

February 2021 Full Continuum of Care Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom
February 11, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

Present: Bridget Lackey, Pat Sciarretta, Dan Wakefield, Donna Wells, Terry Weyand, Emily McHenry, Jillian Rouse, Leah Merritt, Lindsey Simstad, James Ford, Keshia Bales, Rufus Hudson, Denise Washington, Diane Waite, Anna Barksdale, Milagros Figueroa, Jacqueline Hughley, Erin Bishop, Jenn Matlack

Coordinator Update

1. There was not an annual CoC NOFA Competition for FY 2020. All projects that submitted applications during the 2019 competition were renewed.
2. The Mahoning County Homeless Continuum of Care Executive Board has approved a change in our HMIS Software Vendor. Our CoC along with the Ohio Balance of State will transition from Wellsky to Bitfocus later this year.
3. The CoC did not conduct an annual unsheltered point in time count this year. An exception was submitted and approved by HUD, the count did not seem feasible due to how Mahoning County typically counts our unsheltered population and the current state of the pandemic. The sheltered point in time count will still be submitted to HUD once HUD posts guidance. The sheltered point in time will include emergency shelters and transitional housing projects.

Review of Minutes- Correction under Goodwill, they are providing post-secondary certifications and the welcome is open for pre employment

Announcements/Agency Updates

Catholic Charities- Voice of Hope Shelter started accepting women with children in January; right now they are at full capacity which is 0 people. They are planning to have a grand opening in March.

Free Midlothian Clinic- They have a small amount of money and can assist people if they need birth certificates, call 330-397-1025.

Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley- Cold weather Program is currently in effect from January 1 through March 1, people can stay at the shelter depending on their restriction. Reasons a person cannot stay: shelter is a maximum capacity, person is a registered sexual offender, currently intoxicated, severe mental illness and not taking their medication or on the restriction list for aggressive/ violent behavior. They are currently providing to go meals for people not staying at the shelter.

YWCA Mahoning Valley- Received funding through the US Treasury and Mahoning County Commissioners for a project targeting pregnant and new moms coming out of the Mahoning County Pathways HUB towards to assist in reducing the rate of infant mortality. The program is set to begin, Feb. 22 and they are targeting 10-15 people to assist with 3 months of rent arrears and utilities, referrals will be through the Pathways HUB. <https://www.mahoninghealth.org/mahoning-county-pathways-hub/>

Youngstown City Health Department- They are currently operating clinics for the COVID 19 vaccine. The Health Department is taking guidance of the Ohio Department of Ohio and the Governor about which populations they are able to provide a vaccine, they are not allowed to make any decision locally that

differs from that guidance. The Health Department receives about 300 vaccines each week and currently they have a wait list of over 900 people. If someone comes to the clinic, they should bring an id and insurance card and will be asked to complete paperwork.

Beatitude House- They are continuing to serve people through their Permanent Housing Program, Immigrant Outreach, and Ursuline Sisters Scholars Program. The Immigrant Outreach Program serves those with English as a second language and provides English skills, tutoring for kids, and helps meet basic needs. The Ursuline Sisters Scholars Program assists post-secondary students with a lower income, interested people will need to complete an application. Contact the Beatitude House at 330-744-3147

Alta Head Start- classrooms are now open, they have a new location at the Campus of Care. Early Head Start is all year and for children 0-3 and Head Start is available for children 3-5. If a family is homeless, they automatically are eligible for the program, contact Alta at 330-736-0071.

The Ursuline Center- Received funding to purchase a one-bedroom home, they are working with Equitas Health to assist someone who is experiencing homelessness and is a part of their HOPWA program.

Dorothy Day House- Providing to go meals this coming Sunday from 3:30-4:30pm

VA- The VA outpatient clinic in Youngstown moved to 1815 Belmont Ave., Youngstown, OH. They have access to COVID 19 vaccines, they are following the same guidelines as the Health Departments and giving the vaccines to people of certain age groups and compromised health conditions, the local clinic is calling to schedule people for their vaccine appointment. There is a new transitional housing project for homeless Veterans.

Family and Community Services- are able to assist veterans who are VA eligible and non VA eligible. They have been with the Mahoning County Homeless CoC's Coordinated Entry and getting veterans added to that process.

Youngstown Goodwill- Their training and employment is limited one on one services and the pre assessment may be virtual, focusing on people with low to moderate income. Contact Goodwill at 330-759-7921 x1211 workforcedevelopment@youngstowngoodwill.org

Community Legal Aid- No updates, they are posting trainings on their Facebook for trainings and unemployment fraud.

Mahoning County Commissioners-No updates

Mercy Health- Their screening and programs are currently operating, reach out if you are in need. Bridget is retiring in March and this will be her last CoC meeting.

Help Network of NEO- They have masks and gloves available if anyone is in need. The Community Center is open, and they are asking people to sign up ahead of time client, their hours are 12-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Sojourner House The shelter has 10 rooms with 4 beds in each room and two suites to accommodate larger families or men. They provide case management, transportation, food, clothing, judicial advocacy services and an empowerment specialist mfigueroa@compassfamily.org They have a new AmeriCorps worker, Morgan Smith msmith@compassfamily.org

City of Youngstown Community Development- Staff are currently monitoring agencies and working through the ESG applications process.