

## **Alliance for Housing**

Bi-monthly General Membership Meeting; Tuesday, November, 12, 2013

Meeting Minutes - Respectfully submitted by Daniel Kelly

Attendance: Leah McCall (Lighthouse), Jill Shoemaker (HMIS), Karla Chambers (Springhill/CHN), Michelle Atwell (Grace Centers of Hope), Jessica Esker (Easter Seals), Sarah Sporny (Common Ground), Julia Drew (HOPE), Kathy Williams (OCCHI), Liz Lucas (OLHSA), Marc Craig (CHN), Stephanie Osterland (Habitat for Humanity), Kirsten Elliott (CHN), Gloria Lutey (OCHD), Deborah Busch (Busch Housing Services), Sian Washington (Disability Network), Christine Cook (Blue Water CIL), Toni Mazure (Blue Water Center), Ecole Brooks (OCHD), Katie Morgan (TTI), Zachary Dieck (TTI), Alysa Wamsler (TTI), Amy Coniff (CHN), Jamie Christofel (CHN), Juanita Harper (CHN), Debra Hendren (CHN), Courtney Moore (HNMP), Deb Livingston (HNMP)

### **Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 1:35pm.

Marc asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were no additions. The agenda for the September 2013 general membership meeting was approved.

### **Announcements**

Michelle Atwell announced that the previous clutch cargo building in Pontiac has been purchased by Grace Centers of Hope affiliates. She mentioned she had future plans to open up additional emergency shelter and transitional shelter beds. She noted she expect to be able to serve additional women and children.

### **Presenter**

Dan Kelly presented on the Alliance for Housing website. Several individuals noted some potential improvements and highlighted the strong points of the website. Dan asked that if anyone would like to recommend any changes to the website, please email him at [dkelly@oaklandshelter.org](mailto:dkelly@oaklandshelter.org) to make those recommendations. Dan noted that the public awareness and advocacy committee is in the process of creating procedures to make changes to the website as well as for the Alliance Board to engage in Public Awareness and Advocacy positions in general.

Sian Washington of the Disability Network presented on the Supportive Service for Veterans (SSVF) of Oakland County. She passed around brochures regarding the program and stated that the program may be able to provide security deposit, rental, and other financial assistance to homeless or at-risk veterans (facing an eviction). It was noted that those that are couch surfing are considered literally homeless in the SSVF program. It was noted that Community Housing Network (CHN), Training and Treatment Innovations (TTI), Disability Network (through Blue Water Services), and Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA) have SSVF services available.



The group asked questions about SSVF implementation including how to determine where to send a client amongst the SSVF agencies available. Katie Morgan noted that the mentor agency, Southwest Solutions has been working on this solving this question. Katie Morgan also noted that each agency may be utilizing the funds slightly differently in terms of subpopulations they serve. Jill Shoemaker noted that there may be Homeless Management and Information System (HMIS) difficulties with regards to the sharing of data. It was noted that a better way of asking if someone is a Veteran is to ask them “have they every served in the military” as people do not always identify as Veterans.

## **Committee and Workgroup Reports**

### **Operations Committee**

Kathy Williams noted that the MSHDA ESG grant has been approved and is going through the final processes.

Kirsten Elliott presented as well and noted that sub-committees/workgroups need to submit their completed meeting minutes (utilizing the meeting minutes template from the Alliance website) to the chair of the Board committee they are under.

Kathy Williams noted that the Alliance was approved for the COC planning grant and will utilize this to fund a coordinator. Kirsten Elliott noted the structure for renewal of COC program funds will include a learning session for the COC as well as a voting by non-funded Board members on renewal projects.

Kathy Williams noted the operations committee meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month at 9:00am at the Oakland County Community and Home Improvement building.

### **Systems Coordination Committee**

Gloria Lutey presented on the Homeless Health Care Collaboration. She noted they had an influential speaker at their previous meeting, Dr. Jason Wasserman. She noted he will be conducted research with the Oakland University/Beaumont School of Medicine on Emergency Room Frequent Users. Gloria noted that the goal of the collaboration is to create a respite facility of some kind for homeless individuals. The goal of this would be to increase outcomes for homeless individuals.

Amy Coniff presented on the work of the ID taskforce. She stated the goal of the taskforce is to create mechanisms with which homeless individuals can obtain their ID. She presented a letter to the Board of Commissioners and passed it to the Alliance membership. The letter includes requesting a fee waiver for people who do not have the funds to obtain identification.

Jamie Christofel noted their will be a pull off the Homeless Preference Voucher in the near future. She stated that within the next day or two (11/13 – 11/14) there will be an email out to those pulled. She asked those on the email list to reply back with the most recent contact information. She stated the applications must be completed and turned in within 14 days of the date of the individual’s appointments with CHN in order for the person to maintain the voucher. Jamie stated that CHN will be

supporting the application completion process. She stated that CHN is able to add people to the waitlist. Jamie noted that there are approximately 250 people on the waitlist.

Jamie noted that those receiving HPV's who are chronically homeless may be taking part in a chronically homeless case management initiative. This initiative will provide supportive services to those individuals for up to one year. Jamie noted that households will be moved into units at 2 heartbeats per room with the HPV program.

Katie Morgan presented on Community Resource Day (CRD). She noted that it is being conducted November 20, 2013 from 11:00am – 3:00pm at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, 123 Wesson St., Pontiac, MI. She noted that there are over 20 agencies signed up at this time. She noted that there are several Alliance organizations who have not signed up. She asked that Alliance membership please focus on bringing your constituency. She stated the CRD event has been posted on public television, a press release has went out, contact has been made with schools, and the Department of Human Services (DHS) is conducting outreach.

The next meeting is Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at Oakland Schools Summit Campus.

#### **Finance and Audit**

No report.

#### **Public Awareness and Advocacy**

Dan Kelly reported. He stated the group is working on creating a formalized process for external relations and how the Alliance decides on public awareness and advocacy related issues. He noted that the group is setting up a meeting and this meeting right now and if anyone is interested in joining the committee, please contact him at [dkelly@oaklandshelter.org](mailto:dkelly@oaklandshelter.org).

#### **Project Monitoring and Performance Outcomes (HMIS)**

Jill Shoemaker presented. She noted some HMIS changes. Jill noted that she expected the SSVF HMIS components to be completed in the next three months. Jill noted that the site reviews were all completed by Alliance COC program funded entities.

Jill noted that it is Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) time period currently. She thanked each organization for their exceptional data quality in the previous AHAR report. Jill stated the AHAR notes homelessness in the United States to Congress. She stated it focuses on individuals and families in various Alliance programs and has a special component for Veterans. She stated our draft for the AHAR was due on November 15<sup>th</sup>; she stated she already submitted the report. Jill stated that if anyone would like a summary of what AHAR is, please email her a [jshoemaker@chninc.net](mailto:jshoemaker@chninc.net)

Leah Mcall reported on the work of the outcomes committee. She asked if people would like to join. She noted the group is working on creating community defined outcomes and creating common measures. She stated the group would like to do this with the support of providers. She noted that

certain outcomes measured are reported well and others are not, i.e. income at exit. Jill stated the group is working on creating program evaluation methodology.

Leah noted the group meets the second Monday at 10:00am at CHN.

### **Street Count**

Kirsten Elliott reported. She noted the street count will be January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014. She noted they are looking for team leaders. She asked that each agency have 2-3 team leaders. She stated there are about 52 team leaders needed\*.

\*Correction: Elizabeth Ireland, Street Count coordinator noted there were 42 team leaders needed, 11/13/013.

### **Region 8 report**

There is a meeting for the Region upcoming. Deb Hendren stated that MSHDA is looking to utilize the SPDAT acuity assessment to best place homeless individuals and families for services based on their need levels. She stated that the assessment will be mandated by next October by MSHDA and potentially other state-wide funders including Department of Human Services (DHS).

### **HARA Single Point of Entry Report**

Amy Coniff presented. She asked that people who are experiencing a housing crisis to contact the HARA. She stated that the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is utilized by the HARA to serve those with the most need, challenges, and barriers. Amy stated they are setting up spots in Oakland County to meet with people where they are. She stated they have 10-14 new appointments per week. She stated they are able to assist people with who are literally homeless with rental assistance up to 6 months.

Dan Kelly noted that the Oakland County Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is able to assist individuals and families with rental assistance as well. He noted that the funds are able to assist with security deposits and utility funds as long as these items inhibit housing.

### **Eviction Diversion Meeting**

Jamie Christofel presented. She noted there are meetings occurring regarding the eviction diversion program. She stated there are limited prevention dollars in Oakland County that are going to be utilized with this program. The meeting is 3:00pm, 11/18 at the Baldwin Center.

### **Final Notes**

Gloria Lutey noted that next week, Tuesday at 5:30pm on Public Television, Elizabeth Kelly will be airing a piece on homelessness that includes an interview with a formerly homeless individual and Oakland County Commissioner L. Brooks Patterson.

Amy Coniff noted that there was a successful Bi-County landlord breakfast in October 2013. She stated there were approximately 90 attendees. She stated that of those who completed the follow-up survey,

over 80% responded “yes”. When asked if there is any additional information they would like, approximately 50% stated the material was applicable, 30% would have liked more information about Section 8 and other programs. Over 90% stated the location was convenient.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:30 at a location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.