

## Carbon Collaborative Minutes

January 14, 9-10 AM

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

1. Welcome: 41 attendees
2. Approval November meeting minutes: <https://cccfoundpa.org/collaborative-board/>
  - a. Approved by: Julie Mann, Amber Zuber
3. Treasurer Report: Lourdes Serrano (AHEC): \$4,504.74 reported in November 2025
  - a. Approved by: Jill Geisinger, Sharon Alexander
4. Old Business:
  - a. Carbon County Community Foundation (CCCF): Sharon Alexander (below)
  - b. [Grandparents Raising Grandchildren supports](#): caregivers support program with AAA to reimburse them for various cost associated, Mr. McAndrew, Emma and Kerri will share this resource with PVSD; Sue will send them flyers
  - c. Subcommittees:

**Homeless Task Force:** Commissioner Nothstein and Cathy Lamm: next meeting 1/16 at 9 am at the election office, two new warming centers open at Family Promise and Mahoney Center, Kim Miller Point in Time (PIT) count for sheltered and unsheltered survey is 1/21

**Transportation:** Larissa Kimmel; county mapping project identifies points where people may need to travel for work, necessities. They will layer over the transportation routes to see if it is meeting the need. Commissioners will meet with LANTA on extending services to the evening; will continue to evaluate updating the routes and options. Next meeting is today at 10:15

**Kids Zone:** Jill Geisinger on behalf of Mindy Graver: Nov car seat assisted 3 families, Kid Zone meeting is last Tuesday (1/27) of the month at C&Y and will plan for safety day

**Early childcare education:** status of existing services and connections: PathStone still accepting students and SHINE is back up and running

**Literacy:** [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#), [Reach Out and Read/Brush, Book, Bed](#), [Talk-Read-Sing](#), [Palmerton Library Baby and Me](#): FY25 Reach out and Read reached 1839 patients and DPIL reached 1388 children with 942 graduated

5. New Business:
  - a. 2026 Annual 17<sup>th</sup> Human Services Breakfast: April 10 at the American Legion in Lehighton, draft theme:  
***Recruiting the Next Generation:***
    - i. 2 scholarships both for \$500 for a student going into the health and human services field and someone 18-25 for workforce support (IT equipment, etc. to live and work in Carbon County)
    - ii. Looking at LCTI to work with local schools to make a video and share on CCCF FB or other Social Media platforms

6. Self-introductions and agency reports:
  - a. Chat updates: chat updates can be placed in meeting chat and then saved into minutes
  - b. Email clarifications/corrections/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/>

1. **CCCF:** 16 scholarships opened today and due 3/1/26, Jan 21 they partnered with NEPA for grant writing workshop at 911 Center in Nesquehoning, 1/23 hosting a grants info session for spring cycle opening, encouraged to attend if applying. Poc Mtn Visiting Bureau has grant available for those who promote tourism
2. **LCCC** (Amber Zuber): Part time position available for academic advisor; great for retired professional, classes begin 1/23 and have scholarship opportunities to cover up 90% of tuition
3. **Catholic Charities** (Andrea Neagle, Lisa Geosits) looking for dates for the food truck (mobile kitchen on wheels) Carbon County, booked in Schuylkill County.
4. **CMP CMP MHDS** (Ashley Highland, Larissa Kimmel) targeted CM referrals, hiring a case worker, CAMS coordinator (Collaborative Assessment Management of Suicide) evidence based, regardless of insurance, to divert from needing hospitalization to reduce suicidal ideation, working on the LOSS team and will offer spring trainings, trauma trainings in the works
5. **CareerLink:** (Stacy Bonet, Bill Getz) employee recruitment and retention, disabled veterans that have barriers such as homelessness

6. **PA State Police** (Jasmine Berrocol) 2/21 Blue Mtn community event from 3 grade to HS, families going through hardship, in collaboration with St. Luke's Community Health, vouchers for a day at Blue Mtn and food vouchers
7. **Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL)** (Brown Cohen, Julianne Rodriguez) lending library in the works, seeking an organization to do a training and presentation on assisted technology, parent support meeting on 1/21, 2/26 at 6 pm, virtual, parent sharing experience, PA Treasury will be guest speaker in February
8. **Family Promise** (Cathy Lamm) Family shelter full with 31 individuals and 17 children, Cold weather shelter 9 individuals, capacity is 12
9. **Maternal and Family Health Services WIC** (Cindy Kennedy) has reproductive health services available in Lehigh; services for teens and woman for breast and cervical screenings including woman who are uninsured, personal hygiene pantry, nutrition program updates in April, adding a mobile unit to cover Carbon County beginning spring and summer
10. **Panther Valley School District** (Mr. Dave McAndrew): thank the group for all they do and will share the resources learned today with PVSD, Emma Hope, CSC: Read Across America in March, Mini-career day in April
11. **Star Community Health** (Ellen Denizard): accepts all insurance and sliding fee scale, now operating in Lansford, Tamaqua, and Ringtown, applications for student scholarships available to PVSD and other districts in the service area, 2/6 provide free dental care, 0-17 years, regardless of insurance, at Hometown Health Center in Tamaqua
12. **Pastor Everett Upton**: community/service day last Saturday with Jack and Jill Agency, they contributed to the SIM lab
13. **United Way GLV** (Gina Nichols): PCCD grant for violence prevention for Carbon and Lehigh County to support veterans and mental health initiatives with Resilient LV for trainings
14. **Chamber** (Jared Soto) Digital bootcamp for how to use social media, Ribbon Cutting at Palmerton Public Market, 1/28 monthly happy hour at Palmerton Pub, Lunch and Learn 2/10 economic dev'p 101 (childcare, housing)
15. **C&Y** (Jill Geisinger): Christmas party and social media outreach brought in \$1k for each family. Thank you, Community!
16. **BHA** (Jillian Horton) Outpatient referrals waitlist, candidates for middle states accreditation, partnered with Lehigh Downtown Initiative to improve Skyline Park to keep it clean and have resources
17. **Aging** (Julie Mann): virtual homeownership for aging and disabled, veterans summit, hoarding
18. **St. Luke's Carbon Campuses** (John Nespoli) shout out to CMP D&A Jamie Drake who held a symposium on mental health with simulation lab for St. Luke's Carbon Campuses, partial hospitalization program moved from Bowmanstown to Lehigh Campus which aligns with walk in center, senior meals to help with social isolation served almost 10,000 meals in FY25, 300 applications for College of Health Sciences, Chronic Disease management monitoring readmissions reduced by almost 50% this past year
19. **Volunteer Center of LV** (Shawn Bariana): serving the nonprofits who can create a free account and post volunteer opportunities whenever needed, volunteer challenge coming up to match corporate groups with nonprofits
20. **Lehigh Valley Hospital** (Taylor Hunt), achieved primary stroke accreditation underscore commitment to community
21. **Community Action** (Kim Miller) – weatherization programs running including furnace repairs, waiting list for homeless prevention
22. **St. Luke's Community Health** (Kerri Quick, Suzanne Smith): Free Community Meal on June 20 at Hope and Coffee

#### **Partner links from meeting chat:**

Applications are officially open for scholarships hosted by the Community Foundation. We have 16 scholarships with awards ranging from \$500 - \$5,000. Applications are due March 1st. More info: <https://cccfoundpa.org/scholarships/> Scholarships - Carbon County Community Foundation

The Carbon County Community Foundation offers a variety of scholarship opportunities for students graduating from Carbon County school districts. Applications

"Finding the Funding & Grantwriting Workshop" on Wednesday January 21st from 9am - 1pm at the Emergency Management Agency in Nesquehoning. Free for NCAC members or people affiliated with a fund at the Community Foundation. \$40 for everyone else. Contact Sharon if you're not sure if you can get the discounted price. [https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/q3d6j2g/lp/cf3456e8-00c6-4dbd-9237-52a5e614091c?\\_cf\\_chl...](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/q3d6j2g/lp/cf3456e8-00c6-4dbd-9237-52a5e614091c?_cf_chl...)

CCCF Grants Info Session before our Spring Grants Cycle opens up will be on Friday, January 23rd at noon. We'll be sharing info about our applications, deadlines, evaluation process, etc. Even if you can't attend live, please register so

you can get a link to the recording. Anyone who is interested in applying for a grant should attend:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/UWUJfmsTaCk4Lbypwb50A#/registration>

Meeting Registration - Zoom

Welcome! You are invited to join a meeting: CCCF Grants Info Webinar (Spring 2026 Cycle). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

Carbon County Hotel Tax Distribution applications are due January 30th. This supports marketing costs for any event or project that encourages tourism and/or overnight stays in the county. Organized by Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau:

<https://www.poconomountains.com/about-us/carbon/>

The Community Foundation will be hosting our 10th anniversary celebration in May. As part of that we are giving out three Community Awards and we are seeking nominations from the public. The awards are for an individual, a business, and a nonprofit. Nominations are due January 21st and are very simple: <https://cccfoundpa.org/community-foundation-seeks-award-nominations/>

Community Foundation Seeks Award Nominations - Carbon County Community Foundation

The Carbon County Community Foundation invites the public to submit nominations for its Community Awards, which will be presented during the Foundation's Information for the 2026 Volunteer Challenge is now available.

SUBMIT VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE PROJECTS NO

LATER THAN JANUARY 23, 2026: <https://www.volunteerlv.org/challenge-project-submission>, Project

ideas: <https://www.volunteerlv.org/challenge-projects-recap>, Volunteer Challenge

webpage: <https://www.volunteerlv.org/volunteer-challenge>

LCCC Part-Time Advisor position at Tamaqua: <https://www.lccc.edu/about/employment/pt-academic-advisor-tamaqua-campus/>, [Credit Classes](#) begin January 23<sup>rd</sup>, [Non-Credit Health Care Classes](#) - Scholarships may cover up to 90% of program fees for eligible students Phlebotomy started January 13<sup>th</sup>, EMT starts April 20th

Human Service Breakfast Sponsorship:

Can I get information on sponsorships for the Collaborative Breakfast and who to send the request to? My email is [jhorton@bhaservices.com](mailto:jhorton@bhaservices.com)

Can I please get information on how to have an info table for the Collaborative Breakfast? my email is [juliannarodrigues@LVCIL.org](mailto:juliannarodrigues@LVCIL.org) Thank you!

Maternal & Family Health Services would also like to be a sponsor for the breakfast. TY [Cindyk@mfhs.org](mailto:Cindyk@mfhs.org)

PA Treasury may also be able to do a sponsorship.

Contact Comm. Nothstein if you require a table and will a six foot be sufficient.

LVCIL: [bryancohen@lvcil.org](mailto:bryancohen@lvcil.org) [juliannarodrigues@LVCIL.org](mailto:juliannarodrigues@LVCIL.org)

Star Community Health information in the chat so we can connect for referral services to your centers or email Info at [Cindyk@mfhs.org](mailto:Cindyk@mfhs.org); Ellen Denizard [ellen.denizard@starcommunityhealth.org](mailto:ellen.denizard@starcommunityhealth.org)

Here is a link to share with your clients to request an appointment at Star Community

Health: <https://starcommunityhealth.org/services/request-an-appointment>

UWGLV Gina Nichols: [ginan@unitedwayglv.org](mailto:ginan@unitedwayglv.org) [Home - Resilient Lehigh Valley](#)

A post from Admin on Resilient Lehigh Valley provided by: <https://resilientlehighvalley.org>

There are 4 Carbon Chamber and Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) events coming up over the next month:

1/20/26 Digital Bootcamp (Part 1): Simplifying Social Media. Virtual Event from 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

<https://business.carboncountychamber.org/events/details/digital-bootcamp-part-1-simplifying-social-...>

1/23/26 Palmerton Public Market Ribbon Cutting (270 Delaware Ave., Palmerton, PA 18071). 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

<https://business.carboncountychamber.org/events/details/palmerton-public-market-ribbon-cutting-cere...>

1/28/26 Pub Connections: A Chamber Night Out (304 Delaware Ave., Palmerton, PA 18071). 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

<https://business.carboncountychamber.org/events/details/pub-connections-a-chamber-night-out-ccedc-g...>

2/10/26 Economic Development 101 (137 South St., Lehighton, PA 18235) 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

<https://business.carboncountychamber.org/events/details/economic-development-101-15033?calendarMont...>

General CCEDC Events Calendar:

<https://business.carboncountychamber.org/events/calendarcatgid/6?m=2026-01-01>

Digital Bootcamp (Part 1): Simplifying Social Media (A Virtual Lunch & Learn) - Jan 20, 2026 - GZ 2 - Carbon Chamber & Economic Development Corporation

The Carbon Chamber Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC), proud partner of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, invites businesses, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs to our Digital Bootcam...

Panther Valley Elementary School is looking for volunteers to be guest readers in our classrooms for Read Across America during the month of March. We are also hosting a mini career fair for our students in April. If you would like to volunteer for either of these opportunities, please email me at [hopee@panthervalley.org](mailto:hopee@panthervalley.org)

Kim Minor, Regional Housing Coordinator, Inglis Self-Determination Housing of PA, C: 570.843.9969 I

[Kim.minor@inglis.org](mailto:Kim.minor@inglis.org): If the training times in the flyer linked above do not work for your organization, you can always use **our** Information and Referral form to request a private **training**. You can also explore our full training curriculum here: [Inglis SDHP Curriculum Catalog | Inglis](#) We can now offer 0.5 CEUs for our entire training catalog! Inglis Self-Determination Housing of Pennsylvania (SDHP) is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors to offer continuing education for social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors. Inglis SDHP maintains responsibility for the program(s).

Amanda Wessner, *SELECT Pregnant and Parenting Teen Specialist and Education Liaison*, Lifelong Learning Center, case manager for the ELECT program, which provides case management services for pregnant and parenting teenagers/young adults that are still in high school or working toward earning their GED. I currently have 6 Carbon County students on my caseload and am always looking for new referrals. Requirements: any pregnant or parenting student enrolled in high school, or any individual under the age of 22 who is enrolled in a GED program. I've included the referral form. Please reach out with any questions or more information.

Next meeting: **virtual** on March 11, 2026