

MINUTES

McKean County Collaborative Board

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

Hamlin Memorial Library, 123 South Mechanic Street, Smethport, PA

Attendance: Amy Wehler, South Determination Housing Project; Greta Billings, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services; Linda Woodley, YWCA Victims Resource Center, Daryl Johnson, YWCA Victims Resource Center; Lynne Grim, Child Car Information Services; Leslie Davis, Area Agency on Aging; Mariann Kahle, Hamot; Mandy Reese, Department of Human Services; Tara Erway, Children and Youth Services; Tina Martin, Care for Children; Dusti Dennis, McKean County Housing Authority; Megan Preston, Big Brothers Big Sisters of McKean County; Debbie Olson, Pennsylvania Department of Health; Duane Wolfe, McKean County Department of Human Services; Janice Himes, New Choices New Options; Teresa Wilcox, McKean County Juvenile Probation; Kim Martin, Bradford Hospital WIC; Cindy Wright, Birth-3 Early Intervention at Intermediate Unit 9; Reverend Stacey Fossall, Church of the Ascension; Deb Cavagnaro, Church of the Ascension; Lisa Kray, Parent to Parent of PA; Lora Cope, American Cancer Society; Casey Schillinger, The Guidance Center; Betty Jo Wilcox, The Guidance Center; Marg Kroh, Adagio Health; Lori Peace, Department of Human Services

I. The meeting began at 1:05pm with the introduction of members and guests.

A. Housing Simulation Exercise

Linda Woodley and Daryl Johnson from the YWCA facilitated the exercise. Members of the board were asked to depict service providers and community organizations (landlords, public housing, Social Security, a bank etc.) that people that are in need of housing would typically interact. The remaining members of the board were given scenarios in which they were consumers looking for housing. The exercise illustrated the frustration and difficulties that people with limited means and resources face when they are trying to find affordable and safe housing.

B. Housing Panel

1. **LHOT (Local Housing Options Team)** representative Lori Peace discussed how the team is comprised of various stakeholders that meet to discuss the barriers and shortages to affordable housing, and possible solutions.

Contact Information: lpeace@mckeancounty.org

2. **YMCA Homeless Assistance Program-** Linda Woodley discussed the Housing Employment Service Program; the increase for the need for shelter services (beds at the shelter have increased from 10 to 13); and that the YWCA occasionally has Emergency Food and Shelter funding (provided by the United Way) that can cover 1 month's rent or back rent; vouchers for stays at the Riddell House; and food for the pantry.

Daryl Johnson from the Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-housing Program discussed the sliding scale that governs the program and that the program has stringent guidelines and that it is considered "funding of last resort" for people that do not qualify for other programs.

3. McKean County Housing and Redevelopment Authority- Executive Director, Dusti Dennis discussed the difference between public housing and Section 8 vouchers. She gave out information regarding the income limits to qualify for public housing owned by the authority. Several of the public housing options are limited to the elderly and/or disabled. She stated there is a real need to “*Find housing that suits the person, to make it work.*” Currently they have over 200 people on their waiting list for housing, she encourages consumers to stay on the list even if they have suitable housing at the moment. Consumers must have a birth certificate and social security card in order for their applications to be processed. The authority will help people complete their applications.

Contact Information: dldennis@mckeancountypa.org

4. Self Determination Housing Project of Pennsylvania- Amy Wehler (still housed at the LIFT offices). They are working to bridge the gap between housing providers and service providers. They are 10 coordinators across the state. They are able to provide free trainings including the *Prepared Renters Program*. They are also working on an *Eviction Prevention Project*.

II. Updates/Announcements

1. Sharing state budget concerns- The State Budget was passed and some discussion of funding priorities as related by PANO were discussed.
2. September 17, Parenting is One Tough Job Symposium: Preventing Sudden and Unexplained Infant Death- Save-the-date flyers were distributed.
3. Strengthening Families Program will begin in Smethport, Bradford, and Otto-Eldred the weeks of October 4-November 15.
4. The Pitt Bradford MSW Program will be holding an information session on July 13th. Flyers were handed out.
5. The Next **Steering Committee** meeting is Wednesday, August 4, 3:00-4:00 pm at the State Health Center, 84 Boylston Street, Bradford.
6. Our **next Collaborative Board meeting on September 1, 2010**, 1:00-2:30 pm, Hamlin Memorial Library, will focus on Forensic Interviewing.
7. Other Member announcements.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:34pm.

Future Collaborative Board Meeting Schedule:

- September 1, 2010, 1:00-2:30 pm, Hamlin Memorial Library
- November 3, 2010, (Annual Meeting, 9:00 am-1:00 pm, Penn Hills Club)