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Lake County Continuum of Care

**Winter
Weather
Emergency
Planning Team:**

ADAMHS Board

**Extended Housing,
Inc.**

**Lake County
Planning &
Community
Development**

Lifeline, Inc.

**New Directions for
Living**

**Project Hope for
the Homeless**

**Salvation Army,
Painesville**

**St. Mary's
Painesville**

September 25, 2015

Dear Friends,

Harsh winter weather will be upon us soon, so now is the time to plan and be ready. Working together here in Lake County we can prevent frostbite or even the death of those with no home. So who are we? You know many of us individually or through the places we work but working together we are the Lake County Continuum of Care. We are an organization of government agencies and non-profit service organizations responsible for the cooperative delivery of the several programs that support the needs of those that are homeless and those on the verge of becoming homeless.

Why is the Continuum of Care reaching out to you this year? Your help is needed to address a pressing need – a gap that simply must be filled. That need is to provide the unsheltered homeless, many of them chronically so, a safe and warm location during the winter weather that threatens life and limb. For this coming winter, in order to meet this need the Continuum will be implementing a Code Blue Winter Weather Emergency Protocol (CODE BLUE) when certain hazardous conditions are met. The goal of this CODE BLUE is to notify local social service agencies, churches, and municipalities that dangerous weather is imminent and thus of the need to provide all homeless persons, sober or not, with a safe haven where they can stay warm overnight and during certain daytime hours. Two Painesville area churches, Saint Mary's and The Salvation Army, have had some success in meeting the need for safe havens but additional help and resources are necessary.

Historically, before Project Hope for the Homeless opened its doors on Freedom Road, the Ecumenical Shelter Network led the process in which churches took turns sheltering the homeless for weeks at a time. This approach worked for several years. Many of you receiving this letter participated. You experienced those years. You provided shelter, acted as host sites and provided a wide array of resources. Based on that success, we now extend that opportunity to you once again to provide support during short-term, life-threatening conditions when a CODE BLUE is in effect. How can you or your organization respond to this need and fulfill your own mission? Please view the fact sheet to see which of the needed resources are within your reach to provide and see when a CODE BLUE will be declared.

In order to solve this pressing need we invite you to join us in a discussion on Tuesday, October 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the ADAMHS Board where we will brainstorm how to provide the support needed to maintain safe haven accommodations for these individuals. Continuum agencies will provide training and support to you, your staff or volunteers to work with persons who have remained unsheltered. Such work can be challenging but also so very rewarding. Please participate in this effort. Just reply to this communication via email to RSVPPlanning@lakecountyohio.gov. Please include the name of your organization and your contact person along with their phone number. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact 2-1-1 where you will speak to an information and referral specialist who can confirm all the details.



Lake County Continuum of Care

CODE BLUE Winter Weather Emergency Fact Sheet

For this coming winter, in order to meet the most basic needs for those homeless who are unable to secure shelter, the Continuum will be implementing a **CODE BLUE** Winter Weather Emergency Protocol when:

- The air temperatures drop to 10 degrees or less, the wind chill is at zero degrees, or below, or
- When the National Weather Service issues a Winter Storm Warning for Lake County or
- During a significant snow/weather event, as decided by the Continuum of Care, even if the temperature guidelines are not met

The goal of this **CODE BLUE** Protocol is to notify local social service agencies, churches, and municipalities that severe weather is imminent and thus of the need to provide all homeless persons, sober or not, with a safe haven where they can stay warm. At a minimum, overnight safe havens will provide sleeping cots, access to restrooms and, if possible, a simple breakfast. A day-time drop-in center would offer seating, access to restrooms and coffee/water.

Want to lend a hand? The Continuum of Care's Winter Emergency Planning Team is asking for your help with any of the following:

- Identifying at least one more facility, in addition to the safe havens already provided by St. Mary's and the Salvation Army, that could open as part of an ongoing rotation of churches/organizations that provide **overnight safe haven** during the winter
- Locating a safe, warm facility, **open after 1:00 p.m.** (when the Salvation Army's Day Center closes) that can serve as a day-time drop-in center for the homeless
- Recruiting more **volunteers** so that both St Mary's, the Salvation Army and additional locations can adequately staff their safe haven warming centers (schedules/shifts, etc. to be determined in follow-up meeting)
- Providing **transportation** between St Mary's/the Salvation Army/other safe haven locations at 7:00 a.m. each weekday morning so the homeless can take shelter in the Salvation Army's Day Center until 1:00 p.m. and transportation to the afternoon drop-in center
- Providing **laundry** services so that cot covers, blankets, etc. can be washed each day
- Providing **nourishment** such as cereal, milk, snacks and hot/cold beverages; we are assuming that the homeless will eat dinner at the St James/St Mary's evening meal program

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 17th at 10:00 a.m.

ADAMHS Board Offices, 1 Victoria Square

Painesville, OH 44077

2 Hour Free Parking in Garage on South Saint Clair Street

Questions/Comments: Email James Aspery at james.aspery@gmail.com OR call 2-1-1