

BCEH Coalition Meeting

January 21st, 2021

Agency Presenters:

Lindsey Heismiller with Berks Connections Pretrial Services (BCPS)- BCPS has a rental assistance program available for state parolees. Clients must be referred by their parole agent. R3 Program for youth who are ages 18-24 who need high school diploma or GED (through Career Link). Stipend for participants available, in-person, not virtual. Make referrals by State Parole agent.

Frank Grill with Hope Rescue Mission (HRM)- Hope Rescue Mission is quarantining men experiencing homelessness who have tested positive for COVID-19 in three trailers on-site at HRM. Please reach out to Sherry Abrahams from Opportunity House with referrals. Program is fully occupied at this time. 10 individuals have come through the program since the beginning of December. Individuals who are experiencing homelessness or who have a low-income can have pets seen at HRM by the Human Society. Reach out to Rachael Clineff for more information (rclineff@hopeforreading.org).

Sherry Abrahams and Delia McClendon with Opportunity House- Opportunity House is quarantining women experiencing homelessness who have tested positive for COVID-19. Please reach out to Sherry Abrahams with referrals (484-269-2127). Client must provide paperwork documenting their positive COVID-19 test result.

Agency Announcements:

- Jennifer Bauman with Berks Community Health Center- visit www.berkschc.net for the latest information on COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Catholic Charities has rental assistance available, they will pay ½ must match
- Free PA ID (**only free if the ID is a first time ID or a renewal, replacements for lost or stolen IDs are not free**) and PA birth certificate replacements for individuals experiencing homelessness beginning January 24th, 2021.

The professional requesting the birth certificate or ID will need to attach a copy of their own ID and a letter on agency letter head. Here is a sample letter from Hope Rescue Mission:

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is (name), I am a case manager at (agency). I am (client's) case manager (date of birth). He has been homeless and living in emergency shelter at (agency) since (date). He can receive his birth certificate at this address – (agency address).

That letter, the form, and a copy of your ID should all be sent to the address on the bottom of the form. The birth certificate will be mailed to the agency to the professional that helped the client.

For PA birth certificate requests:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Certificates%20and%20Records/Application%20for%20Birth%20Certificate%20with%20Fees%20Waived%20for%20Individual%20Who%20is%20Experiencing%20Homelessness.pdf>

For PA ID requests:

The applicant must visit their local Driver License Center and inform counter staff they are applying or renewing their photo ID and are requesting a free ID due to their homeless status. For initial issuance, the applicant must bring one acceptable proof of identification (see Publication 195US or Publication 195NC), Social Security Card or Social Security Administration ineligibility letter and acceptable form/s of address verification. In the case of homeless individuals, PennDOT will accept a letter from a shelter indicating an individual is staying at the shelter or uses the shelter as an address of residency to pick up mail.