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October 26, 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 OR VIA PHONE: 412-322-4189. Thanks!

Becky

NEXT HOCC MEETING

November 30, 2006-THIS IS A COMBINED MEETING FOR NOV/DEC 2006. THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING SCHEDULED IN DECEMBER.

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:

- **Engagement Center**
- **HOCC to review agenda-Questions posed by Homeless Alliance Committee for HOCC to review:**
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HOCC has a WEBSITE!! It is: <http://hocc.pghfree.net/index.htm>

Introductions/Updates/Announcements

- 1:45 pm meeting initiated.
- Introductions
- **UPDATE:** Regarding Homeless Alliance. Four areas: Public Awareness/Develop Affordable Housing/Foundation Fund for HUD matching funds/Bring people awareness of what is happening with the 10yr plan with focus on Engagement Center.

Engagement Center (EC)

- General discussion related to the Oct 18, 2006 meeting in follow up to Future Search.
- Fred with general discussion on discussion at the above meeting and the publicity now being received regarding the EC and also with discussion related to concern that our EC will be mistaken with the Forensic EC being proposed. Currently, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee-forensic “engagement center” is not being used due to the confusion. Now using term “respite” for the forensic instead. No dialogue between Homeless Alliance with the forensic component being presented.
- Unsure of county/city/etc stance at this time.
- Forensic “respite” with very small budget over 3yr period. Pittsburgh Police will be involved as they will be able to take individuals there, involuntarily.
- No direct conversation with the forensic planning group, but they have been coming to many of the Homeless continuum meeting and have received info with regard to the EC.
- Diane asks a couple of questions as there are issues with “buy-in” for the EC. There is the human/compassionate factor, but also there is an expense attached as well. While on streets, not necessarily costly-but there is issue regarding these individuals being a “blight” or that the persons on the street “looks bad”, but there is cost associated when these individuals enter medical ER, MH ER, jail, etc.:

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- What is the drive for the forensic “respite”?-Throughout the country, jails and prisons are becoming largely populated with mentally ill individuals. The numbers are alarmingly high and alternate solutions are needed as these individuals are costing extreme amounts of money. Looking to keep mentally ill from being locked up in prisons/jails and are being diverted to more appropriate solutions/situations.
- The population for the EC seems less of a drive/interest regarding?-Fred does not agree, stating that the DHS is interested. There is an interest in homeless, mentally ill, dually diagnosed individuals. In the OMH/OBH, there is interest, but the monies are constrained. There are a lot of monies going toward permanent, supported, 220-240 housing units at this time. Many of these units are targeted for individuals coming out of state hospital. Preventative measure to ensure housed instead of alternate situations.
- Fred gives example of personal care boarding homes. Approx 10,000 persons in Allegheny PCBH Supplement for those with mental illness: nearly equals the monthly SSI check in the supplement. On average, the person in the personal care home receives about \$60/mo and the care home receives the remaining monies from the SSI check and approx \$400-\$500 per individual through the supplemental monies per individual, which has recently been increased further by approximately \$50 per individual. Causes the individual to become “trapped” in the PCBH without ability to procure other independent/permanent housing as they are w/out funds to do so. Additionally, when the individual leaves the PCBH, the supplement ends. Now the individual is without resource for 1st/last month rent to procure their own housing. There is not much interest in discussion of this issue. There is also a change in State regulations that has caused many small PCBH’s to close. This is lending to further homelessness. Very political environment/discussion.
- **3 GOALS**
 - No-one should be in state hospital more than 2yrs.
 - No-one shall have more than 1 stay in psychiatric hospital in 1yr.
 - Reduce number of persons with serious mental illness in the jails/prisons.
- Homelessness is not necessarily addressed in the gamut of many of these goals/PCBH process/etc.
- Issues with monies to continue clinics that service the mentally ill, homeless. There was a project that was one year in duration that held high price tag for each visit, capped at \$80,000/yr. These monies were also used to service the uninsured. Now these funds may potentially dry up, what then??
- How do we get the EC issues a top priority? EC actually can be attached to the 3 goals outlined above via numbers/stats, case studies, etc.
- “Buy-In” needs to be tied directly in to the indirect cause and effect to those who need to be vested. How can the EC help the individual, business, city, county, etc. indirectly.
- Western PA is trying to model more of the Eastern PA (Philadelphia example) services. Eastern PA has more monies and services tied in to the community such as crises teams, residential housing programs, etc. This is why we need to show how the EC can assist in decreasing the “system” dollar. Can do this by showing models that work, such as Safe Haven. Allegheny County utilizes 4-5 times the hospital and state hospital beds than places such as Philadelphia.

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- o Momentum after 10/18/06 meeting is still going on behind scenes. Individuals are following up with specific tasks, such as follow up with Alan Kukavich, etc.

Severe Weather Emergency Shelter (SWES)-No updates at this time. As far as we know the parameters still run 12/1/06-3/31/07 for this year. Proposal on the table to Miryam's. Miryam's has been approached to be the overnight female emergency shelter. Do intake at Smithfield and then be transported to Miryam's. This is a **proposal in the works** at this time. Safety Net remains lead agency for SWES.

City Sweeps/Street Rounds

- **SWEEPS/Street Rounds**- Mac reports two recent issues. One involves that of the public bathrooms, such as the one at the point. Often not open. Homeless benefit greatly on the North Side due to the port-a-johns around the North Side (such as those around PNC Park). Public facilities are needed. Often this is a complaint of business as individuals will use business doorways in alleys for toilet areas. Another issue related more to the North Side. The library is no longer open, which has created a problem. Salvation Army North side has changed hours and internal process on use of facilities and many folks have limited access to toilet/shower facilities and laundry facilities. Mac has raised these issues to many on these issues within City/County, but no response to date.
- **Easter Seals Bldg**-Mac has been checking on rounds and has noted that it is secure and clean.
- **Smithfield St Library?** Closes fairly early, around 5:30p.
- **How about the downtown churches?** Would downtown churches be interested/willing in allowing homeless individuals to utilize their bathroom facilities? This may be something to be discussed with the Downtown Ministerium.

Announcement/Updates/Panhandling:

- Mac raises issue of the street numbers being identified as low, such as homeless numbers from the Point-In-Time survey. Street homeless are not accurately identified in the City or the County. Mac has suspicion that the numbers are very high (compared to the estimated numbers of street homeless) and the individuals are not identified accurately. We need info from the local municipalities, boroughs, law enforcement, etc. Many calls received are regarding persons living in abandoned buildings and/or building that may have been owned, but have fallen to significant disrepair.

OTHER-

- N/A this meeting.

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	tchalich@bethlehemhaven.org
	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
X	Cox, Jonathan	Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership		566-4190	jcox@downtownpittsburgh.com
	Coyne, Alex	Oakland Business Improvement District		683-6243 x19	alex@oaklandbid.org
	DelCimmut o, Michael SGT.	Zone Two Police Station 2000 Centre Ave	Pittsburgh Police	255-2827	Michael.delcimmuto@city.pittsburgh.pa.us

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	PGH, PA 15219			
DiFrancesco, Jamie	CHSC	Intern	716-8738	JDI010@yahoo.com
Downey, Glen	ACLU Intern			
X Fowler, Fred	Senior Planner Office of Behavioral Health 304 Wood Street PGH, PA 15222		350-3449	ffowler@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us
Gant, James	Three Rivers Youth The HUB 28 th & Smallman	Drop-In Center Outreach	338-0883	James.gant@threeriversyouth.org
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	
X Johnson, Diane	WPIC-NLP 2552 Centre Avenue Pgh, PA 15219	Outreach	578-7729	Johnsond@msx.upmc.edu
X 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 **HOCC CHAIR	578-7730	Laemmlecp@msx.upmc.edu
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	CHSC 3201 Craft Place Pgh, PA 15213	Street Outreach/SOT	621-6513 x106	mac99861@cs.com mmcmahon@chscorp.org
X Orrico, Rick	Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership Manager, Safety Ambassador Program 925 Liberty Ave, 1 st floor PGH, PA 15222	Downtown Safety Ambassadors	325-0152	rorrico@block-by-block.com
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
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
Puttaiol, Asha	ACLU Intern			
X Quinn, Mae	1410 Fifth Avenue	Miryam's-Day	471-0155	miryamsresprog@a

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	Pgh, PA 15219	Program/Residential & Transitional Housing		ol.com
Sonney, Holly	Bethlehem Haven 905 Watson Street PGH, PA 15219	Mental health	412-391-1348 x103	hsonney@bethlehemhaven.org
Vanderhorst, Beverly	VA Hospital 122 B-H 7180 Highland Drive PGH, PA 15206	VA Healthcare for Homeless Vets	365-4640	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
Violet	Pittsburgh City Paper	?	?	?
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
Waters, Rocky	NCM-Safe Haven 2133 Perrysville Ave.#1 PGH, PA 15214			
Gemmel, Natalie	CHSC	Intern	621-6513	
McNicholas, Bridget	Operation Safety Net	Intern		
X Baldwin, Devin	Three Rivers Youth LOFT/TLP 508 Franklin Ave Wilkinsburg, PA 15221	Emergency Shelter and Transitional Living Program	242-5580 x37	Devin.baldwin@threeriversyouth.org