***Supported by:***  Lead Applicant Agency; Planning Grant Staff

***Co-Facilitators***:  Lisa Karle, HMIS Coordinator (lkarle@eriecountypa.gov and George Fickenworth, Assistant Director, Mercyhurst Civic Institute and CoC Planning Grant Recipient

***Objectives*:**  Committee members attend to understand, strengthen, and improve healthcare and housing services for persons experiencing homelessness in our community.

***Meeting Schedule:*** Bi***-***Weekly, Friday at 10am via Microsoft Teams

***Description:*** This is a sub-committee of the Erie County, PA Continuum of Care (CoC) Home Team Homeless and Housing Coalition.

The committee began during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency to assist with Vaccine Education to persons experiencing homelessness. The committee transitioned to its current role in 2022 when the need for COVID-19 vaccine clinics was handled strictly by the healthcare providers without the assistance of volunteers.

The focus of this group is diverse with an emphasis on collaboration to improve the mental, physical, and psychosocial health of those with lived experiences. Recent activities of this committee have included working with local emergency room and behavioral health staff to assist them in treatment and discharging homeless persons, promoting recertification of Medicaid benefits to those in the served population, and developing a multi-pronged survey to provide a gap analysis of health-related services. Relevant information and problem solving continuously stem from the discussions and dialogue of group members.

This team is comprised of healthcare providers, housing providers, service providers and all interested persons who collaborate to understand and address the healthcare and housing needs of persons experiencing homelessness.

The committee meets bi-weekly through a virtual platform. George Fickenworth and Lisa Karle co-facilitate this committee.