

Human Services Center Corp.

Westinghouse Valley Human Services Center
519 Penn Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145-2057
(412) 829-7112 Fax (412) 829-4363
Website: www.hsc-mvpc.org

Mon Valley Matters – November 5, 2010

The following packet includes the materials provided on the day of the event as well as a post event synopsis.



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EXCELLENCE

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ACTION Housing
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McKeesport Collaborative
McKeesport Family Center
McKeesport First Steps
Parenting Program
McKeesport Hospital
Foundation
McKeesport 7th Ward Family
Center

2010 Mon Valley Matters
Friday, November 5, 2010
Penn State Greater Allegheny
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Meeting and Panel

Agenda

8:30 a.m. - Welcome and Overview

Dave Coplan, Executive Director of the Human Services Center, Director of the Mon Valley Providers Council

8:45 a.m. - Presentation of Rivers City Data

Dave Miller, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Director of the Innovation Clinic at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

9:15 a.m. - Priority Messages from the Four Working Groups

Employment and Training

Melanie Porach, Director of Career Services, Community College of Allegheny County South Campus

Health

Nancy Osterhus, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Allegheny County Health Department, STD Clinic

Jim Spindler, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, UPMC McKeesport

Housing

Dave Coplan, Executive Director of the Human Services Center, Director of the Mon Valley Providers Council

Youth

Lynn Tatala, Program Coordinator, Project Elect, Allegheny Intermediate Unit

10:15 a.m. - Break

10:30 a.m. - Moderated Reaction Panel and Questions from the Audience

Dr. Rosemarie Piccioni, Director of Continuing Education, Penn State Greater Allegheny

12:15 p.m. - Closing Remarks

Dave Coplan, Executive Director of the Human Services Center, Director of the Mon Valley Providers Council

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UPMC McKeesport

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Steel Valley Family Center
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The Human Services Center and the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC) would like to recognize the following individuals for their hard work and commitment to Mon Valley Matters.

MVPC Steering Committee

Melanie Porach, Chairperson, CCAC South
Nancy Osterhus, Vice Chairperson, Allegheny County Health Department
Michele Atkins, Heritage Community Initiatives
Dr. Charles Bostaph, CCAC Boyce
Janet Carroll, Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR
Tina Doose, Fair Housing Center of Greater Pittsburgh
Noreen Fredrick, Mon Yough Community Services
Donna Little, Rainbow Kitchen
Michele Baich Matuch, UPMC McKeesport/McKeesport Hospital Foundation
Dr. Tony Mitchell, Penn State Greater Allegheny
Kevin Perkey, 3RC
Darla Poole, Auberle
Jim Spindler, UPMC McKeesport
Lynn Tatala, Project ELECT
Dick Wallace, Ex-Officio Member
Laura Zinski, Mon Valley Initiative

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Jocelyn Horner, Director of Operations, Stories Project, Carnegie Mellon University

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Heide Waldbaum, Production Supervisor

Marti Louw, Research Faculty, University of Pittsburgh Center for Learning in Out-of-School Environments (UPCLOSE)

Youth Video Team

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Shaquan Moore, GOAL Program, Auberle

Ka'Shawn Scott, Project H.E.A.R.T.

MVPC Staff

Dave Coplan, Director

Ruth Smith, Collaborative Programs Director

Lindsay Legé, Program Associate, Event Coordinator

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Biographies

Rivers City Presenter

David Y. Miller is an associate professor with the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) at the University of Pittsburgh where he is director of the Innovation Clinic at GSPIA and the Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT). He served GSPIA as associate dean for 10 years and interim dean for one year.

Dr. Miller is the author of *The Regional Governing of Metropolitan America* and numerous papers and articles focusing on regional governance, regional financing of urban services, and municipal fiscal distress. His Metropolitan Power Diffusion Index (MPDI) is widely used as a measure of distribution of power between local governments within a metropolitan region.

His current research pursuit is identifying how different political subcultures in American society shape the development of regional solutions to local problems. Prior to joining the University, Dr. Miller had been director of the Office of Management and Budget for the City of Pittsburgh and managing director of the Pennsylvania Economy League. He received his PhD in Public Policy Research and Analysis from the University of Pittsburgh.

Reaction Panelists

Marc Cherna was appointed Director of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services fourteen years ago. This integrated department, with a budget of a billion dollars, includes five programmatic offices: Aging, Behavioral Health, Children, Youth and Families, Community Services, and Intellectual Disabilities. His innovative practice and leadership abilities have garnered him prestigious awards by numerous human service, humanitarian, and civic organizations, including the Betsey R. Rosenbaum Award for Excellence in Child Welfare Administration from the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators, the Urban League's Ronald H. Brown Civic Leadership Award, the Good Government Award from the League of Women Voters, and the Coleman Award for Excellence in Community Service from the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics.

Under Marc's direction, the DHS State Forensics Program was the recipient of a 2005, Innovations in American Government award given by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He serves on many boards and committees including the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work's Board of Visitors, the Executive Committee of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrator, and the Mayor of Philadelphia's Community Oversight Board.

Marc began his career in human services as a youth worker over 35 years ago. He received his B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton and an M.S.W. from the Hunter College School of Social Work in New York. He has three children and five grandchildren.

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Senator Jay Costa began serving his fourth full term as state Senator from the 43rd District in January 2009. Since his election to the Senate in 1996, Senator Jay Costa, Jr. has represented the people of the 43rd Senatorial District, which includes the Eastern third of the City of Pittsburgh and suburbs to the City's East and South. Senator Costa currently serves as Democratic Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a position to which he was elected by his colleagues in the Democratic Caucus in November, 2008. In this legislative session, he is also a member of the Senate Committees on Public Health and Welfare, the Judiciary and Rules, and Executive Nominations. He has also been appointed to serve on the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, Pennsylvania Community Bank Operations Committee, Public Employee Retirement Commission, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and the Industrial Resource Center Strategic Advisory Board. He was a member of the Committee that investigate the operations and management of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Throughout his tenure in the Senate, Senator Costa has been a leader on important legislation, including efforts to stabilize the finances of the City of Pittsburgh, to ensure the viability of Mass Transit in Allegheny County and around the Commonwealth, to improve Pennsylvania's crime data reporting, and to provide healthcare coverage for children throughout the Commonwealth.

Among Senator Costa's pending legislative initiatives are bills to protect homeowners from home invasion crimes, to expand affordable, comprehensive health insurance and implement cost-controlling measures and to increase family exemptions from the realty transfer taxes and estate administration expenses. He has also been active in the ongoing debates about how Pennsylvania should regulate natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale.

Senator Costa is married with three children and makes his home in Forest Hills.

Dennis M. Davin assumed the position as Director of Allegheny County Economic Development on March 10, 2004. Mr. Davin also serves as Director of the Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority and Executive Director of the: Industrial Development Authority, Hospital Development Authority, Higher Education Building Authority, and Residential Finance Authority. Mr. Davin is responsible for the overall development and implementation of the economic strategy for Allegheny County. He manages 75 employees and funding from local, state, and federal resources to implement economic development activities such as: site development, new job creation initiatives, community development, and affordable housing for approximately 1.25 million citizens in 130 municipalities. Additionally, Mr. Davin is actively involved as a board member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority, Pittsburgh Regional Alliance Partnership, and the Greater Oakland Keystone Innovation Zone.

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Kevin L. Jenkins has worked in the field of human services within the Pittsburgh region for nearly 25 years, with over 15 years in a management capacity. He has worked closely with agencies, the philanthropic community, and the private and public sectors to design, implement and maintain care and support programs and to develop policy and oversight in addressing key community issues.

In June 2006, Mr. Jenkins was named Senior Program Officer of The Pittsburgh Foundation, one of the largest community foundations in the United States and Director of Community Initiatives in 2008. He has responsibility for the organization's grant making in the areas of health and special needs populations, and families, children and youth.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Mr. Jenkins was Executive Director with Holy Family Social Services, an affiliate organization of Holy Family Institute, with which he held a number of senior positions during his 21 years service with the organization. These included Chief Operating Consultant, St. Mary's Villa for Children; Community Initiatives Administrator; Director of Clinical Services; Supervisor/Clinical Manager; and Child and Family Therapist.

A respected community leader, Mr. Jenkins is the past President of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association, he is a member of the Human Services Executive Leadership Academy and he serves on a number of civic and community boards of directors. He earned a masters degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, where he has taught an undergraduate course in Urban Studies.

Lisa Kuzma is a program officer at the Richard King Mellon Foundation. After a 20 year career in the banking industry as a commercial loan officer serving mid sized businesses in the Pittsburgh region, Lisa focused her financial management background on assisting nonprofit organizations achieve long term sustainability, as a senior manager with Deloitte & Touche and then as one of the founding members of the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management at Robert Morris University. Over this period, Lisa has had the privilege of working with organizations as they built earned income streams, diversified contributed revenue bases and rationalized expense structures in many innovative and forward thinking ways. Lisa became a program office with the Richard King Mellon foundation in February of 2006. She holds an undergraduate degree in finance from Penn State and an MBA from Duquesne.

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Laurel E. Shaw is a Senior Program Officer at the McCune Foundation. Laurel joined the McCune Foundation in 2006 where she shares grantmaking responsibilities across the Foundation's four program areas: education, human services, culture, and civic; assuring ongoing effectiveness of the overall grants program, and representing the Foundation in the community. Laurel knows the Pittsburgh community well from both her educational and professional experience, as well as her civic volunteer activities. Through March 2006, she was employed as the Development Manager at The Pittsburgh Project, a neighborhood-based Northside nonprofit organization that provides youth development programs, community arts programming, free home repairs to seniors, and service learning experiences for local and national youth. Prior to that, she worked for Carnegie Mellon in the Dean's Office of Student Affairs. Laurel received her bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Business and Public Policy, and her master's degree from Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College in Public Policy and Management. Additionally, Ms. Shaw is a 2003 graduate of the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs program offered by the Coro Center for Civic Leadership.

Laurel is a native of Los Angeles and moved to Pittsburgh in 1992.

Moderator

Dr. Rosemarie Piccioni has joined the staff at Penn State Greater Allegheny as the new director of the Continuing Education Department. Her career spans from The Walt Disney Company to Columbia University to Carnegie Hall.

After completing her bachelor's and master's degrees in music education at Duquesne University, Piccioni began developing educational programming for The Philadelphia Orchestra then moved on to lead creative development teams for Disney's Magic Kingdom, the Disney Cruise Line's *Magic, Wonder, and Castaway Cay*. She developed *Sounds Like Fun*, an innovative early childhood music education program for the Walt Disney Company. Next, she worked at Carnegie Hall and produced the *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* and the *Animated History of Carnegie Hall* online listening adventures (www.carnegiehall.org/orc/interactive_resources.html).

Piccioni designed the first videoconference interactive educational concerts from Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall between students in New York and Hugh Masekela in South Africa, was a senior research associate at the Center for Research in Arts Education at Teachers College, and at the Center for New Media Teaching and Learning, both located at Columbia University. Her educational consulting work includes working with Fortune 500 companies including the H.J. Heinz Co., Nationwide, and United States Steel. She has taught in academic, corporate, and non-profit settings. She also holds a M.Ed. and Ed.D. in instructional technology and media from Teachers College, Columbia University.

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Rivers City (or Suburbs) Revisited

A Presentation
Dave Miller
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
University of Pittsburgh
November 2010

Special Thanks to Louisa Tapp for assistance in researching the data.

A Very Brief History

- 10 years ago I presented the original Mon City concept
- I called for a single jurisdiction known as Mon City
- Although its message was meant to be a call for action, my popularity for a few years in the valley was, shall we say, strained?
- Highlighted by my daughter marrying into the Valley
- Today, I have a different message but I deliver it with greater urgency

Rethinking the discussion about structure

- In the end, the discussion about the number of governments is political, not economic in nature.
- Having a large number of local governments is not inherently bad, it is the inability to deal with the unintended consequences of that political decision that is the problem
- Minneapolis/St Paul and Boston are as fragmented as Pittsburgh and St Louis

The unintended consequences of the political decision to have many governments

- Economic growth will be uneven or limited
- Gap between rich and poor communities will be high
- Fiscal mercantilism more easily dominates tax policy
- Segregation by race and class is apt to be higher
- Coordinated land use planning will be much more difficult
- Professionally managed communities may work in sophisticated ways to protect local self-interests
- Poorly managed communities will act as a drain on the region's ability to deal with a wide array of policy issues

Please understand my indictment of the present system

- Dedicated and industrious elected and appointed officials are the rule and not the exception
- The deck of cards they have been dealt is the problem
 - └ First, the region is more urban-like than suburban
 - └ Second, the cross boundary mechanisms to manage the urban are, at best, embryonic
 - └ Third, the overall performance as measured by economic improvement continues to cry out for change
- The Good News - the solution does not have to be merger and consolidation, there are alternatives

Rivers City 1866



3 boroughs
7 townships

Rivers City 2010



3 cities
29 boroughs
5 townships
37 municipalities

Rivers City is an urban area that looks like a city without the financial resources of the city, not like a suburb

Thought #1

DEMOGRAPHICS (2000)

	Rivers City	Pittsburgh	Balance
Population	268,884	369,879	697,686
% of County	20.1%	27.7%	52.2%
Population over 65	19.9%	17.9%	16.1%
African Americans	13.3%	25.8%	2.6%
Adults w/out High School Diploma	24.5%	27.6%	16.6%

More DEMOGRAPHICS

	Rivers City	Pittsburgh	Balance
Rental Units	32.1%	43.1%	24.7%
Vacant Units	8.6%	9.8%	4.4%
% of Households Headed by a Female & below Poverty Level	7.1%	11.5%	2.1%
Families below Poverty	11.7%	16.6%	4.3%

Resources (per capita)

	Rivers City	Pittsburgh	Balance
Per Capita Income	\$17,224	\$18,816	\$32,491
Median Housing Value	\$56,331	\$59,700	\$84,200
Assessed Property Value	\$5,081	\$5,678	\$8,532
Property Taxes	\$119	\$321	\$135
Act 511 Taxes	\$116	\$358	\$140
State & Federal Grants-in-Aid	\$49	\$189	\$40

Despite Hard Work and Dedicated Officials, Rivers City is not managed like a city... I'm not sure it's managed or manageable

Thought #2

Governmental Leadership

<u>Elected Officials</u>	361
Mayors	34
Councilpersons	264
Other Elected	63
<u>Appointed Officials</u>	150
Managers	10
Police Chiefs	35
Fire Chiefs	33
Solicitors	37
Engineers	35

Governmental Structure

Municipalities	39
Councils of Governments	3
School Districts	12
Separate Authorities	25
Police Departments	35
Public Library Systems	9
Fire Departments	37

Governmental Economic Development Tools

Comprehensive Plans	29
Planning Commissions	36
Zoning Ordinances	36
Subdivision Controls	28

It's not broken, but economically
Rivers City continues to lag

Thought #3

After 30 Years, Rivers City is Still Stressed

	Allegheny County Municipalities	
	Total	Rivers City (2007)
Stressed	32	21
Strapped	32	10
Stable	32	4
Stately	32	2

The Advantage of a Common Voice

- Rivers City could be the third largest urban community in Pennsylvania. Its spokesperson would be one of the five most influential local/state government officials in the Commonwealth
- Exert more influence on various regional agencies like SPC
- Same County Council districting protection as Pittsburgh
- Equal participation in county programs that involve Pittsburgh
- Greater ability to lobby for state/county financial programs
- Increased capacity to monitor social service programs
- Better able to deliver public services efficiently and effectively
- Unify leadership to strengthen political and economic clout

How do we get there?

- Rivers City does not have to be merged or consolidated
- There are three councils of governments that, with significantly enhanced funding and responsibility, could serve as an organizing framework for River City and its municipalities
- An annual or semi-annual congress of the 37 municipalities (with each municipality having equal vote) could debate and adopt broad policies for River City
- The annual Congress could elect a chair and other officers who could serve to represent the collective voice of River City
- An "Expeditor" appointed by each municipality could serve as the first point of contact for that municipality with each other municipality and the CoGS in River City
- If Frank and German can

A Couple of Inspirational Thoughts to Close

We must, indeed, all hang
together or, most
assuredly, we shall all hang
separately.

~ Benjamin Franklin ~

We are not going to be able
to operate our Spaceship
Earth successfully nor for
much longer unless we see
it as a whole spaceship and
our fate as common. It has
to be everybody or
nobody.

~ Buckminster Fuller ~

Thank You for Listening

Comments and thoughts
dymiller@pitt.edu

Mon Valley Matters Successes and Opportunities in Human Services

A forum of the
Mon Valley Providers Council
A program of the
Human Services Center
November 5, 2010

Working Group on Employment and Training

Primary Needs

- Jobs
- Transportation
- Expand Training in the Valley
- Computer Literacy (to meet job requirements)
- Soft Skills



Working Group on Employment and Training

Homeruns

- Mon Valley CareerLink Center
- Braddock Employment Center
- Mon Valley Initiative's Workforce & Business Development program, Job Clubs and the Southwestern PA Re-entry Coalition (SPARC)
- Advanced Training at CCAC Boyce and South
- Advanced Training at Penn State Greater Allegheny
- Goodwill
- Heritage Community Initiatives' WorkLink - more than 7,500 riders utilize this service in the Valley.



High Unemployment in the Valley

- In 2009, Allegheny County's unemployment rate was 6.9%.
- Communities such as McKeesport, Braddock, and Duquesne have unemployment rates of nearly twice that of the County!
- Many Mon Valley communities you might not think of have higher unemployment than the County, including Elizabeth, Pitcairn, West Mifflin, East McKeesport, and Wilmerding.

Mon Valley Employment Data

Per capita income in McKeesport is \$13,242 - compared with Allegheny County as a whole at \$22,491.

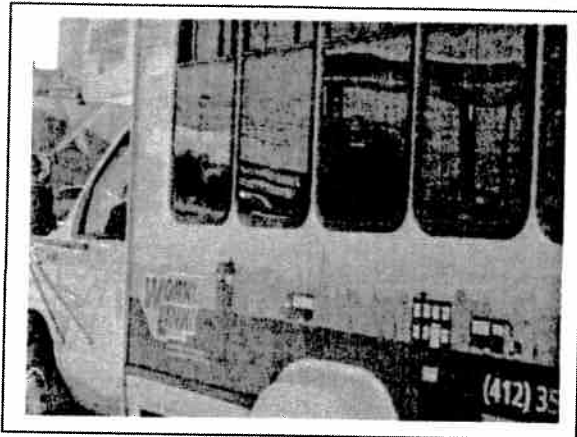
Source: Tripp Umbach study for UPMC McKeesport and McKeesport Hospital Foundation.



Poverty Rates

In 2000:

- Allegheny County's rate was 11.2%
- Duquesne was 31.3%
- McKeesport was 23.0%
- Braddock was 22.7%
- Clairton was 19.5%



Mon Valley Employment Data

- Approximately 54% of McKeesport's population over age 16 is not employed.
- There are 8,882 people in McKeesport over age 16 not in the labor force.
- More than 52% of McKeesport's population has income of less than \$24,999 and 23% live below the poverty level.

Source: Tripp-Umbach study for UPMC, McKeesport and McKeesport-Hospital Foundation

Mon Valley Income and Education

- According to the most recent Standard and Poor's Observation Report, 51.6% of students who live in the Woodland Hills School District are considered economically disadvantaged, as compared to the state average of 28.2%.
- Only 31.9% of adults in the District hold a bachelor's degree

Economically Disadvantaged

Woodland Hills Elementary Schools –
Percent Economically Disadvantaged

- Fairless – 78.1%
- Shaffer – 76.9%
- Wilkins – 76.4%
- Edgewood – 62.3%
- Dickson – 62.2%



Working Group on Employment and Training

Opportunities for Transformative Change

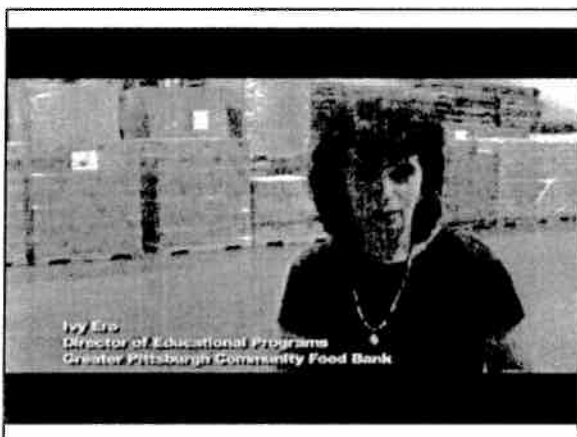
- Soft skills for job seekers are a critical concern and include skills in attendance, behaviors in a job setting, and timeliness.
- Improving the system of resources available to job seekers and creating jobs that are attainable and accessible, is critical and can reduce the high rates of unemployment in Mon Valley communities.



Working Group on Health

Primary Needs

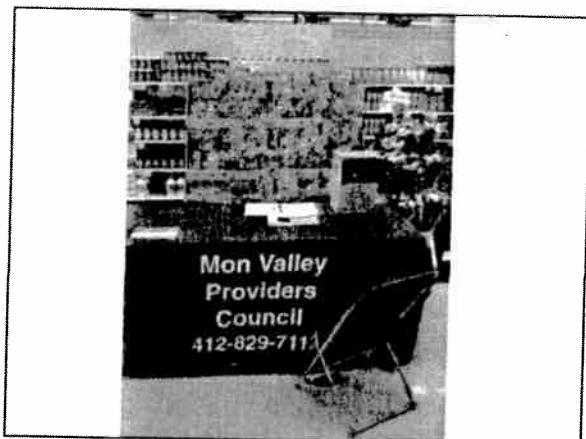
- Improve access to Mental Health and Mental Retardation services by making the public aware of the resources and working to reduce any remaining stigma.
- Educate consumers on how to access Drug and Alcohol Services
- Broadly promote hunger related services so all those in need have access to food resources.



Working Group on Health

Homeruns

- Vision and Osteoporosis Screenings by MVPC Member Agencies
- Collaborations between agencies and across health related needs
- State Health Improvement Partnerships (SHIPs)



Mon Valley Health Statistics

- Mon Valley communities such as McKeesport have among the highest per capita incidence of HIV/AIDS.
- Braddock has five times the per capita incidence of STDs compared to the city of Pittsburgh.
- McKeesport and Duquesne have similar per capita rates of STDs compared to Pittsburgh.

Mon Valley Health Statistics

- One in seven children in the Mon Valley does not get enough to eat.
- Chronic hunger causes anxiety, low self-esteem, and hostility in children.
- Hungry and food insecure people are: 1.3 times more likely to be hospitalized and require longer in-patient stays, and 1.93 times more likely to need mental health services.

Working Group on Health

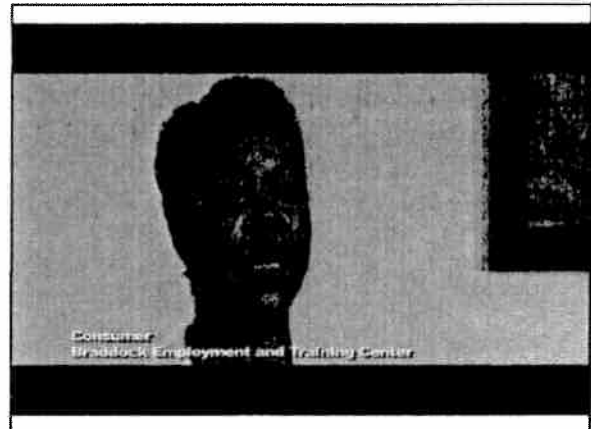
Opportunities for Transformative Change

- Community-based healthcare that focuses on wellness.
- Improved access to care and resources.



Housing

- "Housing can change the fabric of the community by stemming the tide of urban blight."
- Laura Zinski



Working Group on Housing

Primary Needs

- Affordable Housing
- Increased Home Ownership Opportunities
- Transitional housing (to make the progression to self-sustainability)
- Fair Housing
- Budgeting
- Credit Issues
- Isolation in Some Communities

Working Group on Housing

Homeruns

- Mon Valley Initiative's Housing Programs
- Habitat for Humanity
- Home Buyer Budget Counseling by NeighborWorks, MVI, Fair Housing Partnership, and Century Heritage Federal Credit Union

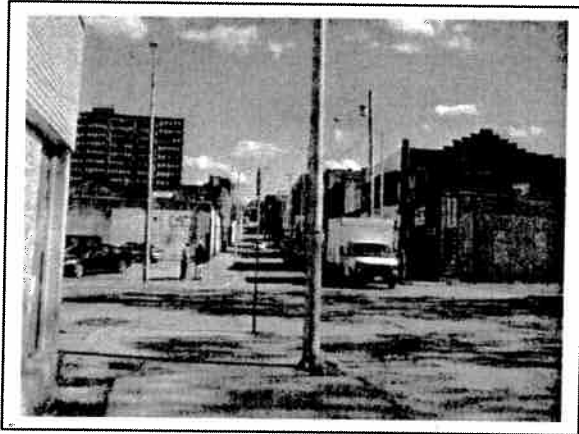


Mon Valley Initiative's Rental Tenants

- 226 total tenants of which 89% are African American, 11% are White;
- 56% of the tenants are below 50% of the Area Median Income
- 96% of the tenants are below 60% of the Area Median Income

Mon Valley Initiative's Housing Efforts

- 119 Rehab for Resale Homes
- 85 New Construction Homes
- 36 Owner-Occupied Renovations
- 147 rental units
- 204 Households serving 500 people: 66% African American Households; 29% White Households; 1% Hispanic Households; 4% Multi-racial Households



Economic Impact of Housing

- Additional taxes from MVI real estate developments add to about \$2.5 million dollars.
- This number has been growing substantially as the number and quality of MVI's units have risen dramatically in recent years.

CHANGES IN STRESS RANKINGS: 2000-2007

STRESSED	Rivers City Municipality	2000 Rank	2007 Rank	Improved	Declined
	East Pittsburgh	2	23	21	
	Duquesne*	3	5	2	
	North Braddock*	5	2		-3
	Rankin*	6	1		-5
	Homestead*	7	4		-3
	McKeesport	8	30	22	
	Wilmerding	11	18	7	
	Braddock*	12	7		-5
	TurHe Creek*	15	3		-12
	East McKeesport-	19	13		-6
	Chalfant*	21	28		-7
	Dravosburg-	22	22		-7
	Glassport*	28	6		-22
	Munhall-	30	20		-10
	Whitaker-	34	10		-24
	West Elizabeth**	36	16		-25
	Wall**	37	12		-20
	Elizabeth**	46	31		-15
	Pittsinn**	38	14		-24
	Port Vue**	41	9		-3
	South Versailles Twp **	55	19		-36

*Act 47 Distressed Municipality as of 1/1/00
 **Municipality moved down one category since 2000
 ***Municipality moved down two categories since 2000

CHANGES IN STRESS RANKINGS: 2000-2007

	Rivers City Municipality	2000 Rank	2007 Rank	Improved	Declined
STRAPPED	Clanton*	1	52	51	
	Swissvale*	14	37	23	
	Versailles	23	47	24	
	Liberty	66	34		-32
	Lincoln	83	38		-45
	North Versailles Twp *	42	42		
	Forward Twp	78	44		-34
STABLE	Elizabeth Twp *	52	33		-19
	Forest Hills	44	83	39	
	West Homestead	46	69	24	
	White Oak	50	73	23	
	Bradock Hills	65	80	15	
Stately	West Mifflin	88	92	4	
	Churchill	98	108	10	
	Monroeville	106	123	17	
	Wilkins Twp *	62	99	37	

* Municipality improved by one category since 2000
 * Municipality moved down one category since 2000

Economic and Social Impact of Housing

- Local housing communities, such as Prospect Terrace in East Pittsburgh, tend to be isolated from economic and social resources.
- Limited transportation impacts access to jobs, health services, food resources, and social networks.

Working Group on Housing

Opportunities for Transformative Change

- Increasing efforts to address budgeting, the realities of credit counseling and credit repair, access to safe, affordable, decent rental housing, and creating new and rehab housing that has community impact.
- Targeted investment changes the fabric of the community from abandoned to vibrant with a tax base.



Working Group on Youth

Primary Needs

- Poor School and PSSA Performance
- Impact of School Performance on Future Job Opportunities
- Teen Pregnancy
- Youth Violence and Unlawful Behavior such as Drugs and Alcohol

PSSA Scores

- A majority of Mon Valley youth are Below Basic level on PSSAs.
- Woodland Hills' students are performing poorly, with over 65% deficient in Math and over 50% Reading deficient.

Youth Drug Use in McKeesport

- Surveyed 250 9th Grade Students
McKeesport Area Schools
-56% say drugs are sold in their school
- Surveyed 176 12th Grade Students
McKeesport Area Schools
-65% say drugs are sold in their school

Source: Communities That Care, 2004

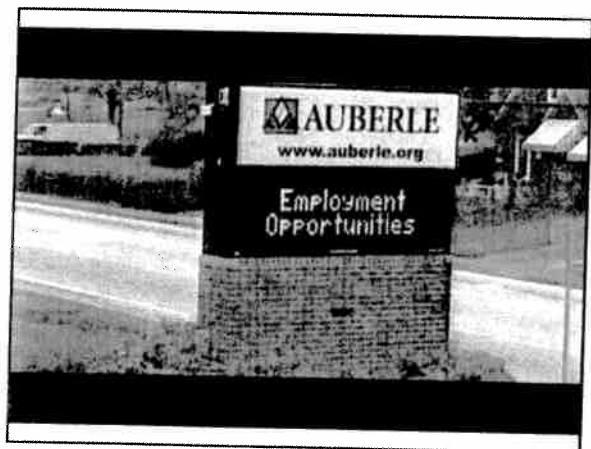
Impact on Youth

60 youth in Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR's CasaStart program were:

- Significantly less likely to use stronger drugs;
- Significantly less likely to report involvement in drug selling;
- Significantly more likely to be promoted to the next grade.

Youth also reported:

- Lower levels of violent offenses;
- Higher levels of positive peer influence;
- Lower levels of association with delinquent peers;
- Less susceptibility to negative peer pressure programs.



Impact on Youth

- 50% of at risk youth aging out of the system do not have employment at age 21, and 77% of the young men will be arrested with 20% becoming career criminals versus 5% of the general population.
- Every young man that we put on the right road saves PA taxpayers \$65,000 per inmate per year later.
- For Auberle's GOAL Program, over 90% of the youth successfully complete the program and move home or to independent living. 50% of the youth have a GPA at or above 3.0, 25% are on the honor roll at the public school they attend with Auberle and 6 youth from last year are attending college. This program is set up so that the Counties only pay 40% of the cost.

Working Group on Youth

Homeruns

Evidence-Based Programs

- Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR CasaStart
- Auberle SNAP, GOAL, and Hartman
- Project ELECT
- Project HEART and the BART curriculum
- Human Services Center's Out-of-School Time Youth Programming

Single Parents

- Since tracking began in the 1990s with the Toward Self Sufficiency Report, 8 of the 10 communities with the highest incidence of single parent families are in the Mon Valley.

Foster Care Youth Matter

Youth in foster care face significant challenges. By age 21, those who aged out of foster care...

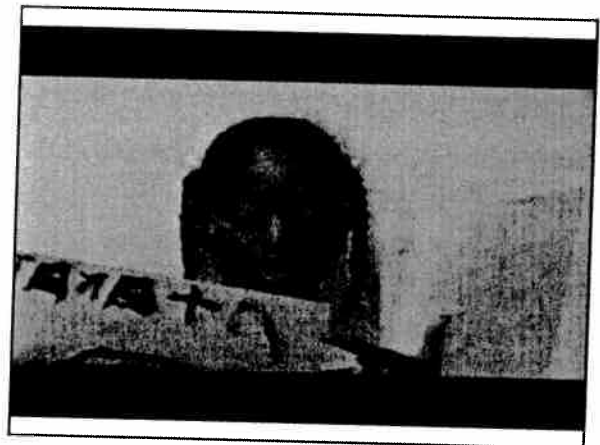
- 18% will experience homelessness
 - 50% will be unemployed
 - 71% will become pregnant
 - 77% of the men will have been arrested
- By age 18...
- only 50% will have graduated from high school

Impact on Youth

Human Services Center's Youth LIFE After-School Program:

- **90%** of all youth improved/maintained their grades in the grading period following completion of the program than in the grading period preceding enrollment in the program.
- **81%** of Youth LIFE participants utilizing Study Island achieved Basic or greater status in reading or math.



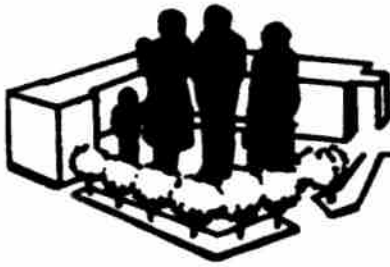


Working Group on Youth

Opportunities for Transformative Change

- Continuing, and further expanding the evidence-based programs to enhance the prospects for the future of our youth and making sure adequate programming exists throughout the 37 communities of the Mon Valley is essential.





Human Services Center Corp.

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Mon Valley Matters Synopsis, November 5, 2010

Mon Valley Matters: Successes and Opportunities in Human Services was held Friday, November 5th at Penn State Greater Allegheny. This event was a great success with over 150 people in attendance, including legislators, policy regulators, the foundation and corporate philanthropic community, the media, and leaders from member agencies. Dave Coplan, executive director of the Human Services Center opened the forum by stating, "Today's event has been planned by the Steering Committee of the Mon Valley Providers Council to highlight the needs of this region, the homeruns that have been hit, and the opportunities for transformative change that remain in social services."

During the forum, Dave Miller from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh gave an update of his Rivers City presentation. His message encourages municipalities to think in new ways about their communities and how they might improve their positions through removing barriers to cooperation. He stated, "Having a large number of local governments is not inherently bad, it is the inability to deal with the unintended consequences of that political decision that is the problem."

The MVPC serves as a formal network for information and resource exchange among human service providers in the Mon Valley. It involves its member organizations in Working Groups which address crucial issues in the Mon Valley in the areas of Employment and Training, Health, Housing, and Youth. Representatives from the four Working Groups presented the overarching needs in this region, the homeruns that have been hit, and the opportunities for transformative change.

The Working Group on Employment and Training identified primary needs as jobs, transportation, expanded training opportunities that are accessible, and computer literacy to meet the demands of available occupations. Communities such as McKeesport, Braddock, and Duquesne have unemployment rates of nearly twice that of the County. Soft skills for job seekers are a critical concern and include skills in attendance, behaviors in a job setting, and timeliness. "People become work ready through high school attendance and graduation, training, and comprehensive programming that affects the whole person and leads to self-sufficiency," stated Ruth Smith on behalf of the Working Group on Employment and Training. Improving the system of resources available to job seekers and creating jobs that are attainable and accessible is critical, and can reduce the high rates of unemployment in Mon Valley communities.

The Working Group on Health is focusing its efforts on improving access to Mental Health and Mental Retardation services by making the public aware of the resources and working to reduce any remaining stigma. Nancy Osterhus from the Allegheny County Health Department and co-chair of the Working Group on Health said, "In many ways, our health systems are fragmented for consumers and a transformative opportunity is to make access to care easier for people in the Valley." The Working Group has implemented free dental, vision, and osteoporosis screenings that have reached thousands of consumers. Additionally, collaborations by agencies such as The Early Learning Institute and Family Care Connection demonstrate that working together can help to defragment barriers to care. A transformative change in health in the Valley could result from community-based healthcare that focuses on wellness.

“Housing has an impact on the entire community. People moving into a community increases the tax base, transforms blight, and encourages businesses to move in,” said Dave Coplan, executive director of the Human Services Center. The Mon Valley Initiative (MVI) and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh are just two member organizations that have made a difference in this area with innovative programs such as MVI’s Rehab for Resale Program. The goal of this real estate development strategy is to concentrate resources in strategic neighborhoods to create a real impact for that area. Local municipalities have also agreed to this strategy and have assisted in revitalizing these neighborhoods by focusing their municipal dollars and efforts in those areas as well. Counseling services by MVPC member agencies such as NeighborWorks, MVI, Fair Housing Partnership, and Century Heritage Federal Credit Union have made significant strides in helping people in the Valley toward better housing options. Opportunities for transformative change in the Mon Valley include increasing efforts to address budgeting, the realities of credit counseling and credit repair, access to safe, affordable, decent rental housing, and creating new and rehab housing that has community impact. Targeted investment changes the fabric of the community from abandoned to vibrant with a tax base.

“It is important to get youth on the right track early because school performance leads to actual opportunities, which connects to the importance of jobs in the area,” said Lynn Tatala from Project ELECT. Contributing to the successes of youth requires addressing serious issues such as teen pregnancy, youth violence, and unlawful behavior such as drugs and alcohol. The Mon Valley is home to some excellent evidence-based models that have made significant impacts with youth. For example, at Turtle Creek Valley mental Health/Mental Retardation, CasaStart targets children who are at high risk for substance abuse, delinquency and academic failure in Woodland Hills from middle through high school, and has just started in McKeesport. Project ELECT, which is part of a statewide collaboration between the Department of Education and the Department of Welfare, tracks student’s attendance and grades, provides case management for social service needs, promotes the delay of secondary pregnancies, and offers intensive child development and pregnancy information. Transformative change for Mon Valley youth begins by continuing and further expanding evidence-based programs to enhance prospects for the future of our youth, and making sure adequate programming exists throughout the 37 communities of the Mon Valley.

Mon Valley Matters was moderated by Dr. Rose Piccioni, director of Continuing Education at Penn State Greater Allegheny. Members of the reaction panel included Marc Cherna, Director of the Allegheny Department of Human Services, State Senator Jay Costa, Dennis Davin, Director of the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development, Kevin Jenkins from The Pittsburgh Foundation, Lisa Kuzma, Program Officer at the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and Laurel Shaw, Senior Program Officer of the McCune Foundation.

In a discussion about cooperation among agencies, Marc Cherna said, “We have cross sectors of services working together in the Mon Valley, so we are already a step ahead. This is important because almost everyone we serve has multiple needs.” Jay Costa reinforced his point by stating, “Collaboration is already underway in the Mon Valley. If we do not work together, we will just manage decline.

Kevin Jenkins commented on the ability of foundations to meet the needs of the region. He said, “The Pittsburgh Foundation’s strategic plan is flexible enough to respond to real needs in real time. We are investing our resources in three areas: self sufficient individuals and adults, healthy communities, and a vibrant democracy. There was not one thing I heard this morning that does not fit into our strategic plan.” He went on to say, “Beyond grant making, the key role that foundations can play is convening around solutions.”

Lisa Kuzma remarked, “We need to be smarter and systemic in our approaches in order to be catalytic and focused on outcomes.”

Dennis Davin believes jobs will bring people back to the region. He explicitly stated, “The focus of the Allegheny Department of Economic Development is on sustained development, regardless of what private entities are doing.”

Laurel Shaw thinks that communities could benefit from using Local Initiative Support Corporations, or LISC. She said, “These quality of life plans will make our neighborhoods more livable.”

Michelle Atkins from Heritage Community Initiatives asked the panel what type of job training is appropriate in the Valley. State Senator Jay Costa responded, “We need to focus on targeted job growth areas.”

Alice Jones, Head Start, asked the panel to consider what they would say to a company to convince them to relocate or move into the Mon Valley. She stated, “If the people in state government need a model in perseverance, they should look to the Mon Valley.” Dennis Davin replied, “The infrastructure is here, costs are low, and we are seeing signs of a turnaround. Also, one of our key assets is miles and miles of riverfront.”

Michele Baich-Matuch, McKeesport Hospital Foundation, reminded everyone to keep the focus on the Mon Valley. She commented, “A lot of focus is on Pittsburgh, but we need to look at statistics in the Mon Valley that merit attention to the region.” Nancy Osterhus from the Allegheny County Department of Health replied, “Yes, the Mon Valley Matters.”

The following elected officials were in attendance: State Senator Jay Costa, State Representative Paul Costa, State Representative Harry Readshaw, County Councilman Chuck Martoni, County Councilman Bob Macey, Alison Piccolino from the 45th Senatorial District Office, and Tom Maglicco from Representative Marc J. Gergely’s office.

From the philanthropic community, there were representatives from: McCune Foundation, The Pittsburgh Foundation, Richard King Mellon Foundation, Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania, Massey Charitable Trust, The Grable Foundation, Hillman Foundation, The Forbes Funds, The Buhl Foundation, Highmark Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, The Benedum Foundation, Staunton Farm Foundation, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, BNY Mellon, FISA Foundation, PNC Community Development Banking, Duquesne Light Company, The Heinz Endowments, PNC Foundation, Schneider Downs, McKeesport Hospital Foundation, Dollar Bank Community Development, Eden Hall Foundation, and YouthWorks, Inc.

From the government sector, in attendance were staff from Allegheny County Department of Human Services (multiple program areas/departments), Allegheny County Department of Economic Development, and Pennsylvania Department of Health.

For more information about the Human Services Center or the Mon Valley Providers Council, visit the website at www.hscc-mvpc.org or call Lindsay Legé at 412-829-7112.