



Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 10:00AM – 10:37AM

Membership Meeting

Minutes

MEMBER AGENCY

ATTENDEE(S)

Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering
 Catholic Charities
 Cay Galgon Life House
 City of Allentown
 City of Bethlehem
 Community Action Lehigh Valley
 Community Action Lehigh Valley
 Community Action Lehigh Valley
 Community Action Lehigh Valley
 Congresswoman Susan Wild's Office
 Diana T. Myers and Associates
 Early Learning Resource Center
 Easton Housing Equity and Planning
 Inglis
 Lehigh Conference of Churches
 Lehigh Conference of Churches
 Lehigh Conference of Churches
 Lehigh Conference of Churches
 Lehigh County
 Lehigh County
 Lehigh County
 Lehigh County Housing Authority
 Lehigh County Housing Authority
 Lehigh County Office of Veterans Affairs
 Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
 Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council
 New Bethany
 New Bethany
 New Bethany
 North Penn Legal Services
 North Penn Legal Services
 Northampton County DCED

Bob Rapp
 Robert Nicoella
 Diane Donaher
 Maria Quigney
 Sara Satullo
 Candace Moody
 Julie Shoults
 Kumari Ghafoor-Davis
 Robbie Matthews
 Mariska van Aalst
 Mary Penny
 Tim Shaw
 Kurt Carlson
 Gabbreell James
 Abigail Goldfarb
 Benjamin Stephens
 Deanne Malaccsics Best
 Elly Nieves
 Heidi Miller
 Kimberly Smith
 Veronica Lefurgy
 Barbara Cooper
 Branden Strohl
 Thomas Applebach
 Rosemary Velazquez
 Rich Hudzinski
 Chris Cassidy
 Marc Rittle
 Tim Burke
 Nikolaus Baikow
 Sarah Andrew
 Frank Brooks

Northampton County DCED
Northampton County Mental Health
Northampton County Office of Veterans Affairs
Northampton County Prison
One Big Smile, Everlasting Ministries
Project of Easton
Resources for Human Development
Ripple Community, Inc.
Salvation Army
Second Chance Training Center, Inc.
SELF Lehigh Valley
Third Street Alliance
Trexler Trust
Turning Point of Lehigh Valley
United Way of Lancaster County
Valley Youth House
Valley Youth House
Valley Youth House
Valley Youth House
Vet Beds

Rebecca Sanchez
Amy Nettis
Alex Carrillo
Chris Williamson
Carolyn Hoffman
Breanna Maskalis
Tammy McCulloch
Sherri Binder
Brenda Johnson
Lisa Perry
Ellen Brady
Jenna Sentz
Janet Roth
Rachael Hamilton
Patricia Espinosa-Vargas
Christina DiPierro
Jackie Gisonti
Kathi Krablin
Michele Albright
Brandon Yarber

Submitted by Jenna Sentz

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

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

1. Welcome & Introductions – Rob Nicolella
 - a. Intro of Governing Board members
 - b. <https://lvrhab.org/board>

2. PIT Count – Bob Rapp, Jr. and Ben Stephens
 - a. Point-In-Time count will be held Weds. January 25th into Jan 26th. It is a count of sheltered & unsheltered homeless in the Lehigh Valley.
 - b. PIT Leaders
 - i. Ben Stephens (bstephens@lehighchurches.org) – Allentown
 - ii. Bob Rapp, Jr. (brapp@bes-inc.org) – Bethlehem
 - iii. Jeff Poch (jpoch@safeharboreaston.org) – Easton
 - iv. Becky Latshaw (blatshaw@valleyyouthhouse.org) – Slate Belt
 - c. Mandatory training will be held a week prior to count. If interested, contact a leader to join.
 - d. This week a message is going to area police and EMS. Letting them know what we're doing the night of the count and they can contact us to find people that we may not know about and to share the info so we get a more comprehensive count.

- e. PIT Count has influence on funding streams. HUD does this once a year. This happens all around the country on the same night of the year.
 - f. Training Date: Wednesday, January 18 at 9AM
 - i. Flyer will go out after RHAB meeting with link to sign up for training.
 - ii. Virtual & in-person training held at Christ Church UCC in Bethlehem.
 - iii. Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/esnRRDeGu6UFFrsd6>
3. Governing Board recruitment – Marc Rittle
- a. We have had a good response and lots of interest in joining the Governing Board.
 - b. 2023 Governing Board will be voted on at next quarterly meeting.
 - c. 12 have already applied. We will have a small committee to go through and you will be contacted to confirm interest.
 - d. Governing Board meets monthly.
 - e. Deadline – accepting nominations until Dec 31, 2022.
 - i. Nomination Form: <https://forms.gle/vnRgCo9AhtUP5WF99>
 - f. If you have questions, contact Marc Rittle. jmrittle@newbethanyministries.org
4. Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week/Matthew Desmond follow up – Abby Goldfarb
- a. Several connections made during the week
 - b. Karen Beck Pooley from Lehigh University is looking for data – effectiveness of rental assistance short term & long term. State of PA is looking into effects of ERAP as well.
 - c. Content from the event week was recorded that we can use. Recordings on Conference of Churches website or youtube.
 - d. Matthew Desmond talk was not recorded.
 - e. Game of Rent board games available and can lend them out if you want to borrow them for an activity.
 - f. Question: Can we get slides from Matthew Desmond’s discussion?
 - i. We have contacted him but have not heard back. If you go on Eviction Lab website you can find statistics, but you have to dig through. <https://evictionlab.org/>
5. Homelessness & Housing Plan Updates
- a. Allentown Homeless Commission – Rob Nicolella
 - i. On a hiatus. Tom Harrington was chair and last meeting in May or June of 2022. Abby Goldfarb has assumed the chair role of the commission. We are developing prospects of new members and mayor will appoint them. Reviewing with city council commitments and recommendations to move forward with. We hope to have a meeting in late January/early February. New members will work through the 2023 year.
 - b. Bethlehem – Sarah Satullo, Deputy Director of Community Development, City of Bethlehem
 - i. Homelessness Strategic plan in final stages. Presentation to city council. Recommendation to put funding towards a non-congregate emergency shelter, 50-70 beds. \$1.4 million in HOME ARP money. \$2 million from city ARPA funds for homelessness.
 - ii. Funding will be used for site acquisition and rehab. Gaps to make up because the estimates have been \$5-7 million. Hopefully city council will approve the budget later this month.
 - iii. \$5 million ARPA.

- iv. Affordable housing study. Implement recommendations that come out of that study.
 - v. Community engagement phase is wrapping up. 3,000 people filled out the Affordable housing survey. Survey closing on March 15th.
 - vi. Presentation of work to date in February.
 - vii. External stakeholders go through feedback to hone in on strategies that work best in the real estate market.
- c. Easton
- i. No update.
6. Funding – Chris Cassidy
- a. PHARE
- i. In November, RHAB submitted application for PHARE funds in support of street outreach and coordinated entry walk-in sites. All RHAB agencies were invited to apply. Submitted for \$5,000-6K. Will hear back next summer.
 - ii. Street Outreach has taken a hit. Those services are important. Hopefully we will be successful with this application.
 - iii. Agency Applicants
 - 1. Lehigh Conference of Churches – street outreach
 - 2. Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering
 - 3. SELF Lehigh Valley
 - 4. Third Street Alliance
 - 5. Valley Youth House
- b. ESG
- i. City of Allentown was applicant.
 - ii. We asked for over \$600,000. We got a fraction of what we asked for, only \$252,000.
 - iii. Maria Quigney will forward the award information to applicants soon.
7. Committee Updates
- a. Landlord Engagement – Michele Albright
- i. Will present on Padmission during next meeting.
 - ii. Landlord Engagement event this afternoon, 12/13/2022 at 2PM.
 - iii. Create a network of landlords that are open to rent to clients in our programs.
 - iv. Zoom meeting, presenter Yousef Dahl. He is cofounder of Allentown Real estate lab. Presenting on fare housing, eviction, end of lease.
 - v. What our program is about, why were need it and how it benefits them to becoming involved.
 - vi. Gail Schwartz from PA Housing Alliance. Partnering with them. We received \$25,000 from them. Info from landlords and hear their voice.
 - vii. Hoping to have another event next quarter. Learn how we can get more landlords interested.
 - viii. Next Committee Meeting – Monday, Jan. 9 at 1PM. If interested, email Michele Albright. malbright@valleyyouthhouse.org
 - ix. Question – will the landlord meeting be recorded?
 - 1. Rob will make sure it’s recorded. We can put it in the next LVRHAB newsletter.
- b. Affordable Housing – Abby Goldfarb
- i. Next Meeting – Jan 11, 4PM

1. To join, email Abby Goldfarb at agoldfarb@lehighchurches.org
 - ii. Small committee but we have great ideas, we'd love more people to join. Put together a proposal and take it on the road, to drum up support from a diverse group of funders and supporters. We could use your voice to discuss the best approach for affordable housing.
- c. Advocacy – Chris Cassidy
 - i. Political landscape has changed in Harrisburg. We are excited about what we can work on going forward.
 - ii. Next meeting – third week of January. Eviction expungement.
 - iii. Disturbing trend nationwide, legislation pushed to criminalize homelessness. Which is alarming. We know that doesn't work and it's inhumane.
 - iv. Interested Advocacy topics:
 1. Local zoning
 2. Tenant rights
 3. Housing policy goals