



ALLIANCE FOR HOUSING

**Alliance for Housing  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
11.1.2023**

**Scribe:** Julia Steinberg

**Attendees:** Leah McCall, Audrey White, Holly Gauthier, Ashley Cuniberti, Julia Steinberg (Alliance for Housing), Gisele Poole, Taylor Eberhart, Genny Bull, Sarah Muhich, Shawna Reynolds, Shelly Brinkman, Kimberly Diggan, Emma Kretzmer, Kayleigh Sheehan (CHN), Melissa Preville, Steve O'Donnell (Oakland County Neighborhood & Housing Development), Princess Staples, Rhi McGarry, Jessie Polito, Joseph Rusher, Michael Centi, LaKeesha Donaldson, Sonya Wilson (Lighthouse), Chaka McDonald (OCHN), Katherine Kondek, Timzetta Dickson (Lakeshore Legal Aid), Angela Cucullo (Kensington Church), Holly Douglas, Kelly Phillips (Oakland Schools), Jennifer Lucarelli (Oakland University), Barbara Burke (St. Vincent de Paul), Kathleen English (Habitat for Humanity of MI), Liz Lucas, Brandy Kobe, Casey Coon, Donna Bunin, Kathy Koths, Katie Schafer (OLHSA), Monisha Scott (VAMC), Benjamin Ogden (SOCH), Tara Irwin (JFS), Nicole Odom (MDOC), Barbara Williams (CCRT), Marlo Sheppard (Easterseals MORC), Rebecca Fitzgerald (HOPE), Sian Washington (DNEM), Sandi Elanges (Oakland County Health Division), Bridget Terry (Blue Cross Complete), Chris Powers (Reciprocity), Clay Bell (Salvation Army), Genessa Doolittle (Oakland County), Mary Jo Wisneski (Mary's Mantle), LaWanda Jackson (Headlands Research), Julie Walker (Kirk in the Hills), Kimber Bishop-Yanke

**Approval of July Meeting Minutes**

- Motion to approve: Taylor Eberhart; second: Liz Lucas. Unanimous approval.

**New Business**

- Point in Time count (PIT)
  - PIT is a HUD mandated annual event to count and survey people experiencing homelessness (both in shelters and on the street) on a single night in January. This helps to assess scope of homelessness and allocate resources.
  - Volunteers will be needed on PIT night to help canvas all of Oakland County.
  - PIT will be on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 from 7pm-11pm.
  - More info can be found here:  
<https://www.oaklandhomeless.org/point-in-time>
- Web-Based App Update



- We are working with Reciprocity to develop a web-based app to coordinate and connect people to services using technology. Goals of the app include coordinated information gathering, screening for eligibility, and real-time shelter availability.
- We are currently in phase 1 of fact finding which includes meeting with agencies/community partners and people with lived experience to gather input.
- If anyone wants to connect re: technology solutions to streamline and simplify housing and homelessness prevention resource access, email Chris Powers at: [chris@reciprocityapps.org](mailto:chris@reciprocityapps.org)
- EHV Report Out by Taylor Eberhart, CHN
  - Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) was a program started during the pandemic with expanded eligibility and supportive services.
  - CHN & Lighthouse worked as service providers and Oakland County received 56 vouchers from MSHDA and additional from DHC.
  - The EHV waitlist closed in November 2021 with over 200 people still on the waitlist.
  - 239 households were pulled from the waitlist; over 400 people served.
  - Housing Counseling is also available through:
    - Habitat Michigan does housing counseling statewide. Habitat Michigan Housing Counseling Website: <https://hfhm.my.site.com/hfhmcft>
    - CHN Housing Counseling: [housingcounseling@chninc.net](mailto:housingcounseling@chninc.net)
- Homeless Verification Letters
  - Homeless verification is needed for individuals to access many programs.
  - Third party agency/entity needs to provide verification based on their observations.
  - Third Party Homeless Verification form template and example will be sent out with meeting minutes.
  - Discussion around who can complete the Homeless Verification in Oakland County and if it should only be those that have signed the Coordinated Services Agreement.
    - The Coordinated Services Agreement MOU is to share information related to housing among partners and be listed on released of information (ROI) for all partners on the agreement.
      - To become a sharing partner on the [Coordinated Services Agreement](#), contact [Julia Steinberg](#) to sign the MOU.



- Alliance members are automatically included on the Coordinated Services Agreement; to become a member: <https://www.oaklandhomeless.org/alliance-members>
- The group identified grey areas and provided feedback; a vote may be held at a later date.

### **Committee and Workgroup Reports**

- Alliance Committee Summary Reports – Group reviewed.
  - Taylor suggested the creation of a diversion/prevention committee or workgroup to include non-financial prevention tools.
- Chronic Numbers & Veteran Numbers Report Update presented by Holly Gauthier
  - Within HMIS, HUD is doing data standard updates which has caused issues with the vendor and prevented the ability to pull reports at this time. A year-end report is expected to be available at the next GM meeting in January.
- Veteran Updates Presented by Monisha Scott
  - New calendar year has 3 new housing goals:
    - Permanently house at least 38,000 Veterans
      - Currently at 96% of goal for calendar year.
    - Prevention of returns to homelessness
      - Goal achieved of less than 5% returning to homelessness and over 90% of which are rehoused or on a path to rehousing.
    - Increase outreach to engage with unsheltered Veterans
      - Goal has been met.
  - New VA Coordinated Entry Specialist: Rustine Janiszewski
  - HCHV Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist: Derrick Moss
  - VA S.A.V.E. Training: Suicide Prevention Training upcoming dates
- PATH Team- Outreach Calendars.
  - Updated monthly on website: <https://www.oaklandhomeless.org/path-street-outreach-calendar>.
  - Shawna Reynolds, Manager for Community Outreach at CHN: [sreynolds@chninc.net](mailto:sreynolds@chninc.net)

### **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: January 3, 2023

Location: Oakland County Executive Building, 41 West, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford Twp.