

NAME	AGENCY/ADDRESS	SERVICE PROVIDED	TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 412 UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)	EMAIL ADDRESS
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**July 27, 2006– Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee Meeting**

\*\*\*\*\***TO ALL HOCC MEMBERS**\*\*\*\*\*

**PLEASE CHECK OVER YOUR INFORMATION IN THE LIST AND MADE SURE IT IS ACCURATE. PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL BECKY LABOVICK WITH ANY ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS. EMAIL: [LABOVICKR@UPMC.EDU](mailto:LABOVICKR@UPMC.EDU) OR VIA PHONE: 412-322-4189. Thanks!**

**Becky**

**NEXT HOCC MEETING**

**August 24, 2006**

**1:30PM-3:00PM**

**LOCATION: COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES CORPORATION**

**374 LAWN STREET, PGH, PA 15213**

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

**Some issues to be discussed:**

- **Mission Statement**
- **New action steps for HOCC, especially centering around improving our collaborative efforts such as PDP, OBID, etc. and improving public education**

**HOCC has a WEBSITE!! It is: <http://hocc.pghfree.net/index.htm>**

**Introductions/Updates/Announcements**

- 1:40 pm Diane initiated meeting.
- Introductions
- Email copy of upcoming details on the Homeless Rally available.

**Announcement**

- July 1, **Safety Ambassador Program** began at Pgh Downtown Partnership. Program has 9 FT staff (8 are on the streets FT, the 9th [Rick Orrico] splits his time between administrative duties and the street. The Safety Ambassadors are working seven days a week: 11am-12mn Mon thru Sat, Sun 11a-10p. Jonathan gave synopsis of the program. Currently, the Safety Ambassadors are out on the streets to be eyes/ears for police and a reassuring presence for individuals in the Downtown area. If problems/trouble, the Safety Ambassadors are present to handle in most appropriate way possible. Also, a primary component is education in general to individuals in Downtown area: such as directions. A focus is the panhandling issue-trying to ensure that panhandlers are following the ordinance. There are posters/brochures with regard to panhandling (the same posters that were posted several months ago at PAT stops, programs/playbills, etc). Rick from the Safety Ambassador program also present to discuss this program. The brochure has already prompted generous monthly donation of \$500 to Downtown Ministerium. Jonathan also distributed a "Quick Guide-How to Deal With "Street People" that outlines how to handle certain situations (such as checking an individual for disorientation) and involve agencies such as ambulance, police, CHSC, Safety Net. This Quick Guide is to help the Safety Ambassadors to utilize. Diane asks what resources the Downtown Ministerium has to deal with the homeless/panhandling issue(s). How are the panhandlers responding to the Safety Ambassadors and the panhandling ordinance issue? Rick reports that the response has been varied and it is noted that not all are necessarily homeless (some have been seen getting in to very nice vehicles and driving away). Mac notes that evening rounds is often when the true street homeless are noted to be out panhandling. There is rumor of numerous arrests over All Star Week, but no verification of this.

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**Updates:**

**Emergency Shelter during All Star Week:**

- Mac updates Mon 6/26/06 having meeting with Pgh Police/County/etc. Regarding All Star Week Emergency Shelter-Was referred to as the “Inebriate Center” and was wanted at the Smithfield Church. This is also been referred to the “Engagement Center”, which is not accurate. Mac planned for the shelter in five days despite requests to proceed on planning for several weeks prior. Despite the shortness of time, things went fairly well at shelter. There were approx 150 unduplicated persons in 5 days. (Sunday: 110 approx stayed night). After evening meal, about 1/3 or more left shelter on any given day while open. One fight ensued. If more time for planning, there could have been more in place in sense of agencies/services/etc. Overall went very well. The Inebriate Center ended up being at Salvation Army North Side, but this was closed rather quickly as need did not appear to be there and also the Pgh Police have difficulty with HOW to take an individual to the center. There is a liability issue that has/had not been resolved. Unknown if the liability is transportation issue or other combined issues. The Emergency Shelter had fair share of inebriated persons (5-10 at any given time) who came and were not problematic. Fred updates of a new Committee (Forensic Behavioral Health Task Force, which is subcommittee of Criminal Justice Advisory Board). The Task Force was convened some time ago and disbanded for a time. Has recently reconvened as a committee & have applied for a Federal Crises Intervention Training Grant for training to be run and given by the Pgh Police, backed by other agencies to help train in more specialized areas. One issue addressed is need for Engagement Center, but the model does not appear quite same as what HOCC has been discussing for years. How do these two fit together (HOCC idea and the Forensic Behavioral Task Force idea) and how would this be coordinated? There was not specific mention of homeless in the Forensic Behavioral Task Force Model. The driving force behind is Pgh Police and the justice system due to lack of resources needed.
- Jonathan reports recently, there was educational piece about an engagement center in Seattle on NPR, called something along lines of Harm Reduction Housing. Also recent article in NY Times on the same program. There is a lot of controversy with regard to harm reduction philosophy.
- Back to the Shelter-ALL word of mouth. WHY USED? Survival issue: place to sleep, don’t need to worry about the elements, don’t use traditional shelter, fed regular meals, etc. Emergency Shelter is based in harm reduction, which may be one reason that some were accepting. “Freedom”-the rules are not the same as the traditional shelters or other programs. Mac approximates about 50% of street homeless population he knows, came to shelter to sleep and larger percent came for meals. There are very different social structures within the street homeless as well, maybe downtown street homeless stay in smaller groups of 1 or 2 and those on North/South Side seem to stay in larger groups of 4 or 5.
- Mac commends City of Pittsburgh Police Department regarding the fact that the Police did not trouble the individuals on the streets during the All Star Week. This was reported by numerous persons to Mac.

**OTHER-**

- Issue was raised that is would be very helpful if we continued to have City representation at HOCC, specifically Pgh Police Dept.
- Diane notes that the Engagement Center has now become somewhat of a subcommittee of HOCC and is moving along with the Homeless Alliance collaboration. Now, what can we do as a group (HOCC) to continue to be productive in addressing the homeless issues? FOCUS: HOCC focus continues to be street homeless/advocacy of street homeless/etc. What action steps can be put in place by HOCC to continue follow-up on the street homeless issues?

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- Alex-OBID's (Oakland Business Improvement District) plans in future. Short blitz campaign regarding issues such as students coming to Oakland and not being aware of the issues such as homeless/panhandling/safety issues/etc. Plan on visual campaign to present education on issues such as giving monies to organizations that assist the homeless as opposed to giving monies directly to the panhandlers. Alex asks what agencies might be interested in assisting/volunteering/providing education/etc. Planning for 1<sup>st</sup> week of 9/06 (tentative 9/4/06-9/8/06) and targeted at the lunchtime crowd. Diane response-monies are always an issue with agencies, esp due to ongoing budget cuts/loss of funds/etc. What could be done to make the donations given more equitable for all homeless agencies? OBID intent is to educate (especially new Pitt students on campus) on the various ways they can assist such as volunteer opportunities, donation of monies to agencies, etc. This campaign will include education of ordinance, aggressive panhandling issues, what to do for follow-up if problems, etc. Oakland businesses, especially on Forbes Ave, have lost business due to the varied homeless/panhandling issues. Within HOCC there is need for middle ground for collaboration as there is some conflict of interest in the "business/government" goals and the "service provider" goals.
- General discussion regarding panhandling. Options for "giving", be it money or volunteering, etc. General discussion on variety of reasons that persons want to give to panhandlers (or give to providers).
- Devote next meeting to formulating further goals of HOCC. Again, our FOCUS is the street homeless (this may include homeless panhandlers).

**City Sweeps**

- **SWEEPS**-Notice for SWEEP on Friday, July 7, 2006 was found taped over the metal placards

**Engagement Center**

- Subcommittee now of HOCC and is moving along with the assist of the Homeless Alliance.

**GENERAL INFO: HOCC has a WEBSITE!! It is: <http://hocc.pghfree.net/index.htm>**

**REGULAR ATTENDEES:**

	Chalich, Theresa	Bethlehem Haven 905 Watson Street PGH, PA 15219	Mental health	412-391-1348 x104	<a href="mailto:tchalich@bethlehemhaven.org">tchalich@bethlehemhaven.org</a>
<b>X</b>	Chiappini, Stephanie LMSW	Operation Safety Net Mercy Hospital 1400 Locust Street PGH, PA 15219	Medical outreach, case management, transitional housing	412-232-5739	<a href="mailto:schiappini@mercy.pahs.org">schiappini@mercy.pahs.org</a>
<b>X</b>	Cox, Jonathan	Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership		566-4190	<a href="mailto:jcox@downtownpittsburgh.com">jcox@downtownpittsburgh.com</a>
<b>X</b>	Coyne, Alex	Oakland Business Improvement District		683-6243 x19	<a href="mailto:alex@oaklandbid.org">alex@oaklandbid.org</a>
	DelCimmut o, Michael SGT.	Zone Two Police Station 2000 Centre Ave PGH, PA 15219	Pittsburgh Police	255-2827	<a href="mailto:Michael.delcimmuto@city.pittsburgh.pa.us">Michael.delcimmuto@city.pittsburgh.pa.us</a>
	DiFrancesco, Jamie	CHSC	Intern	716-8738	<a href="mailto:JDI010@yahoo.com">JDI010@yahoo.com</a>
	Downey, Glen	ACLU Intern			
<b>x</b>	Fowler, Fred	Senior Planner		350-3449	<a href="mailto:ffowler@dhs.county">ffowler@dhs.county</a>

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	Office of Behavioral Health 304 Wood Street PGH, PA 15222			<a href="http://allegHENY.pa.us">.allegHENY.pa.us</a>
	Haberchak, Ed Allegheny County DHS United Way Bldg One Smithfield Street 4 <sup>th</sup> floor Pgh, Pa 15222	ACDHS Bureau of Hunger and Housing	350-4031	
<b>X</b>	Johnson, Diane WPIC-NLP 2552 Centre Avenue Pgh, PA 15219	Outreach	578-7729	<a href="mailto:Johnsond@msx.upmc.edu">Johnsond@msx.upmc.edu</a>
<b>X</b>	LaBovick, Becky WPIC-Safe Haven 1917 Perrysville Ave PGH, PA 15214	Safe Haven	322-4189	<a href="mailto:Labovickr@upmc.edu">Labovickr@upmc.edu</a>
<b>X</b>	<b>Laemmle, Chris</b> <b>WPIC-Outreach and NLP</b> <b>2552 Centre Avenue</b> <b>Pgh, PA 15219</b>	<b>Outreach</b> <b>**HOCC CHAIR</b>	<b>578-7730</b>	<a href="mailto:Laemmlecp@msx.upmc.edu">Laemmlecp@msx.upmc.edu</a>
	McMahon, Diane Parental Stress Center 5877 Commerce St. PGH, PA 15206	Pending possible HUD/PH Program, waiting to hear!	361-4800 © 480-9044	<a href="mailto:Dianem677@aol.com">Dianem677@aol.com</a>
<b>X</b>	<b>McMahon, Mac</b> <b>CHSC</b> <b>3201 Craft Place</b> <b>Pgh, PA 15213</b>	<b>Street Outreach/SOT</b>	<b>621-6513 x106</b>	<a href="mailto:mac99861@cs.com">mac99861@cs.com</a> <a href="mailto:mmcmahon@chsc.org">mmcmahon@chsc.org</a>
<b>X</b>	Orrico, Rick Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership Manager, Safety Ambassador Program 925 Liberty Ave, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor PGH, PA 15222	Downtown Safety Ambassadors	325-0152	<a href="mailto:rorrico@block-by-block.com">rorrico@block-by-block.com</a>
	Payne, Dennis DHS United Way Building One Smithfield St. 4 <sup>th</sup> floor Pgh, PA 15222	ACDHS	350-4984 350-3837	<a href="mailto:dpayne@dhs.county.allegHENY.pa.us">dpayne@dhs.county.allegHENY.pa.us</a>
	Pilarski, Mary Frances VA Hospital 122 B-H 7180 Highland Dr. PGH, PA 15206	VA Healthcare for the Homeless Veterans	412-365-5273	<a href="mailto:Mary.Pilarski@med.va.gov">Mary.Pilarski@med.va.gov</a>
	Puttaiol, Asha ACLU Intern			
<b>X</b>	Quinn, Mae 1410 Fifth Avenue Pgh, PA 15219	Miryam's-Day Program/Residential & Transitional Housing	471-0155	<a href="mailto:miryamsresprog@aol.com">miryamsresprog@aol.com</a>
<b>X</b>	Sonney, Holly Bethlehem Haven 905 Watson Street PGH, PA 15219	Mental health	412-391-1348 x103	<a href="mailto:hsonney@bethlehemhaven.org">hsonney@bethlehemhaven.org</a>
	Vanderhorst, Beverly VA Hospital 122 B-H 7180 Highland Drive PGH, PA 15206	VA Healthcare for Homeless Vets	365-4640	<a href="mailto:Beverly.vanderhorst@med.va.gov">Beverly.vanderhorst@med.va.gov</a>

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Venezia, Rich	Allegheny County DHS United Way Bldg One Smithfield Street 4 <sup>th</sup> floor Pgh, Pa 15222	Allegheny County Dept of Human Services	350-4354	<a href="mailto:Rvenezia@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us">Rvenezia@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us</a>
Walczak, Vic	ACLU		681-7864	<a href="mailto:vwalczak@aclupgh.org">vwalczak@aclupgh.org</a>
Walnoha, Adrienne	CHSC 374 Lawn Street Pgh, Pa 15213	Outreach / Housing Supervisor	621-6513 x101	<a href="mailto:awalnoha@chscorp.org">awalnoha@chscorp.org</a>
Waters, Rocky	NCM-Safe Haven 2133 Perrysville Ave.#1 PGH, PA 15214			