



Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 10:00AM – 12:00PM
Membership Meeting

Minutes

MEMBER AGENCY

Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering
Bright Hope Pregnancy Support Centers
Catalyst 4
Catholic Charities
Cay Galgon Life House
Cay Galgon Life House
Cay Galgon Life House
Change Now
Children's Home of Easton
City of Allentown
City of Allentown
City of Bethlehem
City of Bethlehem
City of Bethlehem
Community Action Lehigh Valley
DMA
Family Promise of Lehigh Valley
Harry C. Trexler Trust
ICF
ICF
ICF
LCHA, NCHA, VHDC
Lehigh Conference of Churches
Lehigh Conference of Churches
Lehigh Conference of Churches
Lehigh Conference of Churches
Lehigh County
Lehigh County
Lehigh County
Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas
Lehigh County Office of Veterans Affairs
Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living

ATTENDEE(S)

Bob Rapp, Jr.
Jon Merwarth
Diane Elliott
Robert Nicolella (co-chair)
Tiesha Fortune-Saunders
Kaitlin VanBuskirk
Christine Duddy
Justan Fields
Shannon McGorry
Maria Quigney
LaTarsha Brown
Christina Roseberry
Heather Bambu-Weiss
Grace Smith
Emily Folenta
Lauren Whiteleigh
Roslyn Kuba
Janet Roth
Shawna Moraille
Elisa Hupp
Nesbitt Rodriguez
Barbara Cooper
Deanne Best
Elly Nieves
Abigail Goldfarb
Benjamin Stephens
Laurie Moyer
Heidi Miller
Veronica Lefurgy
Douglas Reichley
Thomas Applebach
Rosemary Velazquez

Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council
Magellan
Member of the Public
Member of the Public
Michael Baker International
New Bethany Ministries
New Bethany Ministries
New Bethany Ministries
North Penn Legal Services
North Penn Legal Services
North Penn Legal Services
Northampton Community College
Northampton County
Northampton County DCED
Northampton County Human Services
Northampton County Mental Health
Northampton County Mental Health
Northampton County Mental Health
Northampton County Veterans Affairs
Office of Rep Susan Wild (PA07)
Office of Senator Patrick Toomey
Ortiz Ark Foundation
PA 211 East
PA DCED
PA DCED
ProJeCt of Easton
ProjeCt of Easton
Ripple Community Inc.
Salvation Army Hospitality House
Salvation Army Hospitality House
SDHP/Inglis
SELF! LV
Sixth Street Shelter
Sixth Street Shelter
Third Street Alliance
Third Street Alliance
Third Street Alliance
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

Debbie Rozear
Rich Hudzinski
Tom Walker
Gordon Pethick
Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen
Chris Rabasco
Chris Cassidy
Tim Burke
Marc Rittle
Sarah Andrew
Queenette Echefu
Nikolaus Baikow
Maryann Haytmanek
Tara Zrinski
Frank Brooks
Robyn Barbosa
Amy Nettis
Sahiara Smith
Cathy Kromer
Alex Carrillo
Mariska van Aalst
Marta Gabriel
Jessica Lee Ortiz
Patricia Espinosa-Vargas
Brendan Auman
Kimberly Polm
Michael Banas
Antoinette Cavaliere
Sherri Binder
Brenda Johnson
Shanta Broughton
Gabbreell James
Enid Santiago
Robbie Matthews
Julie Huber
Jenna Sentz
Alisa Baratta (co-chair)
Cattima Millsap
Julie Kennedy
Priscilla Rosado
Erin Connelly
Christina DiPierro
Kathi Krablin

Valley Youth House
Valley Youth House
VHP Street Medicine
Wilson Area LINCS Family Center

Becky Latshaw
India Wright
Michelle Wagner
Trina Brady

Submitted by Jenna Sentz

If you are a CoC funded entity, please also record your attendance here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WFWZYHD>

1. Recent Visit from HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge and Congresswoman Susan Wild

- a. Round table discussion at Shiloh Church in Easton on Feb 24.
- b. Candid conversation about enduring challenges that we have. Reinforced how the Biden administration is addressing housing as a long-standing equity issue and want to put resources behind.
- c. Alisa Baratta received quick responses from the Secretary's team regarding questions.
 - i. Housing Choice Vouchers
 - ii. Definition of homelessness, difference between HUD and Dept of ED definition.
 1. Bill in Congress looking at those two definitions and bring them into alignment.
 - a. Congresswoman Susan Wild signed onto this Bill H.R.6287
 2. Given this discussion, Lauren Whitleigh shared a recording of the 3/2 CoC-sponsored Education Rights for Children, Youth and Families Experiencing Homelessness training: <https://youtu.be/DlWuKEFIRr8>
- a. Jessica Lee Ortiz also received quick response from the Secretary's team – they are connecting with us locally and taking it to Lehigh & Northampton County.

2. Updates from Northampton & Lehigh County

- a. Lehigh County - Heidi Miller
 - i. New ERAP application is up with CACLV
 - ii. 1300 applications in a month (January)
 - iii. 5 full time staff working on ERAP applications
 - iv. Hiring another person for phone calls
 - v. Partnering with Ortiz Ark Foundation – they will take app walk-ins
 - vi. We also suggest to go to local library for computers, scan documents
- b. Question: Increase in applications? Or levelling off?
 - i. No, just as busy as it was before.
 - ii. Challenges with applications that are not fully completed, mediate conversations with landlords to get information needed.
- c. Northampton County – Robyn Barbosa
 - i. Program continues to go strong
 - ii. Since inception, processed 4390 rental assistance applications
 - iii. 1427 utility assistance applications
 - iv. 409 hotel applications

- v. Developing brochure to hand out to landlords to better explain the process
- vi. Partner with CACLV & North Penn Legal Services to help with those facing foreclosure
- vii. Tenant navigating agencies
 - 1. New Bethany
 - 2. Third Street Alliance
 - 3. Project of Easton
 - 4. Greater Shiloh Church
- viii. CMED Flyer
- ix. Tenants and landlords are appreciative of the assistance they are getting. They are very thankful.

3. PIT Count – Bob Rapp, Jr. and Michelle Wagner

- a. It was a cold day, thank you to everyone who volunteered. Meeting up to calculate the data this afternoon, 3/8.
- b. Looking for volunteers to lead for next year. Focus next year in Slate Belt region, it would be beneficial.
- c. Question: Were there any encampments that you weren't aware of prior to PIT count?
 - i. Sent surveys to municipalities, EMS, Fire, and police. Most responses were that they weren't aware of anyone experiencing homelessness.
 - ii. Hanover was the only one that responded that they were aware of 2 locations.
 - iii. No new encampments that we learned about.
 - iv. We learn of individuals, usually someone we've come across before. Reintroducing ourselves and finding them in a new location.
- d. Question: Since we have a larger hotel program, did you have challenges getting hotel population counted?
 - i. Yes, that was a challenge and an opportunity to work more closely with service providers and identifying with hotel. Providers administering those programs could do those PIT surveys. We did not get some counted, because we didn't get to them in that 24-hour period.
 - ii. Hotels & motels would be captured in sheltered PIT count vs. unsheltered.

4. Winter/Emergency Shelter Update

- a. Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering – Bob Rapp, Jr.
 - i. No positive COVID tests this season. Getting many folks vaccinated this year compared to last year. Shelter has been full, and we expect to stay full until the program ends on April 16th.
- b. Question: Have you utilized your family room this year?
 - i. Due to zoning hurdles, we were not allowed to use the family room this year.

5. Landlord Engagement Update –Cattima Millsap, Michelle Wagner, Jen Moll

- a. Coffee & Conversation- this year it is not as successful
 - i. Will continue to meet monthly, but team has decided to put boots on the ground. Going to go to landlords instead of trying to get them to come to us.
 - ii. Real Estate Lab & real estate investors to share Padmission project.
 - iii. Produce a video featuring successful story of tenant & landlord.

- iv. Landlord Association – engage and target landlords. Hope to speak with them and share information and ideas to draw in more landlords.
 - 1. Housing developers and mom & pop landlords.
- b. Question: Request from constituent said he hasn't been paid for 5 months from Northampton County.
 - i. West Ward – Reach out to Greater Shiloh to apply for rental assistance. If landlord wants to reach out, they can apply for 5 months of rental arrears and 3 months of future rent.
- c. Jessica Lee Ortiz – offered to present as a realtor – will connect with Cattima
- d. Question: What as RHAB members can we do to assist?
 - i. Go to landlords – advocacy
 - 1. They're not coming to us, we need to go to them.
 - 2. Meet with existing landlords, not new landlords.
 - 3. Word of mouth will funnel down to others trying to get in.
- e. Question: Are landlords interested in the incentive package or mitigation funds?
 - i. No, we only have one landlord for end of January at Third Street Alliance.
 - ii. So much money that the incentive is not there. Trying to get to someone's motives. Target property owners that have an inner reason, that's not necessarily a financial reason.
 - iii. Stigma around Section 8, landlords will never do it. There are partner nonprofits that walk tenants and landlords through the process.
 - 1. Need to get this message out. What are you afraid of? Worst thing is that you get paid every month.
 - iv. Landlords have tried placing tenants using RRH, don't want to take risk again. They have been burned. One bad apple and landlord doesn't want to move forward.
- f. Selling point is having case management. Able to place 4 families. Case management is the selling point with landlords.
- g. Padmission
 - i. Database to track landlords.
 - ii. Last year LVRHAB partnered with Family Promise of Monroe County
 - iii. Now LVRHAB will manage our own Padmission.
- h. Landlord Engagement, case management & support for provider is key for the relationship.
- i. In Philadelphia – relationships with landlords are built over time. Number is small in comparison to real estate market. They stick with you and bring back new opportunities. Personal relationships, relationships with agencies.
- j. If you are a realtor or know someone, join the Landlord Engagement committee.

6. Advocacy Update – Erin Connelly and Marc Rittle

- a. Spreading the word regarding eviction expungement
 - i. No court document sealing mechanism in PA
 - ii. Outreach and education to legislators, create talking points and schedule meetings with legislators
 - iii. Working on training for RHAB members - basics for legislative lobbying
- b. PHARE funding

- i. Housing Alliance looking for a cap increase for real estate transfer tax. Capped at \$40 million, potential to go up to \$80 million.
 - 1. We want to advocate for more funding. Join efforts with Housing Alliance.
 - c. United Way of PA
 - i. \$4.2 million infrastructure investment in 211. ARP funds to support additional staffing, database quality control, improved technology.
 - ii. UWPA Funding Proposal https://www.uwp.org/wp-content/uploads/PA-211_One-Time-Funding-Request.pdf
 - iii. CoC Executive Committee – Lauren Whitleigh
 - 1. CoC Board will encourage others to sign on in support of this via email. If you want to support, sign on no later than Monday, March 14.
 - 2. UWPA Letter <https://www.uwp.org/wp-content/uploads/PA-211-Partner-Sign-On-Letter-3.1.2022-FINAL.pdf>
 - 3. Sign on Here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D5287B3>
 - d. Advocacy Committee Meetings
 - i. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 9
 - ii. Monthly meetings going forward
 - iii. Early May - training to talk about RHAB priority in eviction expungement & other issues
 - iv. Suggestion for Legislative training
 - 1. Include municipalities and how we interact with them. Municipalities don't know of any homeless people in their community, then that's a challenge. Discuss homelessness and talk about how it impacts small communities.
 - 2. Allow small units to be built on larger properties. Multi-unit structures. Local government is where we have best chance of policy change.
 - e. Newsletter
 - i. Meeting in the next few weeks
 - ii. Marielle & Chris are reviewing survey results regarding newsletter topics & engagement

7. CoC Committee Recruitment – Rob Nicolella

- a. Would like to get as many of us involved at the State level. Some in the Lehigh Valley have applied for committee membership, but we haven't been well represented at CoC level. We want to encourage you to apply.
- b. CoC Committees
 - i. Data Management & HMIS
 - ii. Coordinated Entry
 - iii. Domestic Violence
 - iv. Veterans
 - v. Funding Committee
 - 1. Recruiting 5 people with lived experience. Only 2 have applied, neither are from LV region.
 - 2. \$15/hr reimbursed for participation.
 - 3. Could be someone who experienced homelessness in the last 7 years.

- 4. Cannot be an employee of an agency that receives CoC program funding due to conflict of interest. Want individuals that are Non-conflicted when they make funding decisions.
 - a. Deadline to apply is Friday, March 11.
 - vi. All CoC committee's welcome participation from those with lived experience.
- c. CoC Committee Application: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H6LL377>
- d. Reminder for CoC grantees, record your attendance at RHAB & Committee meetings at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WFWZYHD>
 - i. The CoC reviews attendance records from this survey in the CoC funding renewal process

8. LVRHAB Committees

- a. Organizing Meeting – March 22, 10:00AM
- b. If you can't make this organization meeting, reach out to get involved. We need involvement at the local level for our committees.
- c. Learning and career development experience. Outside of day to day job, policy issues and economic issues that impact homeless services & housing development issues. Encourage anyone at any level to get involved.
- d. Committees
 - i. Coordinated Entry
 - ii. Communication/Advocacy
 - iii. People with Learned Experience
 - iv. Data
 - v. Landlord Engagement
 - vi. Affordable Housing
 - vii. Prevention Services
- e. To apply, send email to: jsentz@thirdstreetalliance.org

9. Discussion on HOME-ARP Funding - ICF

- a. Shawna Moraille, Elisa Hupp, Andelyn Nesbitt Rodriguez from ICF.
- b. Allocation Plan
 - i. Consultation meetings
 - ii. Needs Assessment & Gaps Analysis
 - iii. Summary of Planned use of Home-ARP Funds
- c. Qualifying Populations
 - i. Individuals & families experiencing homelessness & at risk (McKinney Vento)
 - ii. Fleeing domestic violence
 - iii. Other populations for whom supportive services or assistance would prevent homelessness or serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability
 - 1. What do they look like? Higher income level, but experienced persistent housing instability. Young adults, veterans.
- d. Eligible Activities
 - i. Rental housing
 - ii. Tenant-based rental assistance
 - iii. Supportive services
 - iv. Acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter

1. Not be used for operation costs
2. Purchase facilities or land, rehab an existing facility.
- v. Nonprofit operating and capacity building assistance
 1. Influx of funding, manage funds within timely manner.
- vi. Included prevention services
- vii. Housing counseling – provided by HUD certified & counseling agency
- e. Referral methods
 - i. Expanded Coordinated Entry
 - ii. Coordinated Entry (as is) with other referral
 - iii. Project/Activity wait List
- f. DCED Contacts
 - i. Brendan Auman, Homeless Program Manager breauman@pa.gov
 - ii. Kimberly Polm, HOME Program Manager kpalm@pa.gov
- g. Mentimeter Survey Questions
 - i. What type of agency do you represent?
 - ii. What are the unmet needs of those experiencing homelessness?
 1. Affordable Rental Housing
 2. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
 3. Supportive Services
 4. Noncongregate shelter
 - iii. Describe any racial or ethnic disparities that are not being addressed in your current system.
 - iv. Prioritize qualifying populations within your region?
 1. Homeless (McKinney Act definition)
 2. At-risk of Homelessness (McKinney Act definition)
 3. Fleeing/Attempting to flee DV, dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, or human trafficking (extended definition in ARP statute)
 4. Other Populations – Family Homeless/Those with the Greatest Risk of Housing Instability
 5. Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness
 - v. Please rank your funding priority for HOME-ARP activities based upon QP needs.
 1. Affordable Rental Housing
 2. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
 3. Supportive Services
 4. Noncongregate shelter
 - vi. Please prioritize how QPs will be served?
 1. Expanding Coordinated Entry (CE)
 2. Use of CE with Other Referral Methods
 3. Waiting list
 - vii. Among categories for capacity building, prioritize need to be successful with your HOME-ARP activity.
 1. Salaries
 2. Employee Training
 3. Equipment
 4. Contracts for TA

10. **Next LVHRAB Meeting:** June 14, 2022, 10AM-11:30AM

- a. Link to Register - https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0of-mtpj4oHdxLWKSshZ9K2fPy_BnN7vYe

Attendance Reminder:

For all LVRHAB related meetings, please mark your attendance using this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WFWZYHD>



Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)

DCED HOME-ARP Consultation Handout – PA Non Entitlement Funding

Context and History:

- The HOME-ARP program was established through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021
- ARP allocated \$5 billion for homelessness assistance and assistance to other vulnerable populations to:
 - Provide capital investment for permanent rental housing
 - Upgrade available stock of shelter to include non-congregate shelter
 - Provide tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services
- The HOME-ARP program combines regulations and lessons learned from the HOME, CoC, ESG, and Housing Counseling programs
- [The HOME-ARP Implementation Notice \(Notice CPD-21-10\)](#) was issued on September 13, 2021 establishing all HOME-ARP requirements
- HOME-ARP funds are allocated to **Participating Jurisdictions (PJs)** who are required to consult with local stakeholders on how HOME-ARP funds will be utilized in the local community.
- Total HOME-ARP Funding in PA = \$206,461,751
- DCED Allocation = \$73,094,403

Participating Jurisdiction	Amount
Allentown	\$ 3,496,826
Altoona	\$ 1,192,765
Bethlehem	\$ 1,404,987
Chester	\$ 1,318,782
Erie	\$ 2,932,681
Harrisburg	\$ 1,752,227
Johnstown	\$ 881,979
Philadelphia	\$ 42,007,561
Pittsburgh	\$ 8,342,028
Reading	\$ 3,580,856
Scranton	\$ 2,440,076
State College	\$ 1,109,162
Upper Darby	\$ 1,561,080
Wilkes-Barre	\$ 1,235,638
Williamsport	\$ 888,134
York	\$ 1,980,626
Beaver County	\$ 2,091,861
Berks County	\$ 2,296,766
Chester County	\$ 3,984,864
Cumberland County	\$ 1,903,664
Dauphin County	\$ 2,348,835
Delaware County	\$ 3,732,740
Luzerne County	\$ 2,530,085
Montgomery County	\$ 5,080,650
Northampton County	\$ 2,338,781
Washington County	\$ 2,104,738
York County	\$ 3,070,455
PA Non Entitlement	\$ 73,094,403
CNSRT-Bucks County	\$ 4,484,799
CNSRT-Westmoreland County	\$ 3,684,314
CNSRT-Allegheny County	\$ 10,799,656
CNSRT-Lancaster County	\$ 6,789,732
Total PA	\$ 206,461,751

Qualifying Populations (QP) for HOME-ARP services primarily include:

1. Homeless, McKinney Act definition at 24 CFR 91.5
2. At risk of Homelessness, McKinney Act definition at 24 CFR 91.5
3. Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking
 - Definitions from VAWA regulation at 24 CFR 5.2003, except
 - Human trafficking definition from Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000
4. Other Populations where providing supportive services or assistance under section 212(a) of NAHA (42 U.S.C. 12742(a)) would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability

Veterans and Families that include a Veteran Family Member that meet the criteria for one of the qualifying populations described above are eligible to receive HOME-ARP assistance.

Eligible Activities Fact Sheets:

- [Rental Housing](#)
- [Tenant-Based Rental Assistance \(TBRA\)](#)
- [Supportive Services](#)
- [Non-Congregate Shelter \(NCS\)](#)
- [Nonprofit Operating and Capacity Building Assistance](#)

CoC Leadership Board Discussion Questions – in Mentimeter! Please have a smart device or a separate browser available!

1. What are the unmet needs of those experiencing homelessness? Come prepared for an open-ended discussion to tell us about your unmet needs.
 - Affordable Rental Housing
 - Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
 - Supportive Services
 - Noncongregate shelter
2. Tell us more about these unmet needs (open ended)
3. Please describe any racial or ethnic disparities not being addressed in your current system. (Open ended)
4. Please prioritize QPs within your CoC and come prepared to tell us more about the prioritization you select. (Sliding scale from lowest to highest priority)
 - Homeless (McKinney Act definition)
 - At-risk of Homelessness (McKinney Act definition)
 - Fleeing/Attempting to flee DV, dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, or human trafficking (extended definition in ARP statute)
 - Other Populations – Family Homeless/Those with the Greatest Risk of Housing Instability
 - Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness
5. Tell us more about your prioritization of QPs (open ended)

6. Please rank your funding priority for HOME-ARP activities based upon QP needs. (Rank from priority 1 through 4)
 - Affordable Rental Housing
 - Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
 - Supportive Services
 - Noncongregate shelter
7. Please prioritize How QPs will be served? (rank order priority)
 - Expanding Coordinated Entry (CE)
 - Use of CE with Other Referral Methods
 - Waiting list
8. Tell us more about your priority for CE, CE/other, and waiting list.
9. Among these categories for capacity building \$, please prioritize need to be successful with your HOME-ARP activity? (select all that apply)
 - Salaries
 - Employee Training
 - Equipment
 - Contracts for TA