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November/December 2005 – Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee Meeting  
December 9, 2005 at Community Human Services

**NEXT HOCC MEETING**

**THURSDAY-JANUARY 26, 2006**

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

**LOCATION: COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES CORPORATION**

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

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

**Introductions/Updates/Announcements**

- 1:40 pm Chris initiated meeting.
- Handouts:
  - Operation Safety Net Schedule
- Announcements:
  - Dec. 16, 2005 – There will be an open house for SOAR (Bethlehem Haven) 1323 Forbes Avenue – Uptown. 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Panhandling Meeting at County Building this morning with Commander Donaldson of the Pittsburgh Police Department, Mac McMahon, Dr. Withers, Linda Sheets, Rich Venezia, Reggie Young, Judy Woods, Sue Scherring.**

- **Chris Laemmle** - At the meeting we discussed when an outreach worker would be contacted for service referral. Operation Safety Net (OSN) has volunteered to be the on call contact. The police are required to ask homeless person if they want help – if they say yes – the call will go to the OSN phone number. This call will not be handled as an “emergency call” – contact can be set up for a future meeting. ACES can always come out if the homeless person needs immediate help. A psychiatric evaluation will be available through WPIC clinic. This evaluation can then be used by the prosecuting attorney. Chris asked Reggie Young if there were any funds available for this outreach activity that will be preformed in response to Panhandling calls – Reggie said there would be no funds available to pay outreach workers. Chris asked if there might be funds available from the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership – but Jonathon Cox believed that there was none available. Chris referred to Atlanta response – where they business community made funds available to build a 300 bed shelter for the chronically street homeless. It was suggested that someone should call Atlanta to see learn more about how this arrangement was developed.
- **Chris Laemmle** – the way the Panhandling Ordinance is defined – a panhandler can still get fined and not receive a psychiatric evaluation. Although a panhandler can choose to get help instead of a citation. With this arrangement – you would think – that the Panhandler being questioned would choose to get help. The feeling is that the “aggressive panhandler” will probably choose not to get help. But we will have to wait and see to see how this will turn out on the streets.
- **Chris Laemmle** – the best case scenario is that street outreach contacts will have a positive working relationship with the police department so that the panhandlers will be best served. When this was occurring in the past, the police received cards from HOCC that listed the phone number at WPIC so that they would have them available should they need them. In reality, what happened was the police did not take advantage of this opportunity. The only officer that did call was officer Ron Spangler.
- **Chris Laemmle** – If this opportunity were to work as it was intended, the street outreach personnel would need a point person at the police department – otherwise this service will not be well coordinated. If the police do want to enforce this ordinance then they will choose to call – at this point we are not sure if they will

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choose to follow through – and this is doubtful if a process to call the outreach personnel is not put into place.

- **Jonathon Cox**- A positive outcome may be that this may bring the human service community and police closer together.
- **Mac McMahan** – Some counties have a better relationship with their police departments than what we have here in Pittsburgh. There is no emphasis place on the coordination of services from city managers and administrators. If this was to work in the most positive way possible, trainings would be set up by the police department – with HOCC outreach workers that have a higher level of experience and education. There should be only one number to call to make this work effectively.
- **Beverly Vanderhorst** – Is it possible to document something and get it to the new city leaders so he might push the collaboration with the city.
- **Chris Laemmle** – Hopefully, since city council is backing the engagement center they will reinforce a new relationship.
- **Mac McMahan** – We should set meetings with city council members to talk more about this. We are behind when compared to other cities – in our ability to serve the homeless. We should set a meeting with Bob O'Connor before Christmas, although it will be hard because he is busy right now.
- **Jonathon Cox** – Commander Donaldson is a candidate for Chief of Police, so he would be a good contact to have to promote a collaboration. Donaldson has worked in the training center and knows the zone and is more into face to face interactions.
- **Jonathon Cox** – The Downtown Partnership has been developing a Downtown Safety Ambassador Program. They had something similar in that did not last too long. The idea is to put people on the streets with a recognizable outfit – to be the eyes and ears of the police – a visible presence to reassure the public that people are “looking out for things.” The ambassadors will also help direct people that are downtown. The ambassador program has been funded for six months and will be put into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We are looking into finding future funding and recruiting a key person who will employ a maximum of 8 people (they will not all be out at one time) and will most likely work in pairs.
- **Chris Laemmle** – maybe we can help by providing some training for the ambassadors and teach them to act as evaluators of panhandlers so they can work better with the police.
- **Jonathon Cox** – We probably can't do that.
- **Chris Laemmle** – What happened in the past was that the street ambassadors tried to exert authority over the street homeless and tried to move them from where they were on the streets.
- **Jonathon Cox** – the training that street ambassadors receive will include information on the panhandling ordinance – and they will know their rights – they will hopefully be able to refer people to the cold weather shelter, as well as where homeless people can get meals.
- **Stephanie Chiappini** – Bible study will begin at the severe weather emergency shelter (SWES) next week – and will be available for people that want to participate in it. They will probably use the downstairs area where the couches and lamps are. SWES has been open all week. We had 40 people at the shelter the first night and now it is up to 96 people. Linda is working on diverting people to other shelters like Building New Hope and East End Cooperative Ministry. We will also be contacting Light of Life and Pleasant Valley. We've had volunteers from the 902 clinic and the VA at the SWES.
- **Stephanie Chiappini** – the shelter is open when the temperature drops to 20 degrees, this includes the windchill factor. The food at the shelter has been very good so far.
- **Jonathon Cox** – we haven't seen as many people camped outside.

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- **Stephanie Chiapinni** – we are trying to stop people from coming that are taking advantage of the SWES and the situation – we’ve been putting the word out that we are not taking people in that have a place to go or be at. The shelter has the capacity to serve 100 people, we are trying to keep the number down.
- **Mac McMahan** – two years ago the capacity went up to 150.
- **Stephanie Chiappinni** – we need to start working on coordinating outreach schedules. I have brought Operation Safety Net’s schedule today to share with you. On Friday night the med students are out. Does Community Human Services have a set schedule that we can coordinate our services with? What is Save a Life doing?
- **Mac McMahan** - Save a Life is more of a volunteer group effort composed of formerly homeless people working under Kirk Taylor is the point man for this group which works under Community Human Services. They have been going out on Tuesday nights starting at 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM. On Wednesday night they are on the North Side from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM. They address the immediate needs of the homeless, providing sandwiches, blankets, and hygiene items; they look for people that are on the streets on the nights that they go out. We hand out food on Tuesday and Wednesday nights because no one else is doing it.
- **Stephanie Chiappini** – Do the Community Human Services/Save A Life staff/volunteers carry a cell phone? They can call Operation Safety Net if they come across a homeless person that has a medical issue that needs addressed.
- **Mac McMahan** – we will need a phone number of someone that we can call at Operation Safety Net. Moon Johnson is going to Salvation Army, Wood Street Commons, East End Drop In Center, and the Jubilee Soup Kitchen. We realize that there is also a problem in Oakland – we need to start outreaching to homeless people there as well. Kirk is on the North Side on Sunday afternoons at the Living Room – at the Methodist Church. We will need to get a schedule from Holly with the 902 Clinic/Bethlehem Haven and one for Three Rivers Youth as well.
- **Stephanie Chiappini** – Operation Safety Net is also in Oakland on Tuesday night.
- **Mac McMahan** – I ran into Mike Sallows the beginning of November.
- **Stephanie Chiappini** – Mike is contracted through Operation Safety Net as a contracted employee. Chris Laemmle has been doing a “priority internal referral” at WPIC for the street homeless to get into housing quicker.
- **Mac McMahan** – I’ve been noticing that there are people that are living in houses with no utilities.
- **Stephanie Chiappini** – legally you are allowed to live in an abandoned house now.
- **Mac McMahan** – I’ve had at least 4 cases now – some what help – some do not.
- **Chris Laemmle** – you can always 302 them if they are in immediate danger.
- **Holly Sonney** – the 302 criteria says living in conditions unfit for human habitation – the 902 Clinic will go out and see people if it a 302 is under consideration.
- **Stephanie Chiappini** – the county health department mobile health clinic is coming to SWES to provide TB/HIV and Flu shots. A couple of the SWES participants have entered drug and alcohol programs. If anyone would like to come in to the SWES to provide services you are welcome. Staff are being asked to wear a yellow shirt. The homeless men seem a lot more grateful this year.
- **Chris Laemmle** – What kind of needs do you have at the SWES?
- **Stephanie Chiappini** – non at the moment. Everything is running smoothly right now. Case management is being provided. People are dropping off food. Not serving it – it is not structured that way this year. More informal. People are making themselves comfortable and eat if they are hungry. Only had to send about 3 people home so far – that had a place to go.
- **Chris Laemmle** – Rich Venezia is asking us to email him our outreach schedules. Rich will put the schedules together.
- **Holly Sonney** – the 902 Clinic/Bethlehem Haven does outreach on Thursday evening.

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- **Stephanie Chiappini** – I have referred two people to Bethlehem Haven to the SOAR program but there was some problems and I will be discussing these with the Program Director tomorrow.
- **Chris Laemmle** – We have a new Mobile Medication program that includes a psychiatric nurse who sees people who are ending up homeless because they are not taking their medication. To receive the service there must be an association with CCBHO. Also Jenny Williams and Donna Shaw will be leaving. Debbie DiNardo is running a recovery group for women at Bethlehem Haven and Miryam's.

**Sweeps**

- There has been no homeless sweeps since the last meeting that anyone is aware of.

- **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.

	Allison, Donna	Northside Leadership Conference 415 E. Ohio Street PGH, PA 15212	Advocacy for community issues	231-4714 x20	<a href="mailto:donna@pittsburghnorthside.com">donna@pittsburghnorthside.com</a>
	Brooks, Ray	NCM-Safe Haven 2133 Perrysville Ave. PGH, PA 15214	Supportive housing	412-323-1516	<a href="mailto:Reb072@.com">Reb072@.com</a>
	Brownwell, Charlie	No Walls Ministries 763 Cottonwood Dr. Monroeville, PA 15146	Outreach/Bible Study	445-5052	<a href="mailto:Goodnews21c@adelphia.net">Goodnews21c@adelphia.net</a>
	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.pms.org">schiappini@mercy.pms.org</a>
	Collins, Margaret				<a href="mailto:Margaretcollinzaa82@yahoo.com">Margaretcollinzaa82@yahoo.com</a>
<b>X</b>	Cox, Jonathan	Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership		566-4190	<a href="mailto:jcox@downtownpittsburgh.com">jcox@downtownpittsburgh.com</a>
	Coyne, Alex	Oakland Business Improvement District		683-6243 x19	<a href="mailto:alex@oaklandbid.org">alex@oaklandbid.org</a>
	Cramer, Ed	No Walls Ministries 763 Cottonwood Dr. Monroeville, PA 15146	Outreach/Bible Study	445-5052	<a href="mailto:Kramerssss@aol.com">Kramerssss@aol.com</a>
	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	SFMC MH Outreach	412-578-3650	

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	2552 Centre Ave Pgh, PA 15219			
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	
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	<a href="mailto:Patricia.hayes@med.va.gov">Patricia.hayes@med.va.gov</a>
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	<a href="mailto:Johnsond@msx.upmc.edu">Johnsond@msx.upmc.edu</a>
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-Outreach and NLP 2552 Centre Avenue Pgh, PA 15219	Homeless MH Outreach	578-7734	<a href="mailto:Labovickr@msx.upmc.edu">Labovickr@msx.upmc.edu</a>
<b>X</b> Laemmle, Chris	WPIC-Outreach and NLP 2552 Centre Avenue Pgh, PA 15219	Outreach	578-7730	<a href="mailto:Laemmlecp@msx.upmc.edu">Laemmlecp@msx.upmc.edu</a>
Laver, Terri	Allegheny County DHS United Way Bldg One Smithfield Street 4 <sup>th</sup> floor Pgh, Pa 15222	Allegheny County Dept of Human Services		<a href="mailto:tlaver@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us">tlaver@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us</a>
McKelvia, Tyrone (Mac)	NLP-2552 Centre Ave. PGH, PA 15219	D&A Outreach Specialist	578-3250	mcketa@upmc.edu

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<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> McMahon, Mac	P.O. box 99861 Pgh, PA 15233	Shelter, safe haven, perm. Hsg.	323-1163	<a href="mailto:mac99861@cs.com">mac99861@cs.com</a>
Miller, Denise	No Walls Ministries 763 Cottonwood Dr. Monroeville, PA 15146	Outreach/Bible Study	445-5052	<a href="mailto:Deniseann1004@yahoo.com">Deniseann1004@yahoo.com</a>
Nardin, Paul	Mercy Behavioral Health 412 E. Commons Pgh, PA 15212		442-8910	<a href="mailto:paulnardin@mercybh.org">paulnardin@mercybh.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.alleggheny.pa.us">dpayne@dhs.county.alleggheny.pa.us</a>
Pendelton, 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>
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	<a href="mailto:epyptyk@dhs.county.alleggheny.pa.us">epyptyk@dhs.county.alleggheny.pa.us</a>
Quinn, Mae	1410 Fifth Avenue Pgh, PA 15219	Miryam's	471-0155	
Reynolds, Curtis	CHSC 374 Lawn Street Pgh, Pa 15213	Outreach	621-4706	<a href="mailto:creynolds@chscorp.org">creynolds@chscorp.org</a>
Sanders, Theda	PCHS/HCH		244-3518	<a href="mailto:tsanders@pchspitt.org">tsanders@pchspitt.org</a>
Smith, Erica	CHSC 3201 Craft Place Pgh, Pa 15213	SOT	621-6513 x115	<a href="mailto:esmithchsc@yahoo.com">esmithchsc@yahoo.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>
Stammely-Park, Melissa	Family Links 1601 Fifth Ave PGH, PA 15219	Homeless Shelter	471-6160	<a href="mailto:mpark@familylinks.org">mpark@familylinks.org</a>
Steffey, Goerge	East Liberty Family Health Care Center 7171 Churchland St. PGH, PA 15206	Behavioral Health	412-361-3435	<a href="mailto:gsteffey@elfhcc.com">gsteffey@elfhcc.com</a>
Sweitzer, Harry	Bureau of Hunger and Housing 4 <sup>th</sup> floor	ACHD	412-350-3848	

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	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	<a href="mailto:upsherc@ccbho.com">upsherc@ccbho.com</a>
<b>X</b>	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 <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. 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 <sup>th</sup> floor Pgh, Pa 15222	Allegheny County Dept of Human Services		<a href="mailto:ryoung@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us">ryoung@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us</a>
	Zuklich, Jessica	Operation Save-A-Life Volunteer	Housing/Street Outreach		