



ALLIANCE FOR HOUSING

**Alliance for Housing**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**7.7.2021**

Scribe: Julia Steinberg

**Attendance:** Audrey White, Ashley Burton, Holly Ellis, Julia Steinberg, Leah McCall (Alliance for Housing), Rebecca Tallarigo (MDHHS), Tara Irwin (JFS), Deirdre Mercer, Taylor Eberhart (CHN), Gina Misuraca (PATH, CHN), Suzanne Kimmerly (Neighborhood House), Rebecca Fitzgerald (HOPE), Barbara Burke (Vincent de Paul, St. Fabian), Laltsha Cunningham (JVS), Sian Washington (DNOM/BWCIL SSVF), China Aquino (SSVF, OLHSA), Lia Lewis (SSVF, OLHSA), D'Asia McDonald, Liz Lucas (OLHSA), Kathy Williams (Oakland County), Amanda Cookson (Common Ground), Bridget Taylor, Jenna Graham (Blue Cross Complete of Michigan), Marlo Sheppard (Easterseals), Nicole Goodson (Legal Aid), Rochelle Beckemeyer (Echo Christian Fellowship/Safe & Sound Ministries), Jawonn Turner (Turner-ound Ministries), Erinn Johnson, Shannon Smith (Lighthouse), Lisa Kiefer

**Approval of March Meeting Minutes - Motion:** Holly Ellis. Unanimous approval.

**New Business**

- Agency Presentations
  - Rochelle Beckemeyer, Pastor, Echo Christian Fellowship/ Safe & Sound Ministries
    - Safe & Sound Ministries is a 501c3 nonprofit created in 2019 to assist with the quality of life of mentally ill and/or special needs individuals.
    - Services include: housing, housing advocacy, healthcare treatment advocacy, training and support for guardians of legally incapacitated or developmentally disabled individuals, and support for mentally ill individuals who are or have been incarcerated to improve recidivism in the community.
    - First home opened in 2020 and houses 5 individuals, with a growing waiting list.
      - Rent is \$400 monthly for each resident.
    - Second home is slated to open in 2022.
    - Contact: Rochelle Beckemeyer: [Rochelle@safensoundministries.com](mailto:Rochelle@safensoundministries.com), 248-797-9227 [www.safensoundministries.com](http://www.safensoundministries.com)
  - Laltsha Cunningham, Financial Education Supervisor at JVS Human Services
    - JVS Capability Department has designed specialized programming to help low to moderate income families with money, credit and homeownership barriers.
    - HarMoney Program is 12 weeks of instruction on money management, credit and homeownership. Participants receive up to \$1,000 towards collections or down payment assistance after completing the program.
    - Savvy Savers Program is a monthly savings support group providing tips, tools and resources for saving. Participants can join a 90 day savings challenge and receive a savings match up to \$300 based on the amount that they have saved within the 90 days.
    - Traditional Programming includes: Credit Building and Re-building, Money Management and Savings, Post and Pre-Purchases (Home Ownership).
    - Monthly Webinars include: First Financial Friday's (savings and investing workshops), Lunch and Learns (credit, budgeting, housing and money



management).

- Contact: [financialhelp@jvshumanservices.org](mailto:financialhelp@jvshumanservices.org), or 248.233.4299.
- Proposed Changes to Outcomes Committee Definition
  - Alliance Board has reviewed and approved the new definition.
  - Group reviewed the new definition.
  - Liz Lucas motion to accept. Taylor Eberhart second. Unanimous approval.
  - The new definition will be update on website.

### Committee and Workgroup Reports

- Alliance Committee Summary Reports – Group reviewed.
  - Committee reports can be found on the [website](#).
  - Please contact [Leah McCall](#) or [Julia Steinberg](#) if you are interested in joining a committee.
- Veteran Updates (SSVF and BNL) presented by China Aquino.
  - SSVF at OLHSA going well; utilizing less emergency hotel assistance through program and instead utilizing shelters and diversion more.
  - VA instructed to utilize community programs such as CERA whenever possible.
    - SSVF can still provide wrap around services.
- Chronic Numbers & Veteran Numbers reported by Holly Ellis.
  - January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021:
    - Total Disposition Referrals in 2021: 223
      - 46 chronic, 29 non-chronic 12+ months, 150 other.
    - HMIS Breakdown in 2021: 169 total housed.
    - Shelter List Breakdown in 2021: 72 total referrals, 15 housed, 10 deactivated.
    - Veteran BNL Breakdown in 2021: 21 total referrals, 2 housed, 10 deactivated, 9 active.
- PATH Team- Outreach Calendars
  - Updated monthly on website: <https://www.oaklandhomeless.org/path-street-outreach-calendar>.

### Old Business

- Thank you to those that attended the Virtual [Alliance Annual Retreat 2021](#).
- C4 meetings will resume soon.
- Funding Updates
  - COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA)
    - Alliance is working with OLHSA, Lighthouse, CHN to assist with rent & utilities.
    - Prioritizing those with shutoff or eviction notices; most applications are reviewed in 30-45 days.
    - King Media is developing CERA ad campaign.
    - For CERA information and applications: <https://www.oaklandhomeless.org/cera>

### Updates and Announcements

- Deirdre Mercer started as Senior Director of Programs at CHN.
- CHN still has funding for prevention. See attached document for info on Prevention Eligibility.

### Adjournment

**Next Meeting: September 1, 2021**