

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

456 Spruce Street
Morgantown WV 26505
Phone: (304) 296-8236

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Rev. John Sonnenday
(304) 296-8236
revsonnenday@gmail.com

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COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS TAKING SHAPE

The community-wide plan to reduce homelessness, released last March recommended the creation of a central organization to coordinate community-wide action to reduce homelessness. John Sonnenday, chair of the Morgantown/Monongalia Task Force on Homelessness recently reported the creation of that central organization, the Coordinating Council on Homelessness as a subcommittee of The Connecting Link.

The purpose of the Coordinating Council on Homelessness is to coordinate community-wide efforts to reduce homelessness; develop a common agenda among service providers; assist in creating data sharing and measurement standards; facilitate continuous open communication; keep all agencies aligned with the common agenda; advocate on behalf of persons experiencing homelessness; and promote community awareness and involvement in addressing homelessness.

The Council is responsible for setting policy, hiring and overseeing a staff person, developing community support and raising operating funds.

The Council has established two operating structures: the Summit on Homelessness made up of executives of local Monongalia County service agencies to be responsible for inter-agency cooperation and recommending policies and procedures to the Council.

Second, a Multi-Disciplinary Team consisting of professionals from those service agencies to plan for direct services to be delivered to specific homeless clients.

"The next step for the Council is to find between seven and thirteen citizens to sit on the Council and direct its operations; broad community representation is desired." said Sonnenday. "The Council will be representative of business, landlords, government, faith groups, service agencies, and interested citizens," he added. Expressions of interest are sought and may be made by contacting John Sonnenday at 304-296-8236 or revsonnenday@gmail.com.

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