



ALLIANCE FOR HOUSING

**Alliance for Housing**

**Virtual Annual Retreat 2021**

**May 12, 2021**

Scribe: Julia Steinberg

**Attendees:** Ashley Burton, Leah McCall, Julia Steinberg, Audrey White, Holly Ellis, Tiffany Jones (Alliance), Regina Cannon (C4 Innovations), Dana Paglia-King, Taylor Eberhart, Marc Craig, Erica Morphis, Jessica Keenan, Gina Misuraca, Eric Burton, Jessica Lasher, Natalie Wojcickij, Sarah Sporny, Alexa Kalasz, Liz McLachlan (CHN), Dubrae Newman (Honor Community Health), Shannon Smith, Erinn Johnson, Ryan Hertz (Lighthouse), Liz Lucas, D'Asia McDonald, China Aquino (OLHSA), Suzanne Kimmerly (Neighborhood House), Anne Harpe (PNC), Joseph Rusher, Jasmine Summers, Amanda Cookson, David Permaloff (Common Ground), Christina Ramirez, Ernestine McRae (HAVEN), Brian Wright, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Kelly (HOPE), Marlo Sheppard (Easterseals), Autumn Butler (Venture Inc.), Barbara Burke (SVdP St Fabian), Benjamin Ogden (South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless), Christina Soulard, Jason Weller (MSHDA), Julie Walker, Edwin Estevez, Linda Juracek-Lipa (Kirk in the Hills), Hannah DeCiantis, Stephanie Rowden (Blue Cross Complete), Kevin Bogg (TTI), Sian Washington (Disability Network), Shane Bies, Kathy Williams (Oakland County Neighborhood & Housing Development), Melanie Grund, Charlie Cavell (Oakland County), Tara Irwin (Jewish Family Service), Jill R Anderson, Rebecca Tallarigo (MDHHS), Rochelle Beckemeyer (Echo Christian Fellowship and Safe & Sound Ministries), Pamela Harmon, Irene Lane (CNS Healthcare)

**Video recording and PowerPoint slides can be accessed [HERE](#)**

**HUD Racial Equity Demo Project – Presented by Regina Cannon, C4 Innovations**

C4 Innovations researched Assessment Tools used for coordinated entry system and found VI-SPDAT to be structurally inequitable.

**Racial Equity Demo Project Goal:** In partnership with Black, Indigenous and people of color, as well as people with lived expertise, 8 CoC's will identify system disparities through local data, agree on focus areas, and test racially equitable CES processes to significantly transform the system experience and housing stability condition of those disproportionately in the Homeless Response System.

8 CoC Cohort 1 Communities: Austin, Charlottesville, Chicago, Connecticut, Nashville, Omaha, Hennepin County (MN), Pierce County (WA).

Discussion around Implicit Biases - Implicit Bias is better predictor of behavior than stated values.



## Racial Equity Demonstration Project: Theory of Change

Desired Overall Outcome: Improve housing outcomes for Black, Indigenous and people of color.

We believe that IF communities:

- Use a racial equity lens to examine their local data and context to identify racial inequities and disparities.
- Bring BIPOC and those with lived expertise of homelessness into roles that facilitate better decision-making.
- Participate in supported group discussions centered around equity content such as cultural humility and implicit bias.
- Engage in improvement projects that test potential racially equitable strategies and processes.

THEN, we believe communities will:

- Shift coordinated systems in the direction of racial equity.
- Understand what skills and design structures are necessary to work toward a racially equitable system.
- Learn how to interrogate the entire homeless system in a way that leads to dismantling systemic racism.
- Lay the groundwork for future ongoing racial equity work by assembling and developing a core equity team.

## What We are Learning:

- Trust the process, trust the people.
- Use “urgency” to advance equity, not bypass it.
- Changing the culture is a necessary and ongoing process.
- Course correction & transparency.
  - Be nimble; titrate our offerings and expertise to meet community needs in real time.
  - Authentically engage people with lived expertise.
  - Extend timeline to support sustainable process.
- Integrate data into larger approach, and better leverage data team for support.
- Really listen to communities and teams; customize community focus areas.

## What has Worked so Far:

- Reimagining a New Way, rather than just fixing an old way.
- Authentically centering lived experience.
- A framework for equitable results: holding each other accountable to make real changes.
- Struggling and trying together.
- Embracing the messiness and beauty of us.



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**Oakland County State of Homelessness**

**Presented by Audrey White, HMIS Director, Alliance for Housing, and Holly Ellis, HMIS Manager, Alliance for Housing**

**Point in Time (PIT) Count** is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

Point in Time (PIT) Count 2021: January 27, 2021

- 333 Total
- 246 Emergency Shelter
- 87 Transitional Housing
- 0 Unsheltered – Due to COVID-19, The Alliance received a full exception from HUD to not conduct an unsheltered count for the health and safety of volunteers.

<b>PIT SUMMARY</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Sheltered-ES</b>	246	233	256	260	262	221	246
<b>Sheltered-TH</b>	143	129	107	96	120	114	87
<b>Unsheltered</b>	96	76	47	71	43	124	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>333</b>

**The Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)** is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within the Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness.

Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) 2021: January 27, 2021

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): 698
- Rapid Re-Housing (RRH): 147
- Transitional Housing (TH): 87
- Emergency Shelter (ES): 253
- Other Permanent Housing /Low-Income Housing Tax Credit units (OPH /LIHTC): 164

**Homeless Persons in Oakland County 2020:**

- 2332 Total Literally Homeless Persons
- 45% Persons in Families
- 59% Individuals
- 54% Identified Disabling Condition
- 26% Minor Children



- Veterans: 79

The Veteran Taskforce works to maintain a By Name List of veterans that have been identified as homeless in Oakland County. The Taskforce meets weekly to assign newly identified veterans to each veteran-serving agency for housing case management support to move that veteran from homelessness to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Maintaining a By Name List lets us quantify the number of veterans entering and exiting services. When recording those who exit the By Name List, we also look at their discharge destination and reason for leaving, for example, moved out of state to live with family or moved into safe, stable housing using SSVF services and funds. With steady progress in Oakland County, the Veteran Taskforce looks forward to applying for and being awarded with achieving the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness benchmark on Ending Veteran Homelessness, a very distinguished honor.

- Chronically Homeless: 381

HUD defines the Chronically Homeless as individuals with a disability who are experiencing literal homelessness and have been homeless for either one episode of 12 or more consecutive months, or 4 or more episodes of homelessness totaling 12 or more months over the last 3 years. In an effort to reduce and end chronic homelessness in our community, we maintain a By Name List to target this group of folks, like we do for our Veterans.

- Seniors: 379

Literally Homeless Seniors are defined as over the age of 55. 79% identified as having a disabling condition and the majority are single person households. More than a quarter of them have been literally homeless for more than a year and 30% experienced homelessness for the first time.

- Youth: 48

Youth enter our shelter for a variety of reasons – most often is conflict with parents/guardians. The average age of youth entering the shelter is 16. Common Ground's youth shelter, Sanctuary, is a safe alternative to kids wanting to run away from home. While at the Sanctuary, counseling services are provided to youth and families to re-stabilize the home, build on family strengths, and ultimately reunite youth with their family.

## **Contact**

HMIS questions: [hmishelp-alliance@oaklandhomeless.org](mailto:hmishelp-alliance@oaklandhomeless.org)

Audrey White: [awhite-alliance@oaklandhomeless.org](mailto:awhite-alliance@oaklandhomeless.org)

Holly Ellis: [hellis@oaklandhomeless.org](mailto:hellis@oaklandhomeless.org)



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## **Continuum of Care Updates**

**Presented by Leah McCall, Executive Director, Alliance for Housing**

**COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA)** - We are utilizing COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Funding for Oakland County Renters.

As the fiduciary, The Alliance has partnered with:

- Community Housing Network
- Lighthouse
- OLHSA
  
- Lakeshore Legal Aid is also providing legal assistance for participants.

Oakland County was awarded \$29,169,637 which was broken down into:

- \$23,572,254 for financial assistance.
- \$3,918,168 for case management.
- \$1,679,215 for administrative costs.

We are continually working on our process while aiming to separate applications by zip code and still working out issues with the portal. We also have a community wide hotline that people can call for assistance, the hotline allows the individual to press a number that correlates to their zip code and will send them to the appropriate agency for assistance. We are also using Slack internally for easy communication between all agencies, which has been helpful for fast responding if issues or questions arise.

CERA Hotline: 1-888-411-1742

OR for more info: [oaklandhomeless.org/cera](https://oaklandhomeless.org/cera)

CERA Total Households Served and Rental Payments:

Oakland County has paid out \$1,321,132.92 in rental assistance to date, and provided assistance to 170 households:

- OLHSA has served 34 households and has spent \$147,182.96
- Lighthouse has served 20 households and has spent \$82,316.17
- CHN has served 116 households and has spent \$1,091,632.81



CERA Zip Codes:

Oak Park, Pontiac, Southfield had the 8 zip codes with the most needs currently paid out to date. These zip codes comprised approximately 70% of the total households served to date.

Contact Tiffany Jones: [tjones-alliance@oaklandhomeless.org](mailto:tjones-alliance@oaklandhomeless.org)

### **Data Driven Detroit (D3)**

The Alliance will be consulting with Data Driven Detroit (D3) about providing data collections, analysis, and visualization services to help us further our use of data to aid in our mission of ending homelessness.

Specifically, they will be helping us streamline our existing data workflows, from data entry and analysis to visualization and reporting.

D3 will be conducting a three-phase project to meet our data needs. We are starting Phase 1, and the goal is to create one or more online forms to streamline manual data entry and enable automation of analysis and visualization in Phases 2 and 3. It will give us an efficient and comprehensive way to obtain the data we need to assess and report what's going on in our community.

### **HUD Funding FY20**

- This past year was non-competitive.
- Due to the pandemic HUD renewed grants for existing programs.
- This process was dramatically streamlined because many communities, including us, have been consumed by our COVID response.
- The MI-504 total is \$6,014,427.

### **Contact**

Leah McCall: [Lmccall-alliance@oaklandhomeless.org](mailto:Lmccall-alliance@oaklandhomeless.org)

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