

NAME	AGENCY/ADDRESS	SERVICE PROVIDED	TELEPHONE (AREA CODE 412 UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)	EMAIL ADDRESS
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**May 25, 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**

**June 22, 2006**

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

**LOCATION: COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES CORPORATION**

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

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

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

**Introductions/Updates/Announcements**

- 1:40 pm Chris initiated meeting.
- Introductions
- Upcoming events in the City: All-Star Game July 11, 2006-week long event beginning Fri 7/7/06; NFL Opening Game (? Last Thu Aug or First Thu Sept 2006?).

**Update**

- There has been some discussion with the County with regard to some form of resource/area/entertainment for the street homeless during the time of some of the aforementioned big City events. Reginald Young has sent some proposals to Marc Cherna. Unknown of any outcomes or what the proposals were for? Mac's initial discussion w/ County was with regard to Smithfield Church-who got back within approximately one week stating they would be willing all day/night during the time of the All Star Game, which is a possibility. Again, proposal info unknown and no known outcome. One may involve Smithfield Church and one may involve the shelters taking over-capacity for the events?? Just simply unknown....

**City Sweeps/Panhandling Issue(s)**

- **SWEEPS**-Stephanie Chiappini has reports from some homeless individuals of personal items being taken and with the metal/permanent plaques placed at various locations, homeless are taking belongings with them daily. Currently, we do not have the actual info on this, such as persons names, specifics as to what was taken, from where?, etc. Jonathan would like to know what could be done with the belongings found by PDP when cleaning, when there is no person attending to them (belongings that are left in public areas such as building entrances, side streets, etc). AS IT STANDS-Swept belongings are to be taken to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Public Works area and are to be kept up to a year. These are not "swept" items, but items found by PDP when cleaning the downtown streets-these are not items from an encampment or typical "homeless" area. Mac also suggests that if this is issue, possibly someplace such as Wellspring/CHSC/etc may be an option to have the items taken to. Some of these items are not necessarily identifiable as a neat bundle of bedroll/belongings. Mac suggests if PDP could hold on to the articles and label them, possibly a weekly pick up could be arranged and then decipher if the belongings can be returned or potentially be recycled back to the street homeless.

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Sgt Mike reports that they have a 30day holding area at Zone 2 and has concern that some of these items may need transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave site. Possibly arrangement could also be arranged to have these items transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Public Works.

- **Pittsburgh Police: Sgt “Mike”**-Nov 2005 solicitation ordinance with regard to panhandling. Aggressive panhandling already was with law/ordinance, so this is not a factor in this part of discussion. Other issues being addressed: Councilman Bodack’s bill-tiered system with regard to panhandling. Now all Pgh Police are with policy/protocol for issuing citation: If violating, 1<sup>st</sup> instance- an individual would receive warning and call 800# (?Safety Net), regular non-traffic citation with WARNING, no fine or violation-in fine area written WARNING then it goes to central database, but does not become entered in to actual “legal” process system as it is only a WARNING. If 2<sup>nd</sup> violation, then will receive further action. In discussion with Allegheny Co Courts-if truly homeless there is no address and the citation must have an address. Copy of the hearing date will be given to the officer and officer is expected to present it to the homeless individual, possibly even serve and escort to the court date. They are also given information to be given to the homeless individual various resources with regard to social services. Police are caught in a dialectic between business, taxpayers, safety of all (including the safety of the homeless individual). (Part of ordinance is with regard to panhandling after sunset, so many feet of ATM, so many feet w/in building entrance, etc.) Gave example of robbery offense of a homeless female who attacked a woman at a bus stop attempting to steal her gold chain, she was arrested and went to county jail. Received psychiatric medicines and care. Duty to the police officer is to observe the safety issue, how serious the offense, etc. This is what determines what turns in to arrest and jail or to medical facility or to petition a 302 to psychiatric facility. Often reoccurrence of the same individuals. Pgh Police needs more resources on their end for alternatives for non-felony issues. Gave example of homeless individual sleeping in doorway near AAA Bldg on Smithfield. No crime committed, only sleeping, not obstructing traffic, not panhandling, etc. “Concerned” citizen emailed that something needs to be done regarding because the concerned citizen did not like it, but police cannot arrest for this, there is no breach of the law. Fred mentions that there is a County employee is daily at the county jail to assess some of intakes and can help to divert to MH pod. No felonies can be diverted to psych facility. County forensic support could show at hearing to advocate for alternative placement. Sgt. Mike further reports: Downtown bicycle officers will probably be the primary enforcers of the panhandler protocol. There is also a thought that some type of a form (Community Outreach Referral Form) be created to gather info on homeless individuals, where they are staying generally, etc that could be shared with police and homeless agency. If cited, within 7-10 days there is court date set and subpoena will be issued for court date. Fine is up to \$40 fine, but this does not include the court costs. It is determined at court date and outcome could be dismissed with just costs, fine plus costs, up to 30days in jail, etc. Cannot send immediately to jail, though, as Vic points out. Also, a public defender must be present. If non-appearance for the court date, then it goes to the next legal step for failure to appear—the warrant is actually for failure to appear to the summons, not for the original reason for the court appearance. County jail is already over crowded, as Chris points out. One would think they do not want homeless being placed in jail for these minor issues.
- Diane McMahon asks if Pgh Police are trained with regard to mental health issues. Sgt. Mike reports that they are trained in MH, MH law, MH diagnoses, etc. They receive updates as well. It was asked “who gives these trainings to the police?”. Sgt. Mike suggests contact with Asst Chief McDonald for who actually provides these trainings. Jonathan also updates that the PDP does need Street Population/MH issues education for the Safety Ambassadors around 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> week of June. Need is for increased education and different circumstances.

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- **Back to ordinance**-the law for panhandling really has not been enforced often. Sgt. Mike reports that the issue typically goes above just aggressive panhandling, it turns often in to a robbery charge. Most aggressive panhandling Mac has seen is a man outside of a local Eat 'N Park who panhandles-is not aggressive, but has a captive audience. Aggressive is the following, blocking the way of a person, becoming more verbal, etc. Panhandling citation would be issued. Unfortunately, the aggressive panhandling often is beyond and falls under a robbery charge. If person is w/out identification, summary citations do not allow persons to be taken in to be printed/identified. There is a law with regard to false identification which is a misdemeanor-this would include a person saying that their name is "Mike", but he is actually "Fred", this would be misdemeanor. Two persons in Market Square area who are typically around who "acted up". Often just police presence and "gentle reminders" help to calm some of the activities. Summary citation-the officer has some discretion with these violations. Often the easiest way is the best way, but still need a blatant protocol to follow.
- **Back to Sweeps**↑
- Mac brings up that it is wonderful to have Zone 2 police involved in the HOCC meetings. Would like to have as many Zones involved as possible, as the homeless issue extends beyond Zone 2 area. Sgt Mike reports that Dave Caplan will be the Sergeant in charge of the bicycle police. Possibly Zone 4 will be opened for motorcycle/bicycle police. Contact would need to go through Asst. Chief McDonald or an alternate higher-up.
- Pgh Police cannot offer any information on how HOCC or varied agencies can be involved/assist with upcoming events and plans that police may have around these events when it comes to homeless/panhandling/etc.
- Diane McMahon apprised Sgt Mike of the increased numbers in our County of homeless persons and no solution, but proposal for an Engagement Center is present. Sgt Mike does report unless a law is broken, the person cannot be picked up involuntarily. Can some of the info from the citations on panhandling be brought back to HOCC or to one of the homeless agencies-again, maybe the possibility be explored for a referral form that could be used by police that is not a police form.

**Engagement Center**

- Some further explanation of the Engagement Center concept given to Sgt Mike. Again, this would be a voluntary process and could not preclude any legal issues that need to result in jailing. Also, Mac continues to stress the need for City and Police buy-in for this form of a center. Need the involvement of the police for various issues, especially since police are in all areas of Pittsburgh when various Outreach teams are not necessarily seeing all of these areas.
- Mac also raised issue of street rounds being on Tuesday nights, which will be during the All Star Game-hence, how will this affect ability to Outreach during the game/festivities. North Side 323-7800: Chief of Operations-Paul Donaldson would be an appropriate contact; Lt. Schubert-Homeland Security would also be an appropriate contact. They are both out of same office.

**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@bethlehemenhaven.org">tchalich@bethlehemenhaven.org</a>
	Chiappini, Stephanie	Operation Safety Net Mercy Hospital	Medical outreach, case management,	412-232-5739	<a href="mailto:schiappini@mercy.pmhs.org">schiappini@mercy.pmhs.org</a>

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	LMSW 1400 Locust Street PGH, PA 15219	transitional housing		
<b>X</b>	Cox, Jonathan	Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership	566-4190	<a href="mailto:jcox@downtownpittsburgh.com">jcox@downtownpittsburgh.com</a>
<b>X</b>	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:JDIO10@yahoo.com">JDIO10@yahoo.com</a>
<b>X</b>	Downey, Glen	ACLU Intern		
<b>X</b>	Fowler, Fred	Senior Planner Office of Behavioral Health 304 Wood Street PGH, PA 15222	350-3449	<a href="mailto:ffowler@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us">ffowler@dhs.county.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	
	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>Laemmler, Chris</b>	<b>WPIC-Outreach and NLP 2552 Centre Avenue Pgh, PA 15219</b>	<b>Outreach **HOCC CHAIR</b> 578-7730	<a href="mailto:Laemmler@msx.upmc.edu">Laemmler@msx.upmc.edu</a>
<b>X</b>	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 3201 Craft Place Pgh, PA 15213</b>	<b>Street Outreach/SOT 621-6513 x106</b>	<a href="mailto:mac99861@cs.com">mac99861@cs.com</a> <a href="mailto:mmcmahon@chsc.org">mmcmahon@chsc.org</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>
	Pendleton, Blaine	Mercy Behavioral Health 412 E. Commons Pgh, PA 15212	442-8910	<a href="mailto:bpendleton@mercybh.org">bpendleton@mercybh.org</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>
<b>X</b>	Puttaiol, Asha	ACLU Intern		

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	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>
	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>
<b>X</b>	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			