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March 23, 2006 – Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee Meeting

NEXT HOCC MEETING

THURSDAY-April 27, 2006

1:30PM-3:00PM

LOCATION: COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES CORPORATION

374 LAWN STREET, PGH, PA 15213

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

Quote for the Day:

According to Hunter L. McQuiston, MD – Chief Medical Officer for Mental Hygiene Services in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:

When asked how the system needs to change to better serve people that are homeless, his response included the following statement:

“Creation of comprehensive community service centers in affected communities that focus on prevention and resolution of homelessness. These centers have outreach services, drop-in capacity, short term respite, rapid access to housing, access to mental health and medical resources and entitlements (on site or mobile). They also have supportive resources for housing stability for those who are threatened with loss of housing.”

Introductions/Updates/Announcements

Points of Discussion:

- Up-date on Engagement Center.
- What aspects do you like about the Engagement Center concept?
- What reservations do you have about the Engagement Center?
- What involvement/role do you see yourself or your agency having with the Engagement Center?

Mac M – The Homeless Alliance met on March 14, 2006. A PowerPoint explaining the Engagement Center (EC) was shown. The Alliance voted to accept the EC as its first project. It is now officially on the agenda. Mac met with Operation Safety Net and Rev. Gleason. There was also a meeting with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) as recommended by the Housing Development Committee. Next Steps:

1. Develop a strategic plan – (road map)
2. Show the power point to Marc Cherna
(Marc Cherna did come to the Housing Development Committee where he said he did support the EC. Concerned about NIMBY.)
3. The Housing Development Committee will be meeting this afternoon to talk more about location options.

Fred F – We need to have Dan Onorato and Bob O’Connor on record as supporting the EC project. It is important that the City and County work together on the project.

Mac M – Dennis Payne had reported that the County had asked the Downtown Ministerium to take a lead with the Engagement Center. Then a letter came from Reggie Young to Rev. Gleason asking the Ministerium to “accept a leadership role” to pursue an EC – this was accompanied by a budget. It is not known who put together the budget.

Diane J – HOCC is a subcommittee of the Homeless Alliance – right now they have given the Engagement Center back to HOCC to take the lead.

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Mac M – Rev. Gleason explained that the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership had come to the Ministerium to help with panhandling – they invited Dan Onorato to the meeting. They were meeting to talk about homelessness. The Ministerium said they would accept a role in the EC – they want to have a “conversation” with other stakeholders – to talk more about homelessness. The also indicated that they would have the homeless providers sit down to talk more with the foundation community.

Mac M - believes that the homeless providers and government entities need to have a conversation first before this homeless “conversation” occurs – so that everyone will be on the same page about the issues at hand. Otherwise, there may be a misunderstanding further down the road if we don’t talk now. The 5 churches in the Ministerium rotation have been talking for a long time to have one centralized place where the homeless can be served. Mac suggested to them that the EC might be able to play this role. There will be an April 3, 2006 meeting with Dwayne Ashley – the City of Pittsburgh’s “Director of Community Initiatives” to talk about the EC.

Diane J – We can use the Housing Development Committee, and the Advocacy Committee, within the Homeless Alliance to promote this agenda. We should also have each of the Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee agencies consider what role that they can play within the establishment of the EC. HOCC members are the experts. We should get other agencies to buy into this project during Phase I. We must remember that “they” is “us” – There are activities happening to promote more buy-in.

Stephanie C – for what we exists now – we realize that case management is lacking.

Diane J – The Drop In portion of the EC should be like a coffee shop. People can hang out there all night long. I envision the EC as a place to stop in at when the chronically homeless want to.

Stephanie C – That’s why it is an advantage to have people accessible at one location.

Mac M- it is hard to find people when they are scattered all over town.

Stephanie C – The EC provides a place for knowing, seeing, engaging and case management.

Jamie – What age are we talking about? The kids at the HUB are 18 to 21 years old. The HUB does not provide 24 hour access to this population. Where do they go when they can’t stay there? Nowhere. There is no where for them to go.

Mac M – There is a different set of laws governing shelter for youth.

Jamie – We may have to call CYF to get assistance for them.

Mac M - The roles for a drop in center may be different than an engagement center.

Diane J – We need to define what a drop in center is – it is probably way to early to define who we won’t to serve. We need to define what we want to do now.

Chris L – The drop in aspect – coming in whenever you want – speaks to the larger purpose of the EC – it starts to engage this population. Yet, housing is limited. There is some housing for the Mentally Ill, the Chronically Homeless – but this still leaves a lot of folks not receiving service.

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Stephanie – Case Management would be a major goal of the EC. The ratio of staff to homeless should not be 1 to 100. Instead, there should be more intensive support. Making it like a restaurant sounds like a good idea.

Diane J - We need to go through these questions. We are not sure how the Homeless Alliance is working through processing the 10 year plan projects. We need to help shape this plan within the Homeless Alliance to make things happen as it is envisioned by HOCC members who serve this population.

We can think about phases. But there are things we cannot do. We need to remember that. We need to remain the “experts” we may not actually do the implementation.

Stephanie – Different then what we do now – the EC provides one location where we can find people to provide services at one place and help them get off of the streets. It is important that this be a 24 hour facility. Being out by 7:00 AM is a negative approach.

Mac M – We could offer the EC as being a place that is open when other places are not.

Chris L – The Safe Haven residents will be at the EC 24 hours.

Stephanie C – We also need to keep the level of professionalism high. People that won't loose steam at the end of the year. There are at least 20 people that I know of, who will not come in to the Cold Weather Shelter.

Diane J - This is a complex population.

Rocky W – I think that Permanent Housing will be more accepted then the Cold Weather Shelter. If I was still on the streets – I would go and check to see if this program really worked.

Chris L – Would you go somewhere for the night?

Rocky – No, not if I couldn't drink. If someone acts out – then get them out. People police themselves. This is how it happens at the Cold Weather Shelter.

Fred Fowler – We need a level of professionalism at the EC. Some people will need to build trusting relationships and engage with staff before they come in. It could be an in-patient detox where you could stay until you get into the hospital. It's important to understand what Harm Reduction is. It's about respecting people. Giving them values and choices. We will help you if you choose to accept help. That's why I like the 24/7 concept of the EC. To give people a maximum amount of choice. Respect for them, even if we agree or do not agree.

Diane J - A drop-in center would have to be a place that makes it easier for staff and Operation Safety Net – so they would have a place to talk. A place to help us identify that that is appropriate for intense supports and housing. Some people may not need this level of intensity.

Stephanie – Some people may not see it as an offensive place – not associated with a stigma. That is why I like the idea of a café atmosphere. It allows you to filter or focus on who is the neediest.

Mac M – We could focus our street outreach where the engagement takes place.

Chris L – I see the medical side of Operation Safety Net stopping by on rounds.

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Fred F – This Center would have to specialize on the chronically homeless population. It would not be the answer for families that have no place to go.

Chris L – I see this as a Center for referral – a one stop shop.

Diane J – This is important because it lends itself to the design of the facility. We need a place where people can sit down to receive intensive and rich case management services; medical, mental health and drug and alcohol – along with a washer, dryer, phone and lockers.

Chris L – Jeff Lengel suggested that it would be cheaper to build the EC from scratch. So what do we want in the facility? Adding to what we see in the proposal – we want a place where we can cook.

Fred F – right now we have consumer run drop in centers. Transitional housing for behavioral health consumers (242 units) and for the Mentally Ill there is a housing support team to assist with rent subsidies. We need to join with all available services.

Stephanie C – The EC should be an exclusive place – only for the street homeless.

Diane J – How do we market the Center? Or how will we get the population we want to get into the Center? May be visit to see what they think works.

Fred F – There is security at Mary Haven – men would help to control the environment – because they were invested and felt like they were part of an exclusive center.

Chris L – Mary Haven is also located right next to the County Jail.

Rocky – The word on the street (and word travels faster than flyers) is that good programs will be promoted by people who can really help you. You have to be willing first. You have to give up in order receiving. Even now I'm thinking about giving up and going back. Street people don't consider themselves homeless. I didn't live on the streets, I lived in the graveyard.

Fred F – We need to offer this to people that don't have much.

Rocky W – People will come to a meeting if I ask them to come.

Mac M – The Homeless Alliance sees the EC as a risk. Harm Reduction is seen as a risk. The housing needed is not yet developed. We need a place with less rules. Time Squares housing in New York is working. They follow the Housing First model.

Chris L – Case management is up to the person you are serving. They will see you if they want to see you.

Mac M – Providing service and contact are two different things. Contact is probably more important than services. People that are disconnected and living on the street need to trust and feel human contact.

Diane J – Housing requires placement in Housing First, then you establish a relationship. We have people that need different levels of support. Many have mental illness. That is why you need professionals. They must have a context to work from. You can't abandon people – you must be available.

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Stephanie – the assumption is that everyone needs housing. It may not actually be that way – it may be that some people need other supports.

Diane J – We need the initial engagement. Then assess and progress. Some will need housing, some will need the “Housing First” model.

Chris L – We need to refine what we have. We need a plan that the City and County will buy into. We need to see where the officials are coming from.

Fred F – If we say Housing is critical – then we can. Pyramid provides housing. But there are a few rules. Residents must respect the rules. They can’t party. There is a higher number who pursue recovery. Otherwise people will continue to use and be addicted.

Chris L - Normally people who are housed will use less. How do you deal with safety issues? They had very few safety issues in Philadelphia.

Rocky – We will tell people if they got to go – this is the name of the game – live up to the guidelines using the best of your abilities. Or you got to go now. Most people are in recovery, and we feel more comfortable with people who are in recovery. They will have to win your confidence. I say it like it is. I could care less. The more people see folks getting their act together, the more street people feel that they can do it. Not homeless people – that’s what you call them. Put me in the newspaper about this – I don’t care.

Chris L – The majority of people who use are housed now. There is less danger in a house then in an alley.

Rocky – Weekly pograms showing me I have a problem don’t do much. I learn more by listening and giving respect. And talking to people where I am at. I say things in my own words.

Fred F – We need to make a place where people can talk and have a place to speak up. We need to offer “culturally competent” care for street people and people of color. We need to be aware of differences and respect people for their differences.

BV – People are burned out. They loose focus when that happens. Then the situation becomes worse. And it’s not good for the client or the staff person.

Fred F –The HUB is important The youth need a place too. These are some of the things that I like about the EC.

Mac M – The next EC meeting will be at St. Hyacinth’s (Craft Place & Boulevard of the Allies) on March 30 at 1:00. There will be a street outreach meeting at Operation Safety Net on March 28 at 12:30. This is located at 1515 Locust Lane – Mercy Hospital.

Diane J – In the meantime please discuss the EC with your agency and bring ideas back from them.

Bev V – There are programs out there with funds for veterans and subsidized housing available – they are referred to as grants and per diem programs.

The next meeting is April 27 at 1:30 at St. Hyacinths. The meeting occur on the 4th Thursday of the month.

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GENERAL INFO: HOCC has a WEBSITE!! It is:

<http://hocc.pghfree.net/index.htm>

Next meeting

Thursday, January 26. at 1:30 PM at the Lawn Street Office of Community Human Services.

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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 |
| | Brooks, Ray | NCM-Safe Haven 2133 Perrysville Ave. PGH, PA 15214 | Supportive housing | 412-323-1516 | Reb072@.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 | 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 | | | | Margaretcollinzzaa82@yahoo.com |
| | Cox, Jonathan | Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership | | 566-4190 | jcox@downtownpittsburgh.com |
| | Coyne, Alex | Oakland Business Improvement District | | 683-6243 x19 | alex@oaklandbid.org |
| | Cramer, Ed | No Walls Ministries 763 Cottonwood Dr. Monroeville, PA 15146 | Outreach/Bible Study | 445-5052 | Kramerssss@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 | |
| X | DiFrancesco , Jamie | Community Human Services 374 Lawn Street Pgh, Pa 15213 | | 412-716-8738 | JDI010@yahoo.com |
| | DiLeonardo, Debbie | UPMC/WPIC-SFMC OUTREACH | SFMC MH Outreach | 412-578-3650 | |

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| | 2552 Centre Ave Pgh, PA 15219 | | | |
| X | Fowler, Fred Senior Planner Office of Behavioral Health 304 Wood Street PGH, PA 15222 | | 350-3449 | ffowler@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us |
| X | Gant, James Three Rivers Youth | The HUB | 412-338-0883 | |
| | 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. PGH, PA 15240 | Women Veterans Program Manager | 412-688-6289 clinic 412-688- 6236 | Patricia.hayes@med.va.gov |
| | Jenkins, Gordon EECM 319 N. Beatty Pgh, Pa 15206 | Men's shelter mgr | 361-5013 x117 | |
| X | 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 | Laemmle, Chris WPIC-Outreach and NLP 2552 Centre Avenue Pgh, PA 15219 | Outreach | 578-7730 | Laemmlecp@msx.upmc.edu |
| | Laver, Terri Allegheny County DHS United Way Bldg One Smithfield Street 4 th floor Pgh, Pa 15222 | Allegheny County Dept of Human Services | | tlaver@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us |
| | McKelvia, Tyrone NLP-2552 Centre Ave. PGH, PA 15219 | D&A Outreach Specialist | 578-3250 | mcketa@upmc.edu |

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| | (Mac) | | | | |
| X | McMahon, Diane | Parental Stress Center 5877 Commerce St. PGH, PA 15206 | Pending possible HUD/PH Program, waiting to hear! | 361-4800 © 480-9044 | Dianem677@aol.com |
| X | McMahon, Mac | P.O. box 99861 Pgh, PA 15233 | Shelter, safe haven, perm. Hsg. | 323-1163 | 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 | DHS United Way Building One Smithfield St. 4 th floor Pgh, PA 15222 | ACDHS | 350-4984 350-3837 | dpayne@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us |
| | Pendelton, 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 |
| | 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 |
| | Smith, Erica | CHSC 3201 Craft Place Pgh, Pa 15213 | SOT | 621-6513 x115 | esmithchsc@yahoo.com |
| | 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, | Bureau of Hunger and | ACHD | 412-350-3848 | |

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| | Harry Housing 4 th floor United Way Building One Smithfield St. Pgh, PA 15222 | | | |
| | Upsher, Curtis Community Care One Chatham Ctr. 112 Washington Place Pgh, PA 15219 | ACOBHMCO | 454-2163 | upsherc@ccbho.com |
| x | Vanderhorst, Beverly VA Hospital 122 B-H 7180 Highland Drive PGH, PA 15206 | VA Healthcare for Homeless Vets | 365-5772 | |
| | 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 | Outreach / Housing Supervisor | 621-6513 x101 | awalnoha@chscorp.org |
| x | Waters, Rocky NCM-Safe Haven 2133 Perrysville Ave. PGH, PA 15214 | | | |
| | Wilson, Tori Family Links 1601 Fifth Ave PGH, PA 15219 | Homeless Shelter | 471-6160 | |
| | Young, Reginald Allegheny County DHS United Way Bldg One Smithfield Street 4 th floor Pgh, Pa 15222 | Allegheny County Dept of Human Services | | ryoung@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us |
| | Zuklich, Jessica Operation Save-A-Life Volunteer | Housing/Street Outreach | | |