of their strategic 5 yr plan. OBH has housing needs now – rather than finding a space – they do project based leasing to rent for recently released jail MH population. This is for folks from the criminal system that will receive housing that need to follow the rules of the lease. Bridge subsidy that gives funding to recently release jail folks to find their own apartments – plus they put them on a Section 8 list – which once it comes through will end their bridge subsidy. We need to tie this into the Engagement Center plan – there should be a certain number of spots available through the Bridge Housing subsidy. The relationship with HOCC must be strengthened to make this realistic. We will be hiring a point person to implement and run this housing program for this – this person should be on the HOCC agenda, because they will be offer beds to the Engagement Center population.

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- Chris – we will look at what we have and see where we can build linkages for other available beds. UPMC/Western Psych is also looking to create more beds for this population.
- Fred – there will be competition for this population because the state hospital will be where OBH will be drawing their population from – and this is probably an intersect with the people that are living on the streets.
- Mac – OBH needs to recognize that a lot of folks on the street are people with mental health problems. Most people don't understand it and want to lock people up because of the strangeness of the people living on the streets. We need to get more funding from OBH for what we do. Philadelphia, Columbus and Cleveland invests OBH funds into the chronic homeless people living on the streets.
- Chris – this population that we are targeting is a severely mentally ill population that has been on the street for a long time...we will mostly be focusing on the mentally ill population.
- Mac – the beds for emergency shelter could possible be longer than 60 days through a state exemption. ESG – DPW money dictates this limit.
- Jonathon – Safe Haven beds/Shelter beds – what does this mean?
- Mac – Safe Haven – qualifications – you have to be homeless and disabled. It looks different in different places – congregate, personal care home, rental apartments
- Jonathon – this is a classic example of how people don't understand what the jargon is – Safe Haven, Housing First – all this is something that the regular reader doesn't know what the word is. HOCC understands but the outsider does not. It's extra work but in the end it's worth the explanation. Think about the concepts too – and try to get that across to the funders.
- Chris – Housing First ultimately saves the system a lot of dollars. It decreases hospitalization, jail time and ultimately saves “the system” money.
- Jonathon – there are a lot of questions that we need to be addressed. Critical to stress the difference between an engagement center and any other facility. One of the essential differences is that EC will take people that are actively drunk or addicted.
- Chris – EC offers a shelter space/bed without restrictions – most shelters have a lot of rules that people do not want to comply to – this Engagement Center says we have a bed for you period. There is also a time limit to regular articles.
- Jonathon – in the PG article – McBride...does not explain the entire idea of what and EC is also.
- Chris – the 25 beds – do we want only Safe Haven beds – not shelter beds?
- Mac- Safe Haven is a long-term solution – we need to get people in the door long enough to find a permanent bed.
- Chris – In Philadelphia there was only a congregate space for Safe Haven.
- Fred- Safe Haven to him means a HUD funded program.
- Mac – With the sleeping arrangements – we have to find the funding that fits the situation for the bed. Even if it were Housing First beds – it is beds and available – not time limited.
- Jonathon – general conceptual description – then talk about where funding might be available.
- Mac – It may be that the source or funding stream may decide where or how many beds we have.
- Blaine - are you talking about having a facility that has limited restrictions for people coming in – coupled with a bed that has no time

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limits – how does this help your flow – you may clog up the system this way. Especially if the client has nowhere to go.

- Mac – this is not for anyone coming to the front door that asks for space – they must be referred through an outreach worker.
- Fred – if the person accepts the bed – then the relationship engages the person in a direction of becoming independent and becoming involved in treatment.
- Blaine – this should not become a dumping ground – but should engage people in services.
- Chris – like PATHWAYS in New York – the resident must agree to have a visit from an outreach person, they must agree to have a payee to pay their rent. Still there are less restrictions – like you have to be in treatment. They have found that has been a strategy that moves people in the right direction – eventually into treatment.
- Stephanie – this would all be part of a service plan that has goals and dates that they person will agree to move onto.
- Chris – for us – will we have beds available for them as they move on,
- Fred- Maryhaven’s Engagement Center has a short length of stay unless they agree to move into treatment services.
- Mac – sometimes it takes a lot of visits to Maryhaven’s Engagement Center before the person is ready to go for treatment. The unduplicated count was very low – the duplicated count was high – the average amount of stays was as much as 8 times a year.
- Stephanie – we are the last hope for people that are beyond hope. That is why we are not going to put rules on them. The people that we are going to target are the ones that we are going to drag in.
- Mac – you don’t want to bring someone in and set them up for failure. It isn’t until a couple of visits in Columbus, until the person is ready to make a change.
- Beverly – would you have some kind of assessment for the person coming in?
- Chris – we will get as much assessment as we possibly can. You can come in and we will give you housing. The intervention is secondary to that – less restrictions. PATHWAYS houses hundreds of people – and they only have a trouble with a very few – aside from that there are no expectations placed on them
- Stephanie – look at the emergency cold weather shelter as an experiment this year – and do assessment on people using the shelter more so then what has happened up in the past. Connect people back to where they are getting services. People will all be in one spot. Still will be checking on people outside to make sure they are safe.
- Blaine – concerned that people will continue to do same destructive behavior even when they are in housing.
- Stephanie – research shows that if you provide the housing people will gravitate toward treatment and will improve more so then if they are living on the streets.
- Mac – at Safe Haven – of 38 chronically homeless residents only had to take 3 or 4 out of the program. A lot of people are out on the streets because they are tired of getting kicked out of programs.
- Rocky – it’s easier to be out on the streets – I stay at Safe Haven – because I have my freedom. I’ve had people approach me to ask me how I got into Safe Haven. Now I want Supportive Housing.
- Mac – the Engagement Center will also be a trial and error project, like Safe Haven was. Safe Haven made a believer out of me. I never did like that Wood Street Commons required three months clean – instead of Housing First – this was Housing last. Lot of folks on the streets have

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been damaged in some way and feel safer on the streets rather than involved in some kind of system. People don't want to get hurt anymore.

- Rocky – does not like the work homeless – we like to be called “street people” there is honor among the street people.
- Chris – one of the persons I interviewed told me “I'm not homeless – I just don't have a house to put my things into.”
- Pass out proposal with edits to city council.

MEETING WITH GUY COSTA

- Mac- we talked about sweeps – Guy picked seven spots that they want to keep clean – gateways to the city that they feel should be kept clean. They claim they did not throw everything out of the boat house – instead many items are stored at Second Avenue – where Guy's offices are located.
- Stephanie – we do not want their dirty blankets – we would rather buy new blankets.
- Beverly – we can help out with blankets from the VA.
- Mac – I will go down and collect all the items down at Second Avenue and inventory it – then I'll probably throw it out.
- Holly - Don't want to pick up items because they are worried that cops will run their name and take them to jail.
- Chris – planted the seed about the engagement center.

PANHANDLING ORDINANCE

- Jonathon - Met with Salvation Army about their concerns for ringing the bell to collect funds. Especially concerned about their location at Kaufmann's. Restriction of footage close to an ATM wording is something that Salvation Army is not interested in supporting. They are going to talk with their lawyer for recommended wording to address concerns.
- Jonathon - Meeting scheduled with ACLU on September 8, 2005.

DROWNING INCIDENT

- Stephanie – discussion about homeless man that drowned in river.

OPENING OF BETHLEM HAVEN SAFE HAVEN END OF SEPTEMBER

- Holly - Waiting for staff to fill the weekend staff and that is what is holding up the opening. Marci Snowden will be the new supervisor of the Safe Haven. They are also looking for subs to act as temps. So far they have 6 or 7 people slated for Safe Haven. They are starting with 14 beds and may increase the number of beds in the future.
- Mac – who do we talk to see if we can get someone into Safe Haven
- Holly – talk to Ashley to have someone go into the Safe Haven

VA PROVIDERS MEETING

- Beverly - Sept. 15 – 8:30 am to 1:30 – auditorium – Bldg. 8

PIRATES GAME

- Fred - Recovery choir is going to sing the national anthem – and there is a block of seats available for people that are in recovery. \$10 a seat – call Robin Spencer at the Message Carrier for tickets – these tickets are discounted from \$25.

SITE OF NEXT MEETING – needs determined must check with CHSC first.

- NEXT MTG: 9/22/05 1:30p @ CHSC 374 Lawn Street

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	Allison, Donna	Northside Leadership Conference 415 E. Ohio Street PGH, PA 15212	Advocacy for community issues	231-4714 x20	donna@pittsburghnorthside.com
	Brownwell, Charlie	No Walls Ministries 763 Cottonwood Dr. Monroeville, PA 15146	Outreach/Bible Study	445-5052	Goodnews21c@adelphia.net
	Chalich, Theresa	Bethlehem Haven 905 Watson Street PGH, PA 15219	Mental health	412-391-1348 x104	tchalich@bethlehemhaven.org
X	Chiappini, Stephanie LMSW OR Leibowitz, Art	Operation Safety Net Mercy Hospital 1400 Locust Street PGH, PA 15219	Medical outreach, case management, transitional housing	412-232-5739	schiappini@mercy.pmhs.org
	Collins, Margaret	421 Grant Street Springdale, PA 15144	Outreach	724-713-1640	Margaretw1@peoplepc.com
X	Cox, Jonathan	Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership		566-4190	jcox@downtownpittsburgh.com
	Cramer, Ed	No Walls Ministries 763 Cottonwood Dr. Monroeville, PA 15146	Outreach/Bible Study	445-5052	Kramersss@aol.com
	Dewalt, Paul	EECM 319 N. Beatty Pgh, Pa 15206	Men's shelter mgr	361-5013 x117	
	Dickman, Karen	Allegheny Co. Forensics 304 Wood St PGH, PA 15222		412-350-3443	
	DiLeonardo, Debbie	UPMC/WPIC-SFMC OUTREACH 2552 Centre Ave Pgh, PA 15219	SFMC MH Outreach	412-578-3650	
X	Fowler, Fred	Senior Planner Office of Behavioral Health 304 Wood Street PGH, PA 15222		350-3449	ffowler@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us
	Haberchak, Ed	Allegheny County DHS United Way Bldg One Smithfield Street 4 th floor Pgh, Pa 15222	ACDHS Bureau of Hunger and Housing	350-4031	
	Haft, Perrin	DHS/Office of Behavioral Health 304 Wood St Pgh, Pa 15222	Social services	350-3451	
	Hargrove, Lindsay	Allegheny Co. Forensics 304 Wood St. PGH, PA 15222		412-350-3443	
	Hayes, Patty Ph.D.	VA Pittsburgh Healthcare Sys.	Women Veterans Program Manager	412-688-6289 clinic 412-688-	Patricia.hayes@med.va.gov

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	PGH, PA 15240		6236	
Jenkins, Gordon	EECM 319 N. Beatty Pgh, Pa 15206	Men's shelter mgr	361-5013 x117	
Johnson, Diane	WPIC-NLP 2552 Centre Avenue Pgh, PA 15219	Outreach	578-7729	Johnsond@msx.upmc.edu
Johnson, James "Moon"	374 Lawn St Pgh, Pa 15213	Outreach	621-6513	Jamesjohnson334@verizon.net
Johnson, Sylvia	CHSC 374 Lawn Street Pgh, Pa 15213	Supportive Relocation	621-4706	
Kurka, Iris	Health Care for the Homeless 7227 Hamilton Avenue PGH, PA 15208		244-4700	
LaBovick, Becky	WPIC-Safe Haven 1917 Perrysville Ave. PGH, PA 15214	Safe Haven	322-4189	Labovickr@upmc.edu
X Laemmler, Chris	WPIC-Outreach and NLP 2552 Centre Avenue Pgh, PA 15219	Outreach	578-7730	Laemmler@msx.upmc.edu
McKelvia, Tyrone (Mac)	NLP-2552 Centre Ave. PGH, PA 15219	D&A Outreach Specialist	578-3250	
X McMahon, Diane	Parental Stress Center 5877 Commerce St. PGH, PA 15206	Family Permanent Housing Program	361-4800	Dianem677@aol.com
X McMahon, Mac	CHSC 374 Lawn Street Pgh, Pa 15213	Outreach / Housing Supervisor	621-6513 x106 c: 417-6231	mac99861@cs.com
Miller, Denise	No Walls Ministries 763 Cottonwood Dr. Monroeville, PA 15146	Outreach/Bible Study	445-5052	Deniseann1004@yahoo.com
Nardin, Paul	Mercy Behavioral Health 412 E. Commons Pgh, PA 15212		442-8910	paulnardin@mercybh.org
Payne, Dennis OR O'Connor, Lana	DHS United Way Building One Smithfield St. 4 th floor Pgh, PA 15222	ACDHS	350-4984 350-3837	dpayne@dhs.county.allegheeny.pa.us
X Pendleton, Blaine	Mercy Behavioral Health 412 E. Commons Pgh, PA 15212		442-8910	bpendleton@mercybh.org
Pilarski, Mary Frances	VA Hospital 122 B-H 7180 Highland Dr. PGH, PA 15206	VA Healthcare for the Homeless Veterans	412-365-5273	Mary.Pilarski@med.va.gov

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	Price, Sharlene Family Links 1601 Fifth Ave PGH, PA 15219	Homeless Shelter	471-6160	
	Pyptyk, Emil DHS OBH 304 Wood St. PGH, PA 15222	Supervisor MH housing	350-7117	epyptyk@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us
	Quinn, Mae 1410 Fifth Avenue Pgh, PA 15219	Miryam's	471-0155	
	Reynolds, Curtis CHSC 374 Lawn Street Pgh, Pa 15213	Outreach	621-4706	creynolds@chscorp.org
	Sanders, Theda PCHS/HCH		244-3518	tsanders@pchspitt.org
X	Sonney, Holly Bethlehem Haven 905 Watson Street PGH, PA 15219	Mental health	412-391-1348 x103	hsonney@bethlehemhaven.org
	Stammely- Park, Melissa Family Links 1601 Fifth Ave PGH, PA 15219	Homeless Shelter	471-6160	mpark@familylinks.org
	Steffey, Goerge East Liberty Family Health Care Center 7171 Churchland St. PGH, PA 15206	Behavioral Health	412-361-3435	gsteffey@elfhcc.com
	Sweitzer, Harry Bureau of Hunger and Housing 4 th floor United Way Building One Smithfield St. Pgh, PA 15222	ACHD	412-350-3848	
	Upsher, Curtis Community Care One Chatham Ctr. 112 Washington Place Pgh, PA 15219	ACOBHMCO	454-2163	upsherc@ccbho.com
X	Vanderhorst (Ojanide), Beverly VA Hospital 122 B-H 7180 Highland Drive PGH, PA 15206	VA Healthcare for Homeless Vets	365-5772	Beverly.vanderhorst@med.va.gov
	Venezia, Rich Allegheny County DHS United Way Bldg One Smithfield Street 4 th floor Pgh, Pa 15222	Allegheny County Dept of Human Services	350-4354	Rvenezia@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us
	Walczak, Vic ACLU		681-7864	vwalczak@aclupgh.org
	Walnoha, Adrienne CHSC 374 Lawn Street Pgh, Pa 15213	Director Homeless Services	621-6513 x101	awalnoha@chscorp.org
X	Waters, Rocky Safe Haven 2133 Perrysville Ave. PGH, PA 15214			
	Zuklich, Jessica Operation Save-A-Life Volunteer	Housing/Street Outreach		

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