



February 16, 2021, 10:00AM – 11:30AM
Membership Meeting

Minutes

MEMBER AGENCY

Catholic Charities
Cay Galgon Life House
City of Bethlehem
Diana T. Myers and Associates
Easton Area Neighborhood Center
Easton Area Neighborhood Center
Family Promise of Lehigh Valley
Greater Good, LLC
Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley
Lehigh Conference of Churches
Lehigh Conference of Churches
Lehigh Conference of Churches
Lehigh County
LVCIL
New Bethany Ministries
North Penn Legal Services
Northampton County DCED
Northampton County DCED
Northampton County Dept of Human Services
Northampton County Mental Health
PA 211
ProJeCt of Easton
ProJeCt of Easton
Self-Determination Housing of PA/Inglis
Third Street Alliance for Women & Children
Transitions of PA
Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
United Way of Lancaster County
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
Valley Youth House
Valley Youth House
Valley Youth House

ATTENDEE(s)

Rob Nicolella (co-chair)
Kaitlin VanBuskirk
Tina Roseberry
Lauren Whitleigh
Ross Marcus
Hadar Re'em
Roslyn Kuba
Diane Elliott
Jessica Elliott
Deanne Malacsics Best
Ben Stephens
Elly Nieves
Veronica Lefurgy
Julie Corredato
Marc Rittle
Sarah Andrew
Rebecca Sanchez
Tina Smith
Robyn Barbosa
Jaimie Partington
Toni Gainer
Antoinette Cavaliere
Michael Banas
Gabbreel James
Alisa Baratta (co-chair)
Kayla Gower
Heather Kebernik
Julie Kennedy
Priscilla Rosado
Erin Connelly
Michele Albright
India Wright
Jackie Gisonti

Submitted by Jenna Sentz

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Governing Board
 - b. Members in attendance
2. Approval of Past Minutes
3. Update on County Initiatives
 - a. Lehigh County – CARES money- partnering with Catholic Charities for running these funds. Next step is to iron out details of what the program will offer for renters. Info will be on website along with application.
 - b. Northampton County – Robyn Barbosa
 - i. CMED program (up to 12 months of rental assistance, got funding from Treasury). Applicants need to provide documentation. Have funding for utility assistance as well.
 - ii. Using same service agencies – New Bethany, Project of Easton, Third Street Alliance, Easton Area Neighborhood Center
 - iii. Program with CACLV for homeowners facing foreclosure.
 - iv. Both Northampton/Lehigh and health bureaus working on program to house COVID-positive homeless in hotels. Trifold brochure to distribute - reach out to Robyn to get this.
 - c. Allentown Homeless Commission
4. Landlord Engagement Work – Rob Nicolella and Deanne Best
 - a. Safety net for landlords - insurance for building damages. Pays damages. Will also help mediate between landlord and consumer. Incentive to take a chance on a client.
5. 2021 ESG application – CV2
 - a. Get in on these funds? Today is the deadline for posting on Lehigh County website.
 - b. These funds also include landlord mitigation funds built into this funding stream.
 - c. Sharing language from HUD ESG-CV Notice regarding landlord incentives: Waiving the limitation on eligible costs under housing relocation and stabilization services to pay for the costs of landlord incentives will increase the number of housing units available to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, especially in tight rental markets and obtaining and maintaining housing is critical to preventing the spread of coronavirus and helping mitigate the economic impact of the crisis. The limitation to three times the rent charged for each unit ensures enough ESG-CV funds remain available to provide other eligible activities necessary to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Eligible landlord incentive costs include:
 - i. Signing bonuses equal to up to 2 months of rent;
 - ii. Security deposits equal to up to 3 months of rent;
 - iii. Paying the cost to repair damages incurred by the program participant not covered by the security deposit or that are incurred while the program participant is still residing in the unit; and,
 - iv. Paying the costs of extra cleaning or maintenance of a program participant's unit or appliances.
 - d. <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/20-08cpdn.pdf>

6. Racial Equity/Trauma Work – Erin Connelly
 - a. Working with Dr. Hasshan Batts on a follow-up to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant on trauma-informed practice in homeless services. Partnership with LV and Pocono RHAB, New Bethany and Resilient LV.
 - b. This work focuses on community engagement, and is designed to produce recommendations on how to incorporate trauma informed and equity driven processes across partners.
 - i. How do we better understand client experience, especially related to racial inequities in the system or processes?
 - ii. How can we create ongoing feedback loops that help us understand client experience?
 - c. Dr. Batts has completed a number of key informant interviews and focus groups in both English and Spanish and will continue these this month.
 - d. Taking this information to create recommendations for how providers agencies can reduce and eliminate racial disparities and avoid re-traumatizing system users.
 - i. Transparent processes
 - ii. How to continue to address trauma and inequity and the ways that they are linked
 - e. Recruitment of members for Continuum of Care’s DEI Committee
 - i. Looking to recruit people for this. Lived experience, others. DEI committee charged with leading equity work in the CoC. Looking at onboarding/training, etc. Recruitment timeline - this month or next month. Funding for persons with lived experience to participate.
7. Program Coordinator Position – Alisa Baratta
 - a. Looking for candidate. Position listed on Indeed this week.
8. Advocacy Committee Update – Chris Cassidy sent a call to action. Will be reviving the group soon.
9. Update on Continuum of Care activities
 - a. Autorenewal – no reapplication for CoC funding
 - b. SPM clear up
 - c. Fair Housing training
 - d. DEI Committee
 - e. Moved from Workplace to Slack
10. Next LVRHAB Meetings
 - a. August 10, 2021
 - b. November 9, 2021

Addendum – Text from Zoom Chat Box

10:08:50 From Erin Connelly (she/her) to Everyone : So good to meet you, Julie!
 10:09:07 From Julie Kennedy to Everyone : Thank you!
 10:09:14 From michele albright to Everyone : Yes! So nice to meet you Julia! VYH looks forward to working with you!
 10:09:16 From Kayla Gower to Everyone : Yay! Welcome Julie!
 10:09:16 From jpartington to Everyone : Jaimie Partington-Northampton County Mental Health. Community outreach case manager
 10:09:22 From Julie Corredato - LVCIL to Everyone : Julie Corredato - Community Support Coordinator at LVCIL

10:09:22 From Tina Roseberry to Everyone : Tina Roseberry, City of Bethlehem. Housing and Community Development Administrator.

10:09:23 From Priscilla Rosado to Everyone : Priscilla Rosado, Assit. Director Food Access and Emergency Services, United Way of the Greater LV

10:09:24 From Jessica Elliott to Everyone : Jessica Elliott, Executive Director at Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley

10:09:30 From Toni Gainer to Everyone : Toni Gainer , PA 211

10:09:32 From Antoinette Cavaliere to Everyone : Antoinette Cavaliere Director of Programs - ProJeCt of Easton

10:09:32 From Marc Rittle (he/him) to Everyone : Marc Rittle, E.D. New Bethany

10:09:34 From Sarah Andrew to Everyone : Sarah Andrew - North Penn Legal Services Attorney

10:09:40 From Roslyn Kuba to Everyone : Roslyn Kuba - Executive Director, Family Promise of Lehigh Valley

10:09:41 From Erin Connelly (she/her) to Everyone : Erin Connelly, Sr. Dir Impact, UWGLV

10:09:41 From Rebecca Sanchez to Everyone : Rebecca Sanchez, Northampton County DCED, Grant Writer

10:09:41 From Lauren Whitleigh to Everyone : Lauren Whitleigh, Diana T. Myers and Associates, Eastern Pennsylvania CoC Staff - support governing board, RHABs, and Committees easternpa@dma-housing.com

10:09:46 From michele albright to Everyone : Michele Albright, Valley Youth House

10:09:49 From India Wright to Everyone : India Wright-Life Skills Case Manager, Valley Youth House

10:09:50 From Michael Banas to Everyone : Michael Banas ProJeCt of Easton Case Support and Information Management Coordinator.

10:09:52 From Jackie Gisonti to Everyone : Jackie Gisonti-Housing Supervisor at Valley Youth House

10:10:11 From Diane/Dee Elliott to Everyone : Diane Elliott - Greater Good, LLC; Chair, HDC MidAtlantic board

10:10:16 From Kathi Krablin to Everyone : Hi. Kathi Krablin here. I'm Director of Grants and Foundations at Valley Youth House. Nice to see everyone!

10:10:19 From Tina Smith to Everyone : Tina Smith, Northampton County DCED Director

10:10:19 From Christina DiPierro to Everyone : Christina DiPierro Program Coordinator for Project Synergy and TLP Valley Youth House

10:10:29 From Julie Kennedy to Everyone : Julie Kennedy - Coordinated Entry Regional Manager, Lehigh Valley RHAB

10:10:37 From Veronica Lefurgy to Everyone : Veronica Lefurgy Lehigh County Integrated Services Coordinator

10:10:39 From Ross P. Marcus to Everyone : Ross Marcus, Easton Area Neighborhood Centers

10:10:42 From Deanne Best to Everyone : Deanne Malacsics Best - Lehigh Conference of Churches - Director of Programs

10:10:45 From Ben Stephens to Everyone : Ben Stephens, Housing and Homeless Service Manager at The Lehigh Conferene of Churches.

10:10:49 From Hadar Re'em (she/her) to Everyone : Hadar Re'em, Case Manager at Easton Area Neighborhood Center

10:10:59 From JamesG to Everyone : Gabbreell James Regional Housing Coordinator for SDHP now part of Inglis community programs Gabbreell.james@inglis.org

10:11:17 From Cay Galgon Life House Kaitlin to Everyone : Hi all! Kaitlin VanBuskirk, case manager at Cay Galgon Life House. Residential Program (houses women who are homeless and

pregnant) and Community Program (assists families with supplies like diapers, wipes, clothing, resources/referrals, etc.). Kaitlin@caygalgonlifehouse.org

10:11:22 From Heather Kebernik TPLV to Everyone : Heather Kebernik, Housing Coordinator at Turning Point of Lehigh Valley

10:12:21 From Kayla Gower to Everyone : Kayla Gower- Transitions of PA- Domestic Violence Coordinated Entry Specialist- helping to manage survivor needs within the CE system, storing and providing DV anonymous phone numbers from our protected smart sheet- covering all 33 counties in the eastern COC - kayla_g@transitionsofpa.org

10:16:29 From Elly Nieves to Everyone : Elly Nieves, Housing Assistant Manager-Lehigh Conference of Churches

10:19:34 From michele albright to Everyone : Yes, I would love information on that! Michele Albright valley Youth House, 539 8th Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18018

10:33:59 From Marc Rittle (he/him) to Everyone : Lauren, hotel stays are also included in RRH, correct?

10:34:22 From Lauren Whitleigh to Everyone : Sharing language from HUD ESG-CV Notice regarding landlord incentives: Waiving the limitation on eligible costs under housing relocation and stabilization services to pay for the costs of landlord incentives will increase the number of housing units available to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, especially

in tight rental markets and obtaining and maintaining housing is critical to preventing the spread of

coronavirus and helping mitigate the economic impact of the crisis. The limitation to three times the

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10:34:27 From Lauren Whitleigh to Everyone : g in the unit; and,

(iv) Paying the costs of extra cleaning or maintenance of a program participant's unit or appliances.

10:34:42 From Lauren Whitleigh to Everyone : HUD ESG CV2 Notice
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/20-08cpdn.pdf>

10:34:59 From Lauren Whitleigh to Everyone : hotel stays are included in ES, not RRH

10:46:44 From Marc Rittle (he/him) to Everyone : this link is for orgs to sign on for continued COVID relief, from the National Low Income Housing Coalition

10:46:45 From Marc Rittle (he/him) to Everyone :

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnaehletter.wufoo.com%2Fforms%2Fzcfgd2407wix9j%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cccassidy%40caclv.org%7C098908762d7b464e137f08d8cfb1a221%7Ce6a62f885eeb46759e8ba7bfb2d304d4%7C0%7C0%7C637487709140978871%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6I k1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=9VVCZ%2FR%2FaALiPbXSYCzxxhZriiqHz%2FLo5LhhlsrSipp8%3D&reserved=0>

10:48:29 From Tina Roseberry to Everyone : when was the PIT count taken?

10:48:51 From Kathi Krablin to Everyone : Lauren: Assuming you are reaching out to program directors for PIT data?

10:52:29 From Alisa Baratta to Everyone : Is anyone for Valley Housing Development on the call?

11:01:27 From Lauren Whiteleigh to Everyone : easternpa@dma-housing.com

11:01:54 From JamesG to Everyone : Thank you

11:01:58 From Cay Galgon Life House Kaitlin to Everyone : Thanks!