Carbon Collaborative Minutes for September 16, 9-10 AM
In person (preferred): Carbon County Children & Youth, 525 Iron St., Lehighton, PA 18235
Virtual link: Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 276 901 481 825 Passcode: 6iMxfo

1. Welcome
2. Approval May meeting minutes: https://cccfoundpa.org/collaborative-board/
    a. Approved by Emma Hope, second Larissa Kimmel
3. Treasurer Report: Lourdes Serrano (AHEC): $4,633.40 (as of August 2026)
4. Old Business:
    a. Carbon County Community Foundation (CCCF): Sharon Alexander: can post resources on CCCF pages, https://mosestaylorfoundation.org/grantmaking/current-opportunities/
    b. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren supports, https://nonprofit-launchpad.com/events, https://business.carboncountychamber.org/events/details/stronger-together-leveraging-business-nonprofit-partnerships-breakfast-15788?calendarMonth=2026-09-01, https://cccfoundpa.org/2020circle-annual-meeting-2026/
    c. Subcommittees:
        i. Homeless Task Force: Commissioner Nothstein and Cathy Lamm
            1. Homeless taskforce: next meeting next 9/25 at 9:30 at Family Promise/ or virtually if anyone needs the link please reach: director@familypromisecarboncounty.org
        ii. Transportation: Larissa Kimmel: Commissioners have been meeting for potential changes for the fixed route; always recommending feedback on what is working/not working, meeting is today at 11 am
        iii. Kids Zone: Jill Geissinger on behalf of Mindy Graver: Car Seat Checks:
            1. May 22: Narrow Valley Sports Complex
            2. Sept 21: Walmart in Lehighton
            3. Nov 23: Lehighton Ambulance Station
            4. May 1: Safety Day
        iv. Early childcare education: status of existing services and connections
            1. Lorianne Roke, PathStone Head Start looking for enrollment, transportation from Lansford
            2. Right from the Start: CCCF has funds, needs staff, parents as teachers evidence based, C&Y can fund as well and can house it, include Head Start, Gina/UW can set up a meeting
        v. Literacy: Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Reach Out and Read/Brush, Book, Bed, Talk-Read-Sing, Palmerton Library Baby and Me
            1. 100+ enrolled uptick since Dolly passed, active 1375, graduated 1314, Reach out and Read well visits engagement: 3588
5. New Business:
    a. Annual 18th Human Services Breakfast: TBD
        i. Courts requested April 16, 2027
        ii. Location change suggested
        iii. Survey for next 2027 theme/topics
        iv. Explore Memorial Hall or Blue Mountain for location
6. Self-introductions and agency reports:
    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/

7. Next meeting:
    a. Next meeting is November 18, 2026

Agency Reports:

Volunteer Services, Shawn Bariana: September 30 • 9AM-10AM – Nonprofit Volunteer Engagement Professional Peer-to-Peer Session: *Volunteer Recognition Ideas that Feel Meaningful (and Affordable)*

In-Person Session at 968 Postal Road, 3rd Floor, Allentown, PA 18109 / REGISTER HERE. **October 1 • 8:45AM to 10:00AM – Nonprofit Executive Director Peer-to-Peer Session: *Evaluating Programs, Events & Traditions - Because We've Always Done It Isn't a Strategy***

Join other leaders to talk through impact vs effort and overcoming fear and concerns of donor, staff and board member reactions when you suggest change. Cost is free for Volunteer Center members, $35 for non-members. / REGISTER HERE, **Wednesdays October 7 through November 4, 2026. 4:00-5:30PM on Zoom - LEAD Now Board Leadership**

A program designed for current and new/interested nonprofit board members. REGISTER HERE

Training Topics:

October 7 - Nonprofit Board Service 101

October 14 - Understanding Nonprofit Legal Factors

October 21 - Nonprofit Finances: What you Need to Know and How to Ask

October 28 - Understanding Diversity, Equity & Inclusion on the Board

November 4 - Philanthropic Fundraising & the Role of the Board, **November 18 • 7:45AM-3:45PM - Lehigh Valley Nonprofit Impact Conference at Wind Creek Event Center**

Early Bird Pricing of $95 ends on September 18 / REGISTER HERE

Family Promise, Cathy Lamm: continues to be at capacity however families are moving out quicker maybe due to work we are doing engaging landlords with the housing solutions group, family came in on Friday, landlord stopped by Monday an it was a good fit. 112 on wait list, 16 kids now and 12 under age of 5, may be able to assist with transportation

St. Luke's Community Health, Kerri Quick, Suzanne Smith, Rosemarie Lister: reach out for connection to care, services, resources, https://sluhn.findhelp.com/search_results/18235 https://sluhn.findhelp.com/search_results/18232

Medicaid Changes: Changes Coming to Medicaid in Pennsylvania | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Doyle Heffley, Theresa Hall: we will be hosting a scam seminar this evening at Memorial Hall in Jim Thorpe. Our Family Services and Addiction Prevention Expo will be Wednesday October 14, again at CCTI. Vendor invitations will be sent out shortly. Please reach out to me if you would like to be added to the list of vendors at thall@pahousegop.com interested in Right from the Start

AAA, Sue Ziegler; 120 ppl signed up for senior center fall picnic on 9/18 funded in part by UWGLV, open enrollment for Medicare, call office if interested in meeting on a M-Thur, last year they assisted 500 people. 11 grandparents being assisted with clothes, activities and school related items through program

Panther Valley, Emma Hope: 20 volunteers through Day of Caring, food pantry tonight from 5-6, next is 10/21

LCCC, Amber Zuber: enrollment events on 10/14, open house on 11/10, 11/20, ESL class began last week in person in evenings, fresh/frozen pantry yesterday that served 19 families and also offer gas and gift cards, free meals on site, workforce blueprint accelerator with 7 businesses taking part, Small Business Summit with grant eligibility, exploring partnerships for CNA programs, https://www.lccc.edu/current-students/fall-late-start-classes/ , https://www.lccc.edu/academics/esl/esl-classes-at-tamaqua/

C&Y, Jill Geissinger: 100 in care, seeing increase and SUD, homelessness, working with available resources, trying to get day programming and afterschool programming back, looking to bring prevention programs back

United Way GLV: Americorp host sites to serve at VA for 15 hours a week, if interested in hosting, please let Gina/Marsha know as August is when it begins again. Victoria Cyr funding through Moses Taylor for older adults to explore partnership. Mtg scheduled with SLUHN and LVHN. Kellyn and VHP meetings to bring to Carbon County, Megan Astacio Age Friendly Roadmap to Resources for caregivers to come together, Abhi Lehigh County grant Resilient Lehigh Valley Conference Community Resilience 12/2, the power of music to support older adults to collaborate on song piece 11/18, Veterans Ben Yost film to get veterans connected to supports at NCC 9/17, Savvy Caregiver Mixer Respite Care Sign-Up 10.21.26 – Fill out form, Out of the Fire and Into the Light Event Registration

Careerlink, Bill Getz, on job training and job fair went well**,** reach out for assistance
CMP D&A, Carolee Boyer: 13 annual recovery event on 9/26, 1122 Fairyland Road Lehighton
Amerihealth, Cindy Cortes, family baby shower at PathStone Head Start and looking for vendors, Fiorella community health choices that works with those 21 and over with disabilities, also do sponsorships
BHA, Lenny Ogozalek, Jillian Horton: Outpatient still accepting referrals and they accept MA, schools off to a good start, Larissa Kimmel provided MHFA
Pastor Everrett Upton: Mission BBQ partnered with them for Back to School, community garden provided produce in Carbon County, student support program/mentoring, mens support group/truck drivers
Mauch Chunck Trust Company, Jill Hibbler: volunteer as nice and VP PVSD PTO
Social Workers, Jennifer Diaz, Social Worker, Katelyn Rende, Kathleen Michaud, CLIU looking for resources and will connect
Transitional Housing Director, Keema McGruder, gathering resources
CMP MHDS, Larissa Kimmel, September Suicide Month, QPR, SaftTALK, ASSIST trainings available, LOSS Team outreach, working with coroner Mark Smith, Youth Suicide Task Force Symposium 9/28 at 10 am, pilot is at St. Luke's
Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Lori Sywensky, Samantha: Carbon County executive director, position open, looking for office space and wanting to co-locate, space for 4-6 ppl, Oct is DV awareness month
Carbon Housing, Rob Nicolella: HUD work in dignity proposal volunteering for housing authority with work requirement and time limits for tenants looking for input
Visit Vans, Shalanda: passenger and wheel chair state approved transportation
Volunteer Center of LV, Shawn Bariana
Care Net annual gala 11/21
AHEC 25th anniversary event on 10/23 Eastcentral PA AHEC 25th Anniversary Gala
LVCIL: Fishing and Fun event on Saturday, September 26. It is a free family fun event with activities and fishing rods are provided, looking for vendors for the event. If interested please reach out to me at juliannarodrigues@LVCIL.org Arts and Advocacy Eventon Friday,10/96-8PM. www.LVCIL.org .

36 attendees:
30 people attended virtually
6 (Jill Geisinger, Sue Ziegler, Suzanne Smith, Amber Zuber, Emma Hope, Samantha Walsh) in person
Meeting adjourned 10:07 am