



Alliance for Housing General Membership Meeting Minutes 9.7.2022

Scribe: Julia Steinberg

Attendance: Leah McCall, Audrey White, Holly Gauthier, Ashley Burton, Julia Steinberg (Alliance for Housing), Holly Douglas (Oakland Schools), Trish Swan, Brianna Agnello (Lighthouse), Chaka McDonald (OCHN), Gina Misuraca, Kim Diggan, Michelle Malmgren, Deirdre Mercer (CHN), Monisha Scott (VA), Benjamin Ogden (SOCH), Melissa Felice (Oakland County Neighborhood & Housing Development), Marlo Sheppard (Easerseals), Pamela Alexander (OLHSA), Joseph Rusher (Common Ground), Barbara Burke (St. Vincent de Paul), Clay Bell (Salvation Army), Ernestine McRae (HAVEN)

Approval of July Meeting Minutes

- Motion: Holly Gauthier; second: Michelle Malmgren. Unanimous approval.

New Business

- Agency Presentation: Holly Douglas, Oakland Schools Regional Grant Coordinator for McKinney-Vento Grant in Oakland County.
 - Oakland County has 51 local school districts that are part of the consortium.
 - It is the mission of Oakland Schools Homeless Student Services to provide a quality, seamless educational experience for all children without regard to physical, social or bureaucratic obstacles posed by homelessness.
 - Who is Homeless? Children, birth – 12th grade, who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:
 - *Fixed* - "A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change." (meant for human habitation)
 - *Regular* - "A regular residence is one that is used on a regular, nightly basis." (how long can the family stay there?)
 - *Adequate* - "An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments."
 - Homeless Examples:
 - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (about 72% of children served annually in Michigan are doubled up);
 - Living in motels, hotels, or camp grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - Staying in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - Sleeping in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus/train station or similar setting.
 - Rights of Eligible Children and Youth:
 - Remain in the school of origin, if in the student's best interest.



- Receive transportation to the school of origin, if needed.
- Immediate enrollment, even when records not present.
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (not in the custody of a parent or legal guardian) have the right to enroll themselves.
- Full participate in all school related activities including athletics, clubs, field trips and special events.
- Support for academic success and receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Gifted and Talented, Special Education, Head Start, Even Start, and preschool programs administered by publicly funded schools.
- Referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services. Assistance with necessary school clothing and supplies.
- How You Can Help:
 - Inform parents and youth about McKinney Vento and encourage connection to local liaison or Oakland Schools Homeless Student Education.
 - Make direct referrals with parent approval. (Referral form attached.)
 - Help develop more efficient and streamlined referral mechanisms for our 51 local liaisons to secure supports for our students and families.
 - Would be interested in collaboration/training for liaisons on community services.
- Access to Services:
 - Local Liaisons – All publicly funding Districts and Charter Schools. Can look up for any school in Michigan at: <https://cepi.state.mi.us/EEM/EntitySearchQuick.aspx>
 - Oakland Schools Homeless Student Program
 - Email: Holly.Douglas@oakland.k12.mi.us
 - Call: 888-795-5437 (Toll Free)
- MSHDA ESG
 - 2022-2023 grant has been submitted.
 - SOCH – Welcome Inn is new grantee for overnight shelter starting in December.
- Prevention Assessment/Prioritization
 - 52% increase in HRC calls since last year.
 - 70% increase in HRC calls in the last month.
 - Prevention prioritization matrix and tool attached.

Committee and Workgroup Reports

- Alliance Committee Summary Reports and Financials – Group reviewed.
 - To join a committee or workgroup, please contact [Leah McCall](#).
- Chronic Numbers & Veteran Numbers presented by Holly Gauthier.
 - January 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022:
 - Total Disposition Referrals in 2022: 322 (182 active).
 - 66 chronic, 55 non-chronic 12+ months, 195 other.
 - HMIS Breakdown in 2022:
 - 20 in Permanent Supportive Housing, 166 in Rapid Re-



Housing, 43 Other - Self Resolved.

- Shelter List Breakdown in 2022: 126 total referrals (60 active).
 - 34 housed, 33 deactivated.
 - Have stopped taking shelter referrals and currently working on winding down the shelter list.
- Veteran BNL Breakdown in 2022: 30 total referrals (16 active).
 - 6 housed, 16 deactivated.
- Veteran Updates (SSVF and BNL) presented by Monisha Scott, Coordinated Entry Specialist at VAMC.
 - HUD-VASH Eligibility Expansion
 - The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 ([PL 116-283](#)), included provisions expanding eligibility for HUD-VASH.
 - The law went into effect on January 1, 2021.
 - The National HUD-VASH Program Office has been actively working with the Office of General Council (OGC) and VA's Health Eligibility Center (HEC) to develop implementation guidance for the field.
 - Changes to HUD-VASH eligibility are as follows:
 - For the purpose of HUD-VASH eligibility, the term "Veteran" is defined as "a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service regardless of length of service, and who has discharged or released therefrom," excluding anyone who received a dishonorable discharge or was discharged or dismissed by reason of a general court-martial (38 USC § 2002 (b)).
 - A bad conduct discharge can result from a general court-martial or a special court-martial. A person with a bad conduct discharge from a general court martial is not a "Veteran" as defined in 38 USC § 2002 (b) and is thus ineligible to participate based on that period of service. A person with a bad conduct discharge from a special court-martial is a "Veteran" as defined by 38 USC § 2002 (b) and thus is eligible to participate.
 - In practice, this means:
 - *Eligible for HUD-VASH:*
 - Honorable Discharge
 - General Discharge
 - Other than Honorable Discharge
 - Bad Conduct Discharge (from a special court-marital)
 - *Ineligible for HUD-VASH:*
 - Dishonorable Discharge
 - Bad Conduct Discharge (from a general court-martial)
 - ***This mirrors eligibility for the SSVF and Grant Per Diem (GPD) programs***
 - Covered Services:
 - Veterans enrolled in HUD-VASH, but otherwise ineligible for VA healthcare services, may receive case management



- and supportive services offered by HUD-VASH providers through the local VAMC's HUD-VASH program.
- HUD-VASH enrollment does not entitle covered Veterans to the full range of VA healthcare services if the Veteran is otherwise ineligible. Eligibility for services provided through HUD-VASH ceases upon discharge from the HUD-VASH program.
 - Veterans served under the new legislation may not be eligible for additional healthcare services offered by the VA and should be linked to the community resources/services for support.
 - Resource Availability and Prioritization
 - This expanded eligibility does not immediately impact the availability of the HUD-VASH vouchers and/or staffing resources.
 - All HUD-VASH eligible Veterans will be assessed and prioritized for available resources following current processes and in partnership with local coordinated entry systems.
 - VA healthcare-eligible Veterans DO NOT take priority over non-healthcare eligible Veterans.
 - What's Next?
 - These eligibility changes will be formally incorporated into HUD-VASH regulations and directives, including VA Directives and the HUD-VASH Operating Requirements.
 - Implementation may begin prior to the publication of these changes. Stay tuned for guidance from our HUD-VASH Coordinator, Shantell Jackson on further steps.
 - The HUD-VASH team will receive further guidance from registration and enrollment procedure guidance and formal guidance and implementation materials from the National HUD-VASH Program Office.
 - SSVF NOFO Funding Opportunity
 - The Department of Veteran Affairs announced special funding under the Supportive Services for Veteran and Families (SSVF) Program to hire Housing Navigators. The award will extend through September 30, 2026.
 - The Housing Navigator will be delegated to work with homeless Veterans with HUD-VASH vouchers.
 - To provide up to \$1,000 supplemental assistance to every Veteran household who obtains a lease of not less than 1-year to cover miscellaneous move-in expenses. These items can include food, furniture, household items, electronics (including televisions) or other items typically associated with independent living in permanent housing.
 - Pay landlords up to an amount equal to 2 months' rent for fees related to securing a lease of at least 1 year.
 - See [SSVF and HUD-VASH FAQ](#) for more information.
 - Southeastern Michigan Veterans Stand Down
 - 2022 Veteran Stand Down Open to Veterans and their spouses



ALLIANCE FOR HOUSING

- When: September 21st & 22nd
- Where: Macomb Community College (South Campus) Event Services Bldg. P 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd. Warren, Michigan.
- Volunteer and vendors/support agencies:
 - Can register on the website; www.4vets.org
- For any questions, contact SEMVSD Inc President: Dr. Evan Wilcher, PhD MBA @ 313-506-9047
- PATH Team- Outreach Calendars.
 - Updated monthly on website: <https://www.oaklandhomeless.org/path-street-outreach-calendar>.
 - Contact Gina Misuraca (gmisuraca@chninc.net) to coordinate additional locations for PATH team to canvas.
 - Will be adding addresses and locations in south Oakland County.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: November 2, 2022

Location: Virtual