**Butler Collaborative for Families**

**February 13, 2020**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mandy and all members were asked to introduce themselves, after which John McCool recited our mission.
2. Approval of January Meeting Minutes: accepted without amendments.
3. Celebration Moments
   1. Neighborhood Legal: one of their clients has been housed in the Lighthouse Foundation’s Transitional Living program.
   2. Howie (HBC): a situation discussed last month regarding a transitional age youth needing housing was successfully resolved.
   3. Jean Bowen: HBC had a washer and dryer available and she was able to them to someone in need.
   4. Carl the Idea Guy: Thanked people who brought guests with them to the BCF meeting.
   5. Mandy (Care Center): used Bulldog to get shirts for her son’s team and said that the price was good and the service was great!
4. Professional Recourses
   1. The Butler Collaborative for Families: Agency Collaboration page is up and running. This is a private group that requires admin. approval to join. Members must be associated with a social service agency or non-profit. This is to be used for ongoing collaboration outside of the BCF meeting.
   2. Fig and Wally: developed by a local cardiologist. You can send invitations for children’s birthday parties and other events that encourage monetary donations that will go towards the child’s savings, experiences, a charity, etc in lieu of toys or other gifts. If your organization uses Fig and Wally you will get an organization code. When someone uses your organization code your organization will get $50.00.
   3. There is an upcoming training on how to make your agency’s services welcoming to LGBTQ individuals. Information will be sent via email.
   4. There is an app called “Just Serve” that connects people who are interested in volunteering to services opportunities in their area. There is a local Butler representative you can contact to have your organization added to the app. It can be used for one-time events or ongoing opportunities. This app is FREE!!
   5. NAMI has new support groups in the area. Visit [www.namibutler.org](http://www.namibutler.org) or talk to Carl the Idea Guy for more information.
   6. Bethany Christian Services reminded the BCF about SWAN post-permanency services. This program is for anyone who has adopted or awarded permanent custody of a child. Services include support groups and respite care. Sign-up for the service can be done online.
5. Grant Opportunities
   1. The Butler Bar Association grant applications are due by February 28, 2020.
   2. The United Way grant applications are due by March 9, 2020.
6. Fundraiser
   1. Howie announced that the Vagabond Drum Corps will be holding a fundraiser and would like to split the proceeds 50/50 with the BCF. The only contingency is that the funds be used to directly help the community (ex: Bed for Every Head). They cannot be used by an agency for programing.
   2. BCF members were asked to start thinking of how this money could be used.
   3. Keep an eye out for an email with details on how to apply for this funding.
7. Membership Update
   1. There are currently 36 paid members, this is down from last year by 20.
   2. Membership dues will be accepted until February 29, 2020. Organizations who have not paid by then will lose their member benefits. Payments can be made online at the BCF website through PayPal.
8. Subcommittee/Ad-HOC Committee Reports
   1. Detailed reports were provided in the agenda. Any additional information is below.
      1. Butler County Prevention Council: Focus has been on the Front Porch Project. There will be a new facilitator training in June, more information on this will be coming soon.
9. Presentation- Dwayne Lehman, US Census
   1. The Decennial Census is coming!!!!!
   2. This time the Census can be completed online, by phone, or mailed in.
   3. All information is protected by Title 13. This means that the information collected in the Census cannot be shared with any other federal or state organization, even if they try to get a court order!
   4. Participating is important for funding in your state:
      1. Each person in PA who completes the Census is worth about $1,200.00 in federal funding.
      2. 80% of people in Butler County typically complete the Census, which means 20% are NOT completing it- this results in PA getting 20% less funding.
   5. The Census also impacts the number of seats your state has in the Senate and House of Representatives.
   6. Workers are needed in the area to work for the Census:
      1. People can work between 20-40 hours a week and make around $16.00-$18.50 an hour.
      2. You must be 18 years old, be a US citizen, and pass a background check.
      3. Applicants can apply at 2020census.gov/jobs
      4. Selection of workers will be made between now and mid-March.
   7. Focus will be on populations that have been historically difficult to count:
      1. Families with children under five years old.
      2. Households at or below the poverty level, including transient individuals.
      3. College students.
      4. Foreign individuals.
      5. Group living populations (people in jail, hospitals, senior centers, etc.)
   8. Timeline:
      1. March 12/13, 2020: Everyone will receive a notice in the mail about completing the Census
      2. April 1, 2020: Second notice
      3. April 15, 2020: Third notice and paper copy of Census
      4. Those who do not complete the Census after the third notice can expect a knock on their door from their local, friendly, Census worker ☺
10. Agency Announcements
    1. Jean Bowen: The Twilight Wish fundraiser is coming up on February 20, 2020 from 5:30pm-8:30pm at the Back Alley at the 11th Frame Bar & Grill. Tickets are a $10 donation. There will be raffle baskets, 50/50, and cash bar. All money stays in Butler County!
    2. Butler VA: Two events coming up: 1) Military Share is March 9, 2020 at the National Guard Armory. This event provides food for military families. 2) I am Not Invisible is on February 29, 2020 from 9:00am-2:00pm at the VA. This is an event is a photo shoot to raise awareness and dialogue around women veterans.
    3. The Inn Maternity Home: Has openings! Can take women under 18 (ages 15-30).
    4. Cranberry YMCA: Mental Health Speaker Series: The Relationship between body image, social media, and eating disorders. February 27, 2020 from 6:00pm-8:00pm.
    5. Cranberry Municipal Center is holding an event for transitional age youth on March 21, 2020.
    6. There is a cultural fair being held in Cranberry on the first Saturday in April.
    7. HUD: there are vacancies at Deshon Place and at Greystone Manor in Slippery rock (55+). Please contact HUD to apply. They are also building a duplex in Slippery Rock and are looking for families. Section 8 vouchers will be accepted.
    8. Bethany is holding an awareness and recruitment event for foster families on April 10, 2020 at 10:00am at the Tanglewood Center in Lyndora.
    9. Dollar Bank: Currently offering a $400.00 checking account offer. Please let them know if you would like to put their brochure at your organization or business.
    10. VITA: Open and scheduling appointments. Call CCR to schedule.
    11. Girl Scouts: The Butler troops rely on money from cookie sales to fund membership for low income families. Please be kind to the girls selling cookies!
    12. Howie (HBC): Ales for Athletes is a fundraiser for the Special Olympics. It will be held on April 4, 2020
    13. Howie (HBC): Bed for Every Head provides beds for individuals and families in need. It was discovered that agencies were accessing this program even though there were discretionary funds at the agencies that could have been used. Bed for Every Head is intended to be used as a last resort. Changes will be made to ensure other funding that can be used first is not available. There will also be measures taken to ensure that the beds are not going to a home that has an ongoing infestation.
    14. Strike Out Child Abuse annual event will be held on April 5, 2020.
    15. The Resource and Recovery Block Party is being held on May 16, 2020. Please contact Roy Ramone for more information.
    16. Bulldog: Jim distributed checks to agencies and the BCF.
    17. United Way: a spring mixer is taking place on March 12, 2020 at the Marriott in Cranberry. It is dedicated to Women’s History Month and women in philanthropy.
11. Misc.
    1. Idea to change the general membership meeting to 10:00am-12:00pm (11:30am-12:00pm networking time) was announced.
12. Next Meeting: March 12 at 9:30am. Red Chimney Hall, Monarch Place.