

Carbon Collaborative Draft Minutes

January 8, 9-10 AM

January meeting is virtual only

[Click here to join the meeting](#) Meeting ID: 276 901 481 825 Passcode: 6iMxfo

1. Welcome
2. Approval of November meeting minutes: <https://cccfoundpa.org/collaborative-board/> - approved by Kerri Quick and Robyn Plesniarski
3. Treasurer Report: Lourdes Serrano (AHEC): 3,925.64 - approved by Sue Ziegler and Julie Mann
4. Speaker: no speaker to allow time to align
5. Old Business:
 - a. Carbon County Community Foundation (CCCF): Sharon Alexander: this year's grant cycle information <https://cccfoundpa.org/request-funding/>, or anyone with high school seniors, our scholarship applications will be opening next week and will be due March 1st. More info can be found here: <https://cccfoundpa.org/scholarships/>, [PPL Foundation is hosting an info session to go over their grant cycles and community support programs for the year. The webinar is on January 14th at 10am. Carbon County is in their service area so organizations are eligible for grants](#), Panther Valley Blueprint Community is hosting a free grant writing workshop on January 16th at 1pm in Coaldale. Sign up for the workshop here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSce3q8g1RP3yBCd5_94SbuqAyjvh5YSHi_GSzUqVGzNFsxxv9A/viewform
 - b. [Grandparents Raising Grandchildren supports](#) Wednesday's at 9:30; BHA still has the grandparents support group on the schedule, but it is only held as there is interest, and there hasn't been anyone in the near past. Julie Mann shared conference went well; 140 attended. Jill shared that Right from the Start has meetings as well. Carbon Area Agency on Aging has a reimbursement program for Grandparents raising grandchildren to assist them with the costs associated. Call 610-824-7830 for more information
 - c. Subcommittees
 - i. Homeless Task Force: Commissioner Nothstein and Cathy Lamm: next meeting 2/21, Point in Time (PIT) count is 1/22
 - ii. Transportation: Larissa Kimmel, next meeting is February 12, 2025
 - iii. Kids Zone: Jill Geissinger on behalf of Mindy Graver meet last Tuesday of the month. 26 attended car seat checks
 - iv. Early childcare education: status of existing services and connections
 - v. Literacy: Suzanne Smith: [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#), [Reach Out and Read/Brush, Book, Bed](#), [Talk-Read-Sing](#), [Palmerton Library Baby and Me](#)
6. New Business:
 - a. United Way Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Megan Astacio UW: 438 applications submitted; half of allotted funds have been spent; need to spend by 3/2025; Kristel Pinckney from Careerlink is going to reach out to Megan to connect families. St. Luke's Community Health will further connect Megan as needed Carbon County ERAP- Megan Astacio- Housing Stability Coordinator, Megana@unitedwayglv.org For detailed information about the program, please visit our FAQ page [Carbon County ERAP - United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley \(unitedwayglv.org\)](#). Application is available through the apply now link.
 - b. 2025 Annual Human Services Breakfast will be April 4, 2025, tentative Location: American Legion
 - i. Panel/Theme: Carbon County Connections to Essential Health Services (Dental, Children & Families, Aging, Digital Wellness/Literacy)
7. Self-introductions and agency reports (below)
 - a. Chat updates: chat updates can be placed in meeting chat and then saved into minutes
 - b. Email updates to Secretary and include "Carbon Interagency Collaborative" in title
 - c. Post community event flyer on CCCF Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/covid19.carbon/>
8. Next meeting: March 12, 2025

28 attendees:

John Nespoli, St. Luke's Carbon Campuses President: flu and RSV spreading through the winter season. Emergency Room visits high, Behavioral Health walk in center is a step down from crisis ages 14 and up; crisis is emergency room, Victory for Veterans providing support; Kristel from Career Link requested information on BH services, Sue Ziegler requested information on vaccines, St. Luke's Carbon Community Health Liaison Suzanne Smith will drop off

Amber Zuber, LCCC hiring FTE, LCCC Tamaqua is hiring a full time Enrollment Generalist/Financial Aid Specialist <https://www.lccc.edu/about/employment/financial-aid-enrollment-generalist-morgan-site-tamaqua/> LCCC Tamaqua received a grant from Schuylkill Community Foundation in support of the EMT program. 3/17/2025-8/11/2025: 6:30-9:30 p.m, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays <https://www.lccc.edu/job-training-personal-interest/> Classes begin January 24th; students can apply online: <https://www.lccc.edu/admissions/how-to-become-a-student/> Free GED/ESL Classes at Morgan in partnership with the Schuylkill Lifelong Learning Center: <https://www.iu29.org/Page/87>

Andrea Neagle, Catholic Charities: hired a peer support specialist for homeless veteran support program

Ashley Highland, MHDS: hold on targeted case management; intensive case management – hiring

Larissa Kimmel, Systems of Care: hiring CAMS (Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicide) suicide prevention coordinator, training outpatient providers

Jill Geisinger, Children & Youth: 83 dependent children; hired 5 staff managers, in need of case aids (HS diploma)

Bill Getz, CareerLink Veterans, Kristel Pinckney, Angela Fazio, Ben Winn, CareerLink: will connect with Andrea and Rob Brands to align for veteran supports, Carbon CareerLink- Kristel Pinckney/WIOA caseworker, Carbon CareerLink office has an updated website: [PA CareerLink® Carbon County](#), If anyone has job openings in Carbon County or the surrounding area please share them with Angie Fazio at anfazio@pa.gov or kpinkney@carboncareerlink.org

Byran Cohen, Catherine Bogdnaski, Julianna Rodrigues LVCIL: Coordinator of Accessibility and Related Programs Lehigh Valley Center For Independent Living (LVCIL) [Lvcil Jobs, Employment in Allentown, PA | Indeed.com](#), I am the Community Inclusion for Young Children Project Coordinator at Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living. We are a statewide program funded through the DDC. We hold monthly parent support group meetings in person and via Zoom. We also offer one on one meetings for parents and aim to connect parents with other parents. Our upcoming parent support group meeting is January 21st at 9AM at the Lehigh Valley International Airport. This will involve a tour of the airport and an opportunity to go through TSA and more! Registration is required for this event. my email is juliannarodrigues@LVCIL.org or communityinclusion@LVCIL.org

Cathy Lamm, Family Promise: no census on emergency shelters yet, will call Ester to confirm shelters 3rd and north street and main road, Lansford.

Holly Dolan, Sol Rodriguez: Cancer education and outreach, service flyer; all information available in Spanish

Kim Minor, Regional Housing Coordinator with Inglis SDHP (Self-Determination Housing of Pennsylvania). My email is Kim.minor@inglis.org. I'd like to share the link to our housing related trainings for professionals, landlords and property managers. **We offer Continuing Education Credits for our 3-part PREP (Prepared Renter Education Program) at no cost** [Inglis SDHP Curriculum Catalog | Inglis](#)

Lauren Stracey, Maternal Health Services: regional committee members, family planning services English: [MFHS RHMC Application Survey](#), Spanish: [Solicitud de admisión a MFHS RHMC Survey](#)

Rob Nicolella, Carbon Housing Authority: no updates

Shawn Bariana, Volunteer Center of the LV: thank you to all those who supported holiday giving, October is the deadline for holiday giving 610-807-0336 x 103, Nonprofit training schedule begins in February. Trainings for nonprofit board members, potential board members, nonprofit leaders and volunteer engagement professionals. <https://www.volunteerlv.org/training> The 2nd annual Lehigh Valley Nonprofit Impact Conference will be November 6, 2025 at Wind Creek Event Center in Bethlehem. <https://www.volunteerlv.org/nonprofit-impact-conference>

Stacy Bonet: no response

Commissioner Nothstein: opioid funding for speaker and student education

Stacey EARN program is under Careerlink umbrella

Terry Knox Ramseur, TD Charitable Foundation Team about funding for homeownership programs. If you know of anyone who is doing this type of work in the community, feel free to pass it on. Thanks. Terry. <http://www.td.com/housingforeveryone>

Bryan, Catherine, GRECO, and Julianna added read.ai meeting notes to the meeting (recording enabled). Type 'read stop' to disable, or 'opt out' to delete meeting data. View Privacy Policy: <https://www.read.ai/pp>

Fiorella Salas Toledo, Amerihealth Caritas: Community Relations Representative with AmeriHealth Caritas CHC. We are Pennsylvania's mandatory managed care program for dually eligible (Medicaid and Medicare) individuals and individuals with physical disabilities. We offer services for people over the age of 21 and seniors. My role is to provide health and wellness education presentations such as diabetes, smoking cessations, Healthy Me and You, among others. We are always looking for opportunities to invest back into our communities through event sponsorship. I am able to provide education on AmeriHealth Caritas CHC to community-based organizations' internal staff. We have a Participant Advisory Committee meeting held quarterly where we inform our participants, providers and community-based organizations of topics affecting our CHC communities. It is a way to network as well. Please, feel free to reach out to me via email: fsalastoledo@amerihealthcaritas.com or phone number: 717-756-6224.

Robyn Plesniarski, LVHN: <https://go.activecalendar.com/lehighvalleyhealthnetwork/event/orthopedic-info-session-back-pain/>, <https://www.lvhn.org/news/lvhns-workshops-classes-and-support-groups-new-and-experienced-parents>, <https://www.lvhn.org/news/when-whooping-cough-becomes-worry>, <https://www.lvhn.org/conditions/covid-19-infection#:~:text=Wear%20a%20well%2Dfitting%20mask,Get%20tested%20for%20respiratory%20viruses>.

Kerri Quick, Suzanne Smith, Rosemarie Lister, St. Luke's Community Health: [Department of Community Health at St. Luke's](#), [DNA Answers | A Community Health Research Program](#), [Community Health Needs Assessment \(CHNA\)](#)

Please reach out to Rosemarie.Lister@sluhn.org with any clarifications and/or corrections

Thank you