

## **Alliance for Housing**

Bi-monthly General Membership Meeting; Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Meeting Minutes - Respectfully submitted by Daniel Kelly

Attendance: Ganiah Hinton (OLHSA), Leah McCall (Alliance), Laura Wesley (OLHSA), Evette Szajna (MSHDA), Jamie Le Claire (CHN), Kathy Williams (CHN), Rachel Densmore (OCCMHA), Ernestine Mcrae (HAVEN), Gloria Lutey (OCHD), Garth Wooten (OCVSD), Lauren Chamberlin (OCVSD), Samantha Bryant (OCHD), Zachary Dieck (TTI), Marc Craig (CHN), Bev Weir (OCHD), Kim Watkins (HOPE), Julia Drew (HOPE), Dave Nesbitt (HOPE), Michelle Edwards (MSHDA), Ecole Brooks (OSAS/OCCMHA), Heather Rae (Common Ground), Kirsten Elliott (CHN), Sara Orris (Oakland Schools), Miriam Green (DNOM), Sian Washington (Disability Network), Jameel Williams (Legal Aid), Erinn Johnson (LH), Elizabeth Kelly (HOPE), Monica Wafford (HOPE), Marj Knurick (OLHSA), Sarah Sporny (CG), Tina Shelman (VA), Angela Gougherty (HMIS), Deborah Busch (MSHDA), Jenny Poma (SOS), Dan Kelly (SOS), Candance Morgan (Salvation Army), Amy Coniff (CHN), Kevin Bogg (TTI).

### **Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 1:39pm.

Leah McCall called for introductions.

Leah asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Leah added a few things to the agenda including: discussing the homeless preference voucher waitlist and homeless healthcare transportation taskforce. The agenda for the general membership meeting was approved. Kathy Williams motioned and Gloria Lutey seconded approving the minutes from the January 2015 Alliance General Membership Meeting.

### **Announcements**

Kathy Williams that an RFP for the Oakland County's Emergency Solutions Grant will go out in April 2015.

There were no other announcements.

### **Presentation**

Michelle Edwards presented. She noted that MSHDA was awarded a HUD 811 grant for 211 additional housing units for people with disabilities. She noted that the application will be out some time in the next few months. She noted that they have an open Public Housing Plan on their website. Michelle noted the plan is open to public comment currently and that there are multiple opportunities for public comment. Michelle also noted that the county has been awarded an additional 20 moving up vouchers for this calendar year; she stated there may be an opportunity for additional vouchers next year. Michelle also noted that the Building Michigan Communities Conference is upcoming; please visit the MSHDA website for more information. She asked that people save the date for the upcoming Homeless Summit in September 2015.



Michelle noted that the moving up vouchers are for those who are in PSH however no longer need services. It allows them to “move on” and obtain a MSHDA housing choice voucher and exit their PSH programs.

Kelly and Catha from the VA presented. They noted that the HUD VASH program works on a referral basis. She noted that the engagement specialist engages Veterans initially. She noted that there is a target for Veterans that are chronically homeless, families, have disabilities, and were in the most recent war conflicts. She noted that there are now Veterans staff that assist with healthcare as well. She noted that there is a “level system” at the VA; level 1 is when an individual needs an intensive amount of services, level 2 need some level of services, and level 3 where someone does not need services.

Leah Mccall asked what she could do to help get those In need referred for HUD-VASH services. It was noted that they should reach out to: Bonnie Littleton at HUD-VASH.

The presenters noted that they have many Veterans that are seeking housing in Oakland County however due to high rents have to move to other neighboring counties. They noted that HUD-VASH vouchers allow households that move into any of the 4 Metro-Detroit counties. They noted that HUD-VASH has a good process with Macomb County. The presenters also noted that there may be a difference between the payment standards for rapid re-housing and the HUD-VASH which can make transitioning a homeless Veteran receiving homeless services through rapid re-housing to HUD-VASH difficult. It was discussed at the meeting that there is an issue with the differences in allowable number of bedrooms between programs as well. It was noted that the process of referring Veterans to them receiving a Voucher is at most one month. She noted that after that process is complete it can take a significant amount of time for someone to locate a housing unit, especially in Oakland County.

Dan Kelly asked whether they utilize a checklist for screening Veterans for services. He asked if the Alliance could obtain such a checklist. The presenters noted that could be obtained. The presenters noted that they utilize the SPDAT to determine eligibility for HUD-VASH however it does not necessarily exclude a person from receiving services.

## **Committee and Workgroup Reports**

### **Board Report**

Marc Craig reported. He noted that the Board is focusing on capacity building activities currently. He noted they are focused on obtaining new Board members, working on creating auditable finance records, and other non-profit functions. Marc made a motion to add Heather Rae from Common Ground to the Board of Directors. Elizabeth Kelly motioned for approval, Ernestine Mcrae seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Leah Mccall noted that Amanda Andrews is recommended for the Board as well. Ms. Andrews works with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department as is a key asset in the public sector to join the Board. Elizabeth Kelly motioned to add Amanda Andrews to the Board, Rachel Densmore seconded her. Marc

Craig noted that the Sheriff's office is very eager to work with the Alliance. He noted that Ms. Andrews has worked with sheriff's office for a significant period of time. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Operations**

Kathy Williams reported. She noted the committee is seeking members currently. She noted they meet the Fourth Monday of each month at 9:00am at the Oakland County Home Improvement Division. For more information Kathy asked that people contact her at [williamska@oakgov.com](mailto:williamska@oakgov.com). She noted the group is currently working on creating an agenda for the upcoming Alliance retreat; she noted the retreat will be held Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Kathy asked if anyone from the general membership would like to see certain information at the retreat; please contact her or Leah Mccall. She noted the group is also working on the Continuum of Care application process. She noted that this important process yields over 5.5 million dollars in funds for those experiencing homelessness in our community. She noted that as of late HUD has asked that the COC prioritize funding based on their recommended prioritizations. She noted that there is a monitoring process for the COC programs that helps score the projects accordingly.

Kathy noted they are currently looking for someone to Chair the Project Connect event in November 2015. She asked if anyone if interested please let her or Leah Mccall know.

### **Systems Coordination & Implementation**

Ernestine Mcrae reported. She noted that there is an Affordable Housing Workgroup that is meeting monthly. She read the affordable housing principles aloud to the group. These principles were distributed to attendees and can be found on the Alliance website. She asked for a vote on the principles to support them as a group; Marc Craig motioned to approve/adopt the principles, Gloria Lutey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jamie Leclaire reported on the prevention workgroup. She noted that the County is leveraging DHS dollars in the City of Pontiac to notify individuals who are being served with an eviction notice to take part in the eviction diversion program. The goal of this program is to stop people from being evicted. She noted it is a pilot program for those in the City of Pontiac. She also noted that the group is utilizing a Community Foundation grant for prevention funds. The goal of the pilot is to see if this model can be replicated by funders in other communities. All those eligible will be provided a Brochure at the time of receiving an eviction notice.

Elizabeth Kelly presented on the ID taskforce. She noted that the group has just implemented a pilot program to streamline the acquisition of IDs. She noted the pilot will take place in the Pontiac, Oak Park, and Cadillac St., Detroit locations. She noted the pilot is to allow those experiencing homelessness with obtaining an ID with documentation different than the standard documentation needed. She noted the State is still working on identifying what they will accept in place of traditional documentation. She noted that the program works as follows: the taskforce faxes information to the Secretary of State special exemptions unit who then either approve or deny documentation in place of traditional documentation to approve ID. Then the exemptions unit sends these documents along with

their notification of approval to the local Secretary of State Office. Currently eh group is working on identifying way to waive ID fees for those who have low-income and are homeless.

Elizabeth also noted that there is a process for agencies to waive Oakland County Birth Certificate records. She noted agencies will need to be registered with Oakland County records process. She noted there are two significant exceptions: 1) if the individual was born before 1978 and the parents were not Wed at the time of birth and 2) if they were adopted. In these cases, these records are at the state office.

Bev Weir presented on the hospital discharge taskforce. She noted that she works with those in this program to help them maintain medical compliance and to identify housing options after exiting the program.

Gloria Lutey presented on the homeless healthcare taskforce. She noted that Sam Bryant will now be leading up the homeless health care collaboration. She asked that if anyone is interested in joining the committee they should reach out to her after the meeting or come to the next meeting Friday 3/13 from 9-12pm at the 2100 Telegraph Building number 41 west, Waterford, MI.

Garth Wooten presented on the 100 day challenge to end Veterans homelessness. He noted he will present the numbers at the Friday, 3/13 homeless healthcare meeting. He noted that there will be a Veterans workgroup starting in the near future. He asked that anyone interested please reach out to him. He noted the first meeting will be May 12, 2015; there will be a notice sent on the listserv.

Ernestine Mcrae presented on the PSH workgroup. She noted the group is going well. Dan Kelly noted that if anyone working with households that are homeless and in need of permanent supportive housing for them to reach out to Leah Mccall, Ernestine Mcrae, or anyone else from the PSH workgroup to aid them in successfully referring those they serve for this important service.

### **Finance & Audit**

Leah Mccall reported. She noted there was nothing to report.

### **Advocacy & Public Awareness**

Leah Mccall presented. She noted the group was working on increasing awareness for the point in time count. She noted the group will meet in the near future.

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

Leah Mccall reported. She noted that Sharman Davenport is the chair of the committee. She noted that the group is working on identifying common performance measures for the County.

### **Region 10 Report**

Candice Morgan presented. She noted the most recent meeting was about 30 minutes long. She noted there was nothing significant from the meeting.

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

Jamie Leclaire reported that there have been a significant number of pulls for Homeless Preference Vouchers by MSHDA. She noted that the local community collaboration around this process has been very successful. She noted there have been difficulties in identifying landlords and thus they are losing their Vouchers after the initial briefing. It was noted that the success rate is about 20%.

Jamie noted that to aid improving success rates, the PSH registry group has recommended that a HPV subcommittee be formed to address this issue. The homeless preference housing choice voucher taskgroup would meet once weekly over the phone to discuss clients that were pulled or are in line to be pulled for HPV to ensure they receive their Vouchers. The goal of this collaboration is to increase the percentage of clients who reach the end of the process. It was asked that anyone interested please consider attending; more information will be sent to the listserv.

Amy Coniff reported that CHN still has rapid re-housing dollars to assist those that are homeless who's income is below 30% AMI. Amy asked that those interested in referring households please contact her at 248-928-0111.

Dan Kelly reported on Oakland County ESG funds. He noted that the funds were previously allocated, however due to the fact that so many households have been transitioning onto HPV this year, there is a small amount of funds currently available. He noted that notification of the referral process would be sent to the listserv for those interested in referring clients for ESG services.

## **Point in Time Count**

Angela Gougherty noted that there are 496 homeless persons in Oakland County as reported on the Homeless Inventory Chart in Oakland County. This Chart is submitted to HUD each year to note the number of homeless units in Oakland County. She noted that these numbers were similar to the previous year. She noted that if anyone has any questions about HMIS, please contact the HMIS help email at [HMISHelp@chninc.net](mailto:HMISHelp@chninc.net).

## **Landlord Breakfast**

Amy Coniff noted that the landlord breakfast planning committee will be meeting in May 2015. She said if anyone is interested please contact her to attend.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14pm

The next meeting will be the Annual Alliance for Housing Retreat on Friday, May 15, 2015. More information will be sent to the Alliance listserv