

Alliance for Housing

General Membership & CIST; Wednesday, November 2, 2016



Meeting Minutes - Respectfully submitted by Daniel Kelly

Attendance: Leah McCall (Alliance), Liz Lucas (OLHSA), Sherry Kless (Mich. Works), Rachel Densmore (OCCMHA), Kevin Bogg (TTI), Tara Wiedbusch (JFS), Danielle Rediall (OIHN), Ernestine Mcrae (HAVEN), Daniel Kelly (SOS), Everlyn Payton (NBMBC), Keyon Payton (New Bethel), Sue Heath (United Way), Gloria Lutey (OCHD), Sandi Elanges (OCHD), Melissa Fundukian (CHN), Debra Hendren (CHN), Suzanne Kimmerly (RANH), Luke Hassevoort (CG), Keith Hughes (UNITED), Rustine Janiszewski (Detroit VA), Angela Gougherty (HMIS), Tamara Gaines (Salvation Army), Gabby Gonzales (Easter Seals)

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm. Each person went around the room and introduced one another. Deb Hendren motioned to approve the minutes as distributed; Marc Craig seconded. There were no new additions/modifications to the minutes. The motion passed, all of those present approved the minutes. There were no additions to the agenda as well.

System Coordination and Implementation Committee

Ernestine Mcrae reported on the transportation task force. She noted they are working with SMART to re-institute the dollar a ride program. She also noted that the affordable housing sub-committee is putting together a landlord mixer for November 10th at Avante Banquets, 36217 S. Gratiot Ave, Clinton Township MI from 5:30-7:30pm. She asked that any providers invite landlords to come learn about Oakland County's housing programs. She noted that the permanent supportive registry workgroup has created a new system on how people are selected for the homeless preference voucher program. She noted that there is also work on a small taskforce that is meeting Friday, November 4th from 10:00am to 12:30 at Lighthouse, Pontiac to put together a HUD application for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP). She encouraged anyone that is interested to attend.

Board Report

Marc Craig reported. He noted that the financial records were discussed in great detail at the last Board meeting. He noted that this information has been worked out by the Alliance's auditor. He referenced the distributed financial statements and noted the following highlights: total equity is \$26,000 and accounting is recorded in an accrual basis. He noted that overall the financial records are in good shape. He also noted that the Board Secretary has resigned, Sharman Davenport. He noted that Rick David has replaced her moving forward on the Board as Lighthouse is a Charter member of the Board. He noted that there is still need for a Board Secretary. Marc noted that he and Ryan Hertz, the Vice-Chair are each term limited so there will need to be new Board officers next year.

Operations Committee

Leah McCall reported. She noted that the group has recently worked on creating the Alliance agenda and also is helping coordinate the HUD YHDP application efforts.

Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee

Leah McCall reported. She noted that during homeless awareness week, the Alliance is working on creating multiple events to raise awareness of homelessness; this is the week of November 14th. She noted that during the week there will be a candlelight vigil associated with HOPE Shelter. She also noted there is a the annual Community Resource Day event that week at Genesis Church in Royal Oak on November 16th from 10:00am - 2:00pm.

Outcomes Committee

Angela Gougherty reported. She noted that there will a new follow-up survey/assessment for people that exit rapid re-housing and PSH programs. She noted that they are working on compiling quarterly reports as well. She noted that they are meeting Monday November 7th, at 10:00am at community housing network.

Veterans Committee

Leah McCall noted that the committee continues to work on refining their policies and procedures and the by name list as a whole. She noted the group is working on submitting a benchmark tool to certify ending Veteran homelessness. She noted there have been some barriers identified including housing placement taking longer than expected.

Rapid Re-Housing Updates

Deb Hendren and Dan Kelly reported. Deb noted that Lighthouse, CHN, and SOS have funds available for rapid re-housing and prevention programs. She noted that general program requirements are that people have less than 30% of area median income, a minimum VI-SPDAT score of 4, and be literally homeless. Also, properties must fit HUD affordability standards and pass an inspection. In general assistance is capped at six months depending on programs. She noted the goal is to bridge households to longer term housing when needed. Deb noted that anyone interested in referring to CHN, please have the client call the HARA at 248-928-0111. Dan noted that anyone interested in referring a client to South Oakland Shelter please submit a referral in HMIS or fill out South Oakland Shelter's one page screening tool distributed on the list serve.

Homeless Preference Voucher, Moving Up, and Eviction Diversion Updates

Deb Hendren reported. She explained the program in general noting it's designed for those experiencing homelessness to receive a Section 8 voucher. She noted that on 10/25 five households were briefed for a voucher and that in the last week, 50 additional households were pulled to receive a voucher of which 40 attended the meeting. Deb noted that each Monday at 1:00pm there is a HPV workgroup to work with those that were pulled to receive a homeless preference voucher. She asked that anyone with shared clients please attend this meeting. Deb also noted the moving up voucher

program. She noted that this program is for those in permanent supportive housing who need a housing subsidy but don't need services any longer. She noted that this program has to date pulled over 70 households to receive a moving up voucher. She noted that the 7th batch will be receiving their vouchers on Wednesday November 9th. Deb also reported on Unity Park III, a supportive housing development site is leasing up currently. She noted that there will be an additional six names available at Unity Park II. Deb Hendren also reported on the eviction diversion program; she noted that this program is still working through the Pontiac court system.

Community Resource Day

Leah McCall reported. She noted that any last minute vendors that would like to be there; please speak with her as soon as possible. She noted that any vendors that will be present, please arrive at 9:30 and also bring your own table cloth. She noted that the event is Wednesday November 16th from 10:00am - 2:00pm at Genesis Church in Royal Oak. She noted she has bus tickets available for any agencies that would like to distribute to clients that are interested in attending; she also noted there will be bus pick up at select sites.

Agency Updates

Tamara Gaines from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services noted she is the new representative for the Emergency Shelter Program. She was welcomed to the group by attendees.

Keith Hughes noted he works for United an organization that assists those with HIV in meeting their health and housing needs. He noted that anyone serving a client in need of these services, please refer them to him immediately.

Gloria Lutey noted that on November 28th at the North Office Health Center, Building 34E, there will be a transportation meeting (2100 north telegraph).

Deb Hendren gave a brief update on the work of the ID taskforce. She noted that the pilot program regarding assisting homeless individuals with obtaining an ID card is not being implemented state wide as there is work at the Secretary of State to create a new more expensive ID card to be in compliant with federal guidelines in the state of Michigan.

Leah McCall reported briefly on the Point in Time Count, she noted this event is January 25th and involves counting those that are homeless in sheltered and unsheltered conditions in Oakland County. She noted that this count that takes place each year is a HUD requirement and that they are seeking volunteers who are interested in participating. She noted that anyone interested please reach out to her.

Sherry Kless of Michigan Works noted that there is training available for training for CNC operators through the Michigan Advanced Manufacturing Collaboration program. She passed out flyers noting this program in detail. She noted that the course is free for any Veterans. She noted that others may qualify for fee reduction based on their own individual circumstances.

Liz Lucas noted that the OLHSA work for warmth is upcoming. She noted it is in Feb. 2017 and distributed flyers. She noted the walk is to raise funds to support heating bills for those in need.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

CIST Meeting

Agency Contact List

Deb Hendren reported. She noted that the contact list may no longer be needed at this point. She noted that there is a resource at the metro-Detroit level called Commonwealth that is a networking forum for those seeking resources. She noted that this group is also a place to list events hosted by agencies; she noted is a forum to learn about various community resources available. Please email Deb Hendren if would like to join the listserve associated with the website. Also you can find the website at micommonwealth.com. She noted that job postings are also on the website. There were no objections to not using an agency contact list moving forward.

Presentation - Abby Adair, HandUp Detroit Coordinator - South Oakland Shelter

Abby Adair presented. She utilized a powerpoint visual aid. She explained that HandUp is a resource that assists with helping agencies fundraise for client needs that are not covered by traditional programs. She noted this tool helps support case managers to fill in gaps in funding and to engage donors in impactful giving. She noted that 100% of proceeds raised go directly to clients in need toward their identified goals. She noted the fundraising is achieved through a crowdfunding platform. She noted that profiles are created by agencies helping clients on the Hand-Up website and then distributed to potential donors via social media, client advocacy efforts, etc. She noted these client profiles allow hand-up donors to communicate with HandUp members (clients) as well. She noted Hand-Up also allows for campaigns for organizations to fundraise in a coordinated fashion. She noted that both campaigns and profiles have back-end accounting and export functions for agency donor tracking systems. She noted that HandUp also allows for the use of pre-funded gift cards to be given to clients as an outreach tool to engage clients on the street. Instead of giving those on the street cash, donors can instead give preloaded cards to be used on a future client goal. She noted that these cards are a great way for outreach workers to engage clients with services. She noted that donors are engaged through multiple methods including agency social media, HandUp directly marketing through their own press and social media, a HandUp Detroit website (handup.org/Detroit), and that members served are encouraged to reach out to their own social networks. Abby also noted that she is available to help anyone interested in utilizing the Hand-Up program. She noted that she can be contacted at abby@oaklandshelter.org for more information.

Presentation - Britni Manners , Michigan Rx Card

Britni Manners presented. She noted their program is a free prescription program. She noted this program works with communities to provide prescription assistance to those that are uninsured and underinsured. She noted they various programs including those exiting institutions, etc. She noted their

website is michiganrxcards.com. She noted that individuals may look up RX prices directly on their website as well. She described the program in detail noting that the process works as follows: individuals interested go to the website and print the discount card and then utilize it at a participating pharmacy. It was noted that the program does not involve signing up a specific person but rather they work with participating pharmacies. She noted the program is very confidential and does not involve any sharing of client's information for marketing purpose. Please email her at bmanners@michiganrxcards.com, 931-721-6292.

Oakland County Outreach Plan

Leah McCall noted that there are efforts to better coordinate street outreach efforts in the community. She noted that partners are working on creating a system map and better coordinating outreach efforts to minimize duplication.

SOAR Collaboration

Debra Hendren noted that there are limited partners that conducting SOAR activities in Oakland County. She noted there are additional efforts in the Alliance to work on obtaining additional staffing resources for SOAR services.

Case Presentations & Round Robin

There were no case presentations presented. There was discussion of a community wide ROI being put in place to increase communication between agencies.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34pm.