

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting

September 24, 2019; 10:00AM to 12:00PM

Lower Level, Human Services Building

1 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh PA, 15222

Purpose: The Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is a public/private partnership formed to assist and recommend to Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the City of McKeesport and the Municipality of Penn Hills on public policy, programs, activities, data and all other efforts that will eliminate homelessness and improve the wellbeing of persons and families who are homeless.

HAB Members¹

Frank Aggazio (P)	Jane Downing (P)	Christy Pietryga (P)
Meg Balsamico (P)	Laura Drogowski	Lenny Prewitt
Caster Binion	Pete Giacalone (P)	Gale Schwartz (P)
Jerry Cafardi (P)	Abigail Horn (P)	Richard Rapp (P)
Cassa Collinge (P)	Joe Lagana (P)	Lea Etta Rhodes (P)
Tom Cummings (P)	John Lovelace (P)	Kellie Wild
Sean DeYoung	Michael Murray (P)	Bethany Wingerson

Guest Attendees

Alena Anderson, United Way SWPA	Katrina Kadisevskis, Partner4Work
Pete Burke, Erie DHS	Lisa Karle, Erie DHS
Andrea Bustos, DHS	Chuck Kennan, DHS
Nicole Coe, AC Jail	Lisa Kessler, DHS
Matthew Cotter, Pgh Mercy	Amy Kroll, AC Jail
Krissy Dimitrovoks, Erie DHS	Terri Laver, DHS
Rob Eamigh, DHS	Samantha Murphy, DHS
Melissa Ferraro, Sisters Place	Angela Padovano, DHS
Annette Fetchko, AHN	Kelly Russell, City of Pgh
George Fickenworth, Mercyhurst	Alyssa Sciulli, DHS
Pail Freydar, Salvation Army	Cynthia Shields, DHS
Garletta Germany, DHS	Jenna Szuchy, DHS
Andy Halfhill, DHS	Lisa Trunick, Familylinks
Knowledge Hudson, HACP	Caroline Woodward, Bethlehem Haven
Diane Johnson, DHS	

Minutes

1. Welcome & Review of Meeting Minutes—John Lovelace

July 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

2. CoC/HAB Annual Processes Preparation—John Lovelace

HAB Membership: Caster Binion and Lenny Prewitt will be concluding their second terms with the HAB at the January 2020 meeting. Cassa Collinge, Pete Giacalone, Christy Pietryga, Richard Rapp, and Bethany Wingerson will all be completing their first terms at the January meeting. They, and others from the CoC are invited to apply to serve on the HAB. The nomination period will be open in November, and a slate will be recommended from the Executive Committee for vote by the full HAB at the January meeting.

Governance Charter Review: The annual Charter Review will begin in November. Public Comment will be

¹ (P) indicates HAB members who were present for the meeting.

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welcome, and the Executive Committee will make suggestions, for vote on at the January meeting.

3. Committee Updates

CoC Analysis and Planning Committee—Pete Giacalone

Pete Giacalone highlighted three recent areas of focus for CoCAPC: reviewing the July Point-in-Time Count results; reviewing NOFA updates the information gleaned from the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference; and continuing to progress with the CoC's Performance Management Plan. Regarding the Performance Management Plan, Mr. Giacalone explained that the Committee has been working, over the past year, on an effort to define how performance of homeless housing programs is measured, outline project and system performance goals for the CoC, and produce public quarterly and annual reports across the set metrics. The Committee is now seeking to finalize the plan and corresponding reports, and Mr. Giacalone encourages all providers to engage in the process to further support the development of accurate and appropriate measures.

Provider Committee—Lea Etta Rhodes

Lea Etta Rhodes updated members and meeting participants on the discussions of the Provider Committee, noting the most recent meeting included: a presentation by a doctor from Children's Hospital about recognizing signs of abuse for children; a presentation from PA Serve, clarifying who can receive Veteran services; and a presentation regarding the Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC). Ms. Rhodes reminded participants that the Provider Committee's election for the third Provider Representative would be coming in November.

4. Infrastructure Organization Update—Cynthia Shields

Cynthia Shields provided the IO update. The presented slides can be found in Appendix A.

- Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS), as the CoC's Collaborative Application, was finalizing the annual HUD CoC Program NOFA application for submission by the September 30th deadline. Ms. Shields presented the funding amounts being applied for by program category.
- The CoC was awarded a \$3.49 million Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant, which will support efforts to serve youth experiencing homelessness. The grant supports the same categories of homelessness as the CoC Program, with some additional space for innovative projects.
- Ms. Shields has been researching and gathering expert feedback on approaches to more meaningfully and effectively centering lived experience in CoC planning, programming and evaluation. Best practice evidence suggests a "Lived Experience Committee" of the HAB, though HAB members suggested addition consideration around utilizing existing systems/structures (e.g., leveraging existing groups) rather than establishing additional structural components.
- Ms. Shields reported on considerations and current efforts around the CoC's shelter strategy. She revisited the CoC's Strategic Plan for a year-round, low-barrier shelter, reporting that while significant effort was put in to identifying appropriate space and programming, the project was not able to come to fruition. In lieu of continued emphasis on establishing a new low-barrier shelter, additional approaches and pathways are being explored, including: expansion of existing shelter spaces; successes of the H2O project and a consideration of the expansion of a model utilizing more single-room occupancy (SRO) spaces; updates to Wellspring location and connections; and coordination with other funding opportunities, including a \$1.5 million opioid use disorder and housing grant from SAMHSA. Ms. Shields also noted the significant focus currently needed for planning Winter Shelter, in response to Smithfield United not being up to code and unable to serve as the location in its current state.

In addition to the IO Update, Chuck Keenan provided a brief review of the Allegheny County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT) and their work moving forward. These details can be found in Appendix B.

5. Data Review: Transitioning from Institutions—Andy Halfhill

Andy Halfhill presented data from HMIS and the Allegheny County Data Warehouse regarding people

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entering the homeless system from other institutions. This presentation can be found in Appendix C.

6. Hospital Perspective—Matthew Cotter, Annette Fetchko

Matthew Cotter and Annette Fetchko spoke regarding their experiences around the intersection of health and housing, with specific insights from their work with the Bethlehem Haven Medical Respite Center. The Center provides temporary housing coupled with post-acute medical care so vulnerably housed people can recover in a safe, supportive environment. Common issues and barriers seen are:

- Difficulty navigating the two systems and even how to start;
- Regulatory barriers that can cause gaps between systems (e.g., care transitions that can support continuous service and housing through transitions; hospitals having incentives to keep stays short)
- Lack of available housing that meets people's needs;

Reflecting on these barriers, as well as times where the system supports have been successful, Mr. Cotter and Ms. Fetchko also spoke to considerations for effective work moving forward, including:

- When the participant is already engaged with other systems and has support individuals/teams, coordinated with those supports increases the likelihood of staying housed;
- Utilizing the expertise of a strong housing coordinator, while the health professionals can focus on health care coordination has shown success;
- Finding common language between the housing and health systems so that the communication is more meaningful and effective when around the same table;
- Building on common language, the connection between the two systems also needs to support the health and housing professionals working with the service participant around the same goals;
- Looking at going beyond inpatient transitions, including making better connections to street outreach teams as well as community needs.

7. Jail Perspective—Nicole Coe, Amy McNicholas Kroll

Nicole Coe and Amy Kroll reported on efforts by the Jail, and barriers faced regarding discharge processes. Ms. Kroll provided context around the jail population, noting that the population has increased over the past decade, and that of the approximately 2,400 inmates in the jail in September, less than 400 of them were sentenced, meaning the remainder are pre-trial or on a retaining and they could be released at any time. This context is important when considering the ability to provide services.

The Discharge and Release Center opened in April, and they are currently developing a new system to help prepare for leaving the jail. An assessment is completed to identify needs, and a meeting is scheduled within 48 hours of discharge to review the plan and prepare for leaving. There is expected to be trial and error in refining the processes through the Discharge and Release Center, including exploring ways to effectively identify when people do not have a stable place to go at release. There is a common misconception that if you do not have a designated place to go, you will not be released, and this, in addition to people not wanting to identify as homeless, can often lead to misinformation about discharge plans.

Moving forward, Mr. Lovelace noted that it would be helpful to look at data about services used after release, to inform an understanding of needs and consider effective connections to those needs, particularly during a time of transition, like release from jail. This type of review is in line with efforts the Jail has already undertaken to explore overdose deaths after release.

8. House Bill 1745—Samantha Murphy

Samantha Murphy provided a brief update to meeting participants regarding the State passing legislation to provide tuition waiver, liaisons in education institutions, student support programs, and other supports to those with a history of foster care placement so they have a better chance of post-secondary.

Following the meeting, Ms. Murphy shared the following links:

- PA Juvenile Law Center information and fact sheets: <https://jlc.org/resources/higher-education->

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[success-youth-foster-care-hb-1745-fact-sheets](#)

- [Directory of campus programs](#) that are in place NOW to support people who are in foster care or who have had experience in foster care

9. Public Comment

- The 10th Annual McGinley-Rice Symposium on Social Justice for Vulnerable Populations “The Face of the Person Who is Homeless” is taking place October 17-18, and the deadline for registration is Friday, October 11th. You can find details here:
<https://www.duq.edu/academics/schools/nursing/events/mcginley-rice-symposium>
- The City of Pittsburgh has begun the process of creating its Five-Year Consolidated Plan and its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. This process is necessary to receive Federal funds for the CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA programs, which the City uses to assist low- and moderate-income persons with housing, social services, homeless care, and community facility improvements. Every five years, the City conducts interviews with service providers and persons who work with low- and moderate-income people to find the needs of the community and create a list of priorities for the allocation of CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA funds over the next five years. Many HAB and CoC members have been invited to participate in a discussion of the needs of persons experiencing homelessness on Wednesday, October 23rd. We encourage your participation. If you have any questions, please contact Brandon Wilson, of Urban Design Ventures (the consultant agency writing the Five Year Consolidate Plan) at brandon@urbandesignventures.com.

Next CoC Meeting

November 26, 2020 from 10:00am to 12:00pm
1 Smithfield Street, Lower Level

Appendix A
Infrastructure Organization Update



Allegheny County
Department of
Human Services

Infrastructure Organization Report

September 2019



HUD Application

	Funding	Units	Beds
PSH	\$ 13,268,712	1036	1753
RRH	\$ 4,994,605	353	591
SSO	\$ 68,761		
HMIS	\$ 351,192		
UFA	\$ 622,015		
Planning	\$ 622,015		
Reallocated SSO Expansion	\$ 512,582		
Bonus RRH	\$ 256,386	20	20
Bonus PSH	\$ 492,371	32	68
Total	\$ 21,188,639	1441	2432

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program - \$3.49 million

- Engage partners including housing providers, local and state child welfare agencies, school districts, workforce development organizations, and the juvenile justice system
- Convene Youth Action Boards to lead the planning and implementation
- Assess needs of populations at higher risk of experiencing homelessness
- Create a coordinated community plan
- Propose innovative projects and test new approaches to address youth homelessness

Centering Lived Experience

“Initiatives to address the needs of homeless people need to be informed by those with lived experience.”

Allegheny County Strategic Plan to End Homelessness

“Engage people with lived experience through advisory committees and policy and planning processes ... to ensure meaningful opportunities for providing expert advice and input.”

Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Research

- HUD
- HAB members
- Individuals with lived experience
- Youth Action Board
- Technical Assistance
- Other CoCs

Best Practices in Inclusion of Lived Experience

- Engaged in planning, programming, and evaluation of CoC services
 - Multiple levels of engagement
 - Formal strategy for regular, meaningful input
-

Recommendation

- Establish a Lived Experience Subcommittee of the HAB

Shelter Strategy



Low-Barrier Shelter



Winter Shelter



Strategy

Low-Barrier Shelter RFP

Purpose:

- 50 year-round beds
- Day program
- Overflow winter shelter beds

CoC Changes

	Year-round Beds	Day Program	Winter Overflow
Light of Life	X	X	
Wood Street Commons & H20	L		
HAP Crisis Beds	L		
Wellspring		X	
\$1,500,000 OUD/Housing Grant	L		

L = Low-barrier focus

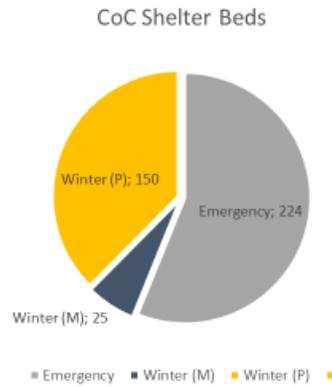
H20 Outcomes

	# of Valid cases	% at Intake Window	% at 6-Month Follow-Up interview	Rate of Change	Direction of Change
Abstinence: Did not use alcohol or illegal drugs	225	31.6%	48.0%	52.1%	↑
Crime & Criminal Justice: Had no past 30 days arrests	225	93.3%	97.8%	4.8%	↑
Employment/Education: Were currently employed or attending school	225	10.7%	17.3%	62.5%	↑
Health/Behavioral/Social Consequences: Experienced no alcohol or illegal drug-related health, behavioral and social consequences	219	83.1%	93.2%	12.1%	↑
Social Connectedness: Were socially connected	224	69.6%	71.9%	3.2%	↑
Stability in housing: Had a permanent place to live in the community	225	23.6%	70.6%	200.0%	↑

Current Focus

- Winter Overflow
 - Increasing availability of shelter beds by increasing flow **out** of shelter
-

How many beds do we usually have?



Who needs winter shelter beds?

	UNSHELTERED	EMERG. SHELTERS	Safe Havens	TOTAL
January 2019	48	359	7	414
January 2018	56	323	6	385
January 2017	53	406	22	481
January 2016	48	271	54	373
January 2015	38	308	69	415

	UNSHELTERED	EMERG. SHELTERS	Safe Havens	TOTAL
July 2019	185	221	7	463
July 2018	137	201	4	342
July 2017	205	225	23	453

How frequently are winter shelter beds used?

Total nights of stay (cumulative), Pittsburgh SWES 2017-18

Number of Nights	# of Clients	% of Clients
1 or 2 nights	301	35%
up to 7 nights	489	57%
up to 14 nights	610	71%
up to 21 nights	665	78%
up to 28 nights	717	84%
up to 35 nights	752	88%
up to 42 nights	777	91%
up to 49 nights	794	93%
up to 110 nights	857	100%

Most people using the SWES appear to be transient:

- More than a third of both men and women in 2017-18 stayed only one or two nights
- 57% stayed 7 nights or fewer
- Only 10% (80 people) stayed at least 42 nights out of the 120 nights it was open.
- Only 14% had uninterrupted stays of 2 or more days.

Pittsburgh Winter Shelter Nightly Occupancy

	2017-2018			2018-2019		
	Average	Max	Min	Average	Max	Min
Total	98	146	12	96	146	33
Female	19	32	1	17	32	2
Male	78	118	5	79	119	25

Number of years enrolled in SWES/Winter Shelter since 2009	Number of clients	% of all clients ever enrolled in SWES/Winter Shelter	Number enrolled in both 2017-18 and 2018-19
1	2973	83%	0
2	410	12%	105
3	115	3.2%	46
4	41	1.2%	23
5	21	0.6%	15
6	2	0.1%	2
Total	3562		191

How might we have enough beds this winter?

Winter Shelter team meeting regularly since April 2019. Options explored:

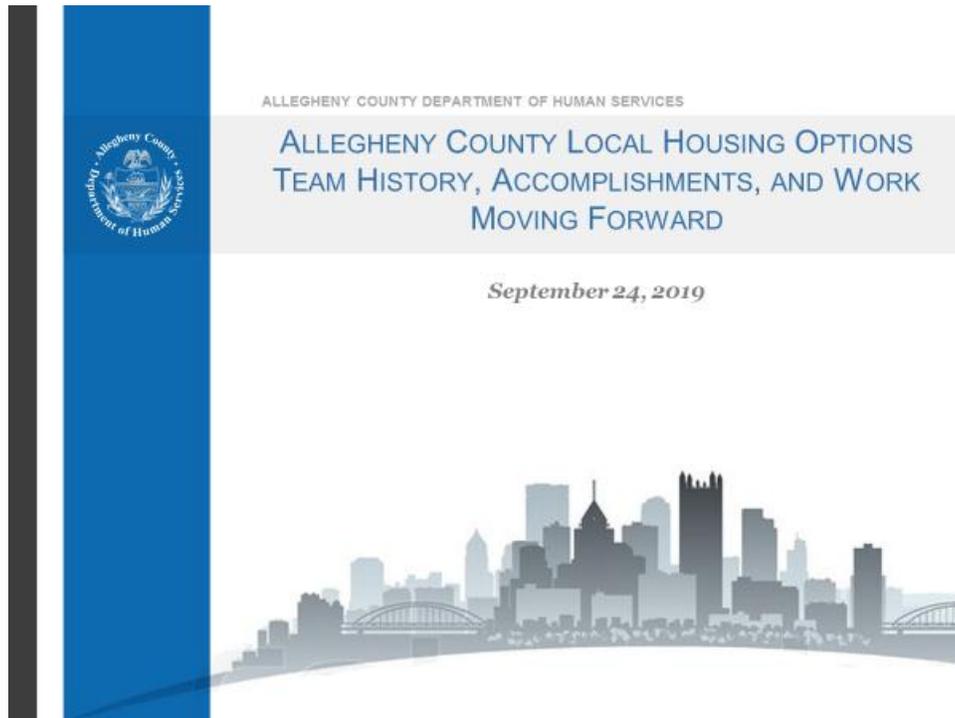
- Bring Smithfield United up to permit standards
- Operate at other churches (Catholic Diocese, Bishop, Downtown Ministerium, East End Cooperative Ministries, Christian Associates of Southwestern PA)
- Add capacity to existing shelters (Light of Life, EECM, Pleasant Valley, Bethlehem Haven, McKeesport, Salvation Army)
- Privately owned buildings (HSB, Mercy, Catholic Charities, Pittsburgh Project, available real estate)
- Out of the box ideas (Sprung structure, suburban locations with transportation)
- City Good Samaritan law/executive order exempting church(es) from occupancy permit
- Decrease demand

Winter Shelter Strategy

- Utilize existing shelter space at Smithfield United (27 beds) & Shepherd's Heart (80 beds) = 107 low-barrier shelter beds
 - Maximize capacity in existing shelters and housing programs
 - Utilize PHARE funding to hold 40 SROs for long-stayers and individuals referred by Street Outreach/Field Staff (H20 model)
 - Provide intensive case management in shelter/SROs
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Appendix B Local Housing Options Team



HISTORY OF LHOT

The Allegheny County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT) is a diverse group of both housing and service provider professionals who meet monthly to encourage collaborative housing projects and planning activities that advance the creation and preservation of safe, affordable and accessible housing for all. The LHOT officially came into being on April 6, 2004. It grew directly out of Allegheny County Department of Human Services' Housing Planning Group which had begun meeting four years earlier in 2000.

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REGULAR ATTENDEES

- Pittsburgh HUD Field Office Staff
- PA Housing Finance Agency
- Allegheny County Economic Development
- Housing Alliance of PA
- Housing Authorities
- Allegheny County DHS Program Offices (OBH, OID, AAA, CYF, OCS, Link)
- Non profit service providers
- Advocates

ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Sponsored a Housing Forum
- Initiated Incubator Groups
 - Eviction Prevention
 - Affordable Housing Preservation
 - Landlord Education and Outreach
 - Deaf and Deaf/Blind Housing Development
 - Shallow Rent
- Advocated for the Section 8 Homeownership Program
- Won passage of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Visitability Ordinances
- Local Lead Agency and HUD 811 Implementation

ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

NEW INITIATIVES

- **People with Criminal Backgrounds**
- **Managed Care Organizations and Intersection between Health Care and Housing**
- **Mobility Counseling**
- **HAB Strategic Plan to Increase Affordable Housing**
 - Preservation
 - Production
 - Reducing Evictions and Displacements
 - Efficient Use of Existing Affordable Units
 - Incentivizing the Private Market

Appendix C
Data Review: Transitioning From Institutions to Homelessness



Allegheny County
Department of
Human Services

Data Review: Transitioning from Institutions to Homelessness

Andy Halfhill
Manager of Homeless/Housing Analytics



Data Sources and Limitations

HMIS (project entry)	Allegheny County Data Warehouse
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clients provide <u>self-reported</u> information to service providers, <u>at intake</u>, about where they slept <u>the night before</u> entering the program• Includes 22 response options that fall into 3 categories:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• homeless situation• <u>institutional situation</u>• transitional and permanent housing situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contains service data from multiple sources that can be classified as “institutions”• Services data more accurate than self-reported client information, but some sources only include publicly funded services (i.e. Medicaid funded).

HMIS analysis parameters

- Institutional settings include:
 - Foster care/foster care group home
 - Hospital/other residential non-psychiatric medical facility
 - Jail/prison/juvenile detention facility
 - Long-term care facility/nursing home
 - Psychiatric hospital/other psychiatric facility
 - Substance abuse treatment facility/detox center

- Homeless services analyzed
 - Street Outreach
 - Emergency shelter
 - Permanent housing (rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing)

- Domestic violence programs do not participate in HMIS

*Includes all entries during time period, including multiple entries by same client

HMIS data: Providing Context



Entering street outreach*	2016	2017	2018
total entries into program	393	682	872
total entries from <u>any institution</u>	3	29	26
% entries from <u>any institution</u>	<1%	4%	3%



Entering emergency shelter*	2016	2017	2018
total entries into program	2547	3640	3223
total entries from <u>any institution</u>	103	166	179
% entries from <u>any institution</u>	4%	5%	6%



Entering permanent housing*	2016	2017	2018
total entries into program	945	1342	1152
total entries from <u>any institution</u>	54	37	17
% entries from <u>any institution</u>	6%	3%	1%

HMIS deeper dive: Street Outreach

In 2018, of the 26 entries into a street outreach program from an institution....

- 0 came from foster care setting
 - 22 came from hospital setting
 - 0 came from jail setting
 - 0 came from long term care setting
 - 2 came from psychiatric facility setting
 - 2 came from substance abuse facility setting
-

HMIS deeper dive: Emergency Shelters

In 2018, of the 179 entries into emergency shelters from an institution....

- 4 came from foster care setting
 - 40 came from hospital setting
 - 72 came from jail setting
 - 5 came from long term care setting
 - 26 came from psychiatric facility setting
 - 32 came from substance abuse facility setting
-

HMIS deeper dive: Permanent Housing

In 2018, of the 17 entries into permanent housing from an institution...

- 1 came from foster care setting
- 3 came from hospital setting
- 2 came from jail setting
- 0 came from long term care setting
- 4 came from psychiatric facility setting
- 7 came from substance abuse facility setting

Data Warehouse analysis parameters

- Institutional settings include:
 - Allegheny County Jail
 - Mental health residential programs
 - Mental health inpatient treatment programs
 - DHS child welfare (CYF) programs
 - Analyzed homeless program entries in calendar year 2018 to determine if a person had involvement in one of these institutional settings in the month prior to entering street outreach, emergency shelter and/or permanent housing
-

Data Warehouse analysis results

Institutional setting	# of program entries in 2018	% of program entries in 2018
Allegheny County Jail	207	5.8%
Mental health residential programs	6	0.2%
Mental health inpatient treatment programs*	51	1.4%
Child welfare (CYF) programs	18	0.5%

**July 2018 – June 2019*
