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**General Membership Meeting**

**Date: January 12th, 2022 10:00a.m.-11:30am**

**VIA ZOOM**

The mission of the Butler Collaborative for Families is to build a unified and integrated network of services by using a multiple-agency approach to break down barriers and strengthen the system of care for individuals and families of Butler County.

1. Welcome and Introductions
   1. Becky opened the meeting and had everyone put their information in the chat and the executive board to introduce themselves.
2. Feedback from Holiday Huddle
   1. It was a successful event.  We made connections with others to help those who we serve.
   2. It was nice to be with people in person.  We came home with a lot of contacts.
   3. Thanks for supporting the Wise Guys Grant initiative. –Lorna
   4. Breakout session that had to do with struggles facing the schools. Things that are manifesting in the schools. Great engagement and brainstorming happened.  We now have a strong commitment from over a dozen people to form an aggressive task force to support the schools and develop a plan to help with the problems that were discussed.  A small sub group was formed to steer this task force. A small group will help provide the framework for the larger group to work on.  Anyone wants to be part of this, please contact Howie Dittman at [helpingbutlercounty@gmail.com](mailto:helpingbutlercounty@gmail.com).
   5. Thanks Howie, Cindy, Ken, Donna, and Becky for putting together a great Holiday Huddle. –Josh
3. Membership Update.
   1. Everything we do is to help improve the quality of life to everyone around Butler County. Membership is still open at the time.  People can join meeting, but there are benefits to joining the membership. Go to [www.butlerfamilies.com](http://www.butlerfamilies.com). We plug events for our BCF members. Minigrant opportunities and other opportunities for the year. 2021 membership ended and please renew by March 1.
4. Guest Speakers: Amy Franz (Butler Region Director, United Way SWPA), Jesse Sprachar (Director of Regional Impact Initiatives, United Way SWPA) , and Cinda Watkins (211 Senior Director)
   1. District of United Way-Allegheny, Armstrong, Westmoreland, Fayette, and Butler County
   2. Slideshow will be made available after the presentation, if requested.
   3. Strategic Framework: Continuing to meet the needs of our community, organizing purposely around solutions, rededicating ourselves to equity for all.
   4. Equitable opportunities, utilizing different and diverse voices, dealing with challenging and complex problems, collaboration, creating meaningful donor engagements, and acting deliberately and intentionally.
   5. We need to help people meet basic needs, move toward financial stability, and building a success in school and life. These three pillars are used for our grants.
   6. A lot of focus has been on meeting basic needs pillar over the past 20+ months. Thanks for everyone that has been working with us as we meet these needs.
   7. Meeting Basic Needs: We’ve helped a lot with utility assistance, shelter, food needs, etc.
   8. Move Toward Financial Stability: Helping get people out of crisis modes so they can move forward. Job programs, family strengthening programs, etc.
   9. Building a success in school and life: Anything we do to help set our children and families up for a successful life. We connect with early childcare providers and school districts. We work with ECEC. We help provide resources, work
   10. 59 partners out of Allegheny County and 56 partners in Allegheny County.
   11. We have a lot of people that also do a lot of volunteering to help meet the basic needs as well.
   12. Being at these meetings helps us take your issues and find ways that we can help you.
   13. 211 network
       1. Available 24/7, 365 days a year. Calls are free and anonymous. We will ask questions that help get them to the most accurate referrals. We do this so we do not send them to a service that they are not available for.  They can text zip code to 898-211, call 211, or chat on 211 website. They can also do self-service on the website.
       2. We not only connect with people but we also have many special projects.  We are a homeless coordinated entry point.  We do tax preparation sign ups, holiday program registrations that helps relieve some strain from all the calls coming through the agency.  We play a critical role in disaster response with the pandemic and weather related.  We assisted with vaccine registrations, covid related questions, etc. We are an easy point to reach out to in order to direct to the correct people.
       3. 211 also collects data about most pressing needs in the community. We play a systemic role. We encourage people to reach out before reaching out to agencies. We can collect data that can be used to update the database, use data for funding, and helping community programs.
       4. All of information being collected is being compiled into http://pa.211counts.org. You can search by Butler County, zip codes, districts, etc.
       5. We have had a 70% increase from 2019 to 2021. Food pantry questions have gone down due to it becoming so public since the pandemic. Less people need to contact.
       6. You can help us by making sure information is in the database and it is correct. Maybe you know another agency not in the database. Help us get update information. You go onto our website to submit your information. You can hit Get listed, request password, or service provider login depending on whether you are listed or not already. You will be added once everything is approved. Email if you need help.  https://pa211sw.org/service-providers/
       7. We can only get people where they need to go if it is updated in our database, so please make sure you update your information.  We often find out things have changed from follow ups with our clients.
   14. Questions? If anyone is interested in more in depth conversations, they can join a breakout room at the end of the meeting.
   15. Do you include house of worship? Yes if they provide services that help.
   16. What can the BCF do to help facilitate some up to date information? You will receive a yearly request.  Agencies are expected to update information if you are part of the United Way.  If BCF can give quarterly reminders to tell people to update information in 211.
   17. That PA 211 Counts website is a great resource.
   18. In breakout room can you discuss difference of 211 and CCR.
5. Subcommittee Reports

Budget and Finance Committee – Janet Arida

Restricted:  7912            Non-Restricted:      32072       Total:     39984

Marketing Committee–  Howie  Dittman

The Marketing Committee in collaboration with Butler County Young Professionals is excited to announce two professional mixers: 3/3/22 Recon Brewing and 10/6/22 Missing Links Brewery.  This is an unstructured opportunity for BCF members to meet and build relationships with business professionals around Butler County.  Appetizers are provided and registration requested.  More information to come.

We are going to become more deliberate about what events we are having and when we have them earlier than the month before. We will have a proposal of dates for events next year.

If you have a passion for event plan, please join this committee.

Resource and Development Committee – Dr. Elan Welter-Lewis

If you or your organization would like to partner on a training for the community, please contact Dr. Elan Welter-Lewis at 724-284-9440.  Several training offerings to be announced soon.

1. Partnering Collaborative Updates:

Butler County Prevention Council (BCPC)– Amanda Feltenberger

The BCPC met last on October 21.  Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20 at 10am (via Zoom).  We finalized our community survey which is now being distributed.  The purpose of the survey is to gather input that will help us understand needs within our community in terms of child abuse prevention. This information will guide planning for programs, resources, trainings and other community events. If you have not already completed the survey, we ask that you please take a few minutes to do so at [https://bit.ly/3jrXbrd](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F3jrXbrd&data=04%7C01%7Clsouthworth%40ccrinfo.org%7C0e27859bdf254130c35108d99d663cbe%7C49a4ed8494cc4443b46739c1834af2ec%7C0%7C0%7C637713884692949654%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=IG0M7UIGSjQMXaIyPeRBwSjAyrtjjlUWNVyBynb624Q%3D&reserved=0) .

Butler County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT) – Allyson Rose

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. These counts are conducted nation-wide and planned, coordinated and carried out locally. Data collected during the PIT count is critical to effective planning and performance management toward the goal of ending homelessness for each community and for the nation as a whole.

The Local Housing Options Team is currently planning to have a street outreach team conduct a night count  at both 12am on January 27th and an early morning count at 6am on January 27th in an attempt to reach unsheltered homeless individuals and families.

1. Open forum on Service Gaps, Resource Needs, and Community Needs
2. Request for input regarding truancy services, feedback and information needed! In PA, habitual truancy can become a matter that gets CYS involved. We usually see three trends. Failure in communication between family and school. They talk to family and school and move on. Parents who value education but struggle at setting expectations to get their children to school.  These situations we usually have tools to help in these case. The third category is referrals for parents that do not see the value in education.  These are the tough cases that we have to do because of some guidelines that have changed. Thinking about starting a parent educational group. This way we can work with them about the value of education, literacy program, and GED completion. We are thinking targeting parents will help the children.  We are looking for a curriculum or someone who wants to help us build a curriculum.  Please reach out to me. Aaron Williams - Butler County Children & Youth: [Awilliam@co.butler.pa.us](mailto:Awilliam@co.butler.pa.us) (Email does not have “s”)
   1. If you are having success, some of the schools have not been reporting the same. KPI=Key Performance Indicator have not shown this. I’d be interested in talking to you about what the successes are.  It is very rare to make a connection and have a successful case closure. When we talk success, we mean we have an arsenal of tools to be able to make that success.
   2. Moniteau was sharing the increase of Elementary truancy.  There is a large increase up there that they are seeing.  We need to value early childhood education too, so they value education before kindergarten. What can we do to help communities value education.

1. Grant Opportunities
2. The 2021 Butler County Bar Association Foundation Grant Application is now available on the BCBA website. Deadline for submissions is 5:00 PM on Monday, February 28 2022. You can access the application via the following link:  <https://butlercountypabar.org/bcba_foundation>

1. Kudos and Agency Updates
   1. Ken-BC3 Community Initiative Departments. Hope is Dope professional series, Feb. 1, 5, 18th Tuesdays. Facilitate by Steve Treu who wrote the book in Cranberry. Reach out to me for information. Feb 7, 10 week session starts for those in recovery. Program is free, but financial qualifications 200% or below poverty line. Steve has been very successful with this program.
   2. Jean Bowen-Vita program. Tuesday 18th will start doing appointment reservations. The 26th in Butler. We will be doing drop off and pick-ups only. Just have them call us if they meet the needs.
   3. Allen-PAC-we had a client doing well and he slipped and is in Uniontown rehab now. He assumed there would be social supports there as what he was accustomed to here. There isn’t a broad range there as there is here. He’s back in prison due to breaking into a boat to stay warm when he was homeless. Butler County is remarkable.
2. Next Meeting:  February 10th, 2022
3. Adjournment of Membership Meeting Janet/Allen/Howie
4. Open Networking/Additional Questions for Speakers (Breakout Rooms Provided) 11:30am-12:00pm

**Attendance and Contact Info from Chat**

Becky Clouse -BMH 724-284-6207

Amy Franz United Way

Jesse Sprajcar, United Way, Jesse.Sprajcar@unitedwayswpa.org

Maizee Zaccone - Outreach and Volunteer Advocate for VOICe - maizee@voiceforvictims.com

Sheila Talarico - Glade Run stalarico@gladerun.org

Christy Bryan, Catholic Charities, PSH Housing Case Manager

Julie Thumma, Lifesteps/Butler Co Early Care & Educatio Council jthumma@lifesteps.net

Allen Kitchen - PAC-Min as well as DSSC Solutions Co, 412-295-7763 text or call at any time

Caitlin Painter, BCF Secretary, caitlinjo@gmail.com

Amy Cirelli, BCHS acirelli@butler.co.pa.us

Katlyn Walsh, LPC - Wellness Works Counseling - kwalsh@wellnessworks-counseling.com

Janet Arida Highmark Caring Place 724-246-4438

Scott “Howie” Dittman helpingbutlercounty@gmail.com

Konieczny-Early Learning Resource Center. kkonieczny@earlylearningconnections.org

Julie Stock representing Brittany Gilfillan for PA Link and BCAAoA

Watkins - 211 Southwest - cinda.watkins@unitedwayswpa.org

Lorna Gavin Aging Gracefully, BCF Senior Community Representative 724-602-9559 lorna.aging.gracefully@gmail.com

Aaron Williams - Butler County Children & Youth Awilliam@co.butler.pa.us

Kaeleen, prevention education advocate for VOICE and vice co chair of the BCF. Kaeleen@voiceforvictims.com

Chris Ebner, Fishing For Memories, Inc. fishing4memories@zoominternet.net

Kortney McConnell , kmcconnell@familypathways.net

: Donna Lamison, NAMI Butler dlamison@namibutler.org

Jean Bowen and Tim Kramer Center for Community Resources-VITAProgram

Jill McDonald, Early Intervention Coordinator 0-3, Butler County Human Services

Emily Snow, Family Engagement/Enrollment Director Early Learning Connections

Barbara Rugh- Blind Association of Butler & Armstrong Social worker

Dr. Jennifer Bindernagel The Blind Association of Butler and Armstrong

Matt Zarit, Adjunct Professor of Nonprofit Management, Slippery Rock University, matthew.zarit@sru.edu

Mara Flick - Housing Authority of the County of Butler

Jessica Burr, Clinical Director for Reach and Rise Group Youth Mentoring program through the Butler County YMCA.

Jessica Reed, Outreach Manager for CCR and Fiduciary for the BCF jreed@ccrinfo.org

Joshua Strelbicki, Assistant Director and Forensic Interviewer, Children's Advocacy Center for Butler County. jstrelbicki@butlercountycac.org; 724-431-3689

Kelly Bowman, Housing Counselor, Housing Authority of the County of Butler

Lee Ann Hune The Lighthouse Foundation Ministry and Volunteer Coordinator lhune@thelighthousefoundation.com 725-903-0064

Kayla Smith, Director, Karns City Communities That Care

Ken Clowes, BC3 Community Initiatives - Hope is Dope Kenneth.clowes@bc3.edu

Mandy Geibel, Supervisor of the Mental Health Association and BCF past chair