



## ***Flint/ Genesee County CoC Minutes***

Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2021

9:00 AM Zoom Teleconference Call

**Attendance:** Greg Abler, CCJ; China Aquino, OLHSA; Kelly Bidelman, CCJ Linda Bielskis, SOF; Jodi Blair, GHS; Misty Bowers, GCYC; Donna Bunin, OLHSA; Maurice Bush, Wellness; Dwayne Clemons, Hamilton; Kanisha Clemons, YWCA; Tina Counterman, Sacred Heart Center; Judy Creed, YWCA; Sharda Davis, GCCARD; Bill Doub, GHS; Damon Fortney, GCMPC; James Gaskin, United Way; Allison Green, MCAH; Danielle Greene, SOF; Debra Hayes, MBK; Allie Herkenroder, FHC; Myra Hinkle, MCD; Angela Hood-Beaugard, Literacy Network; Shelly Hoffman, SOF; Sheery Houston, Ennis Center for Children; James Hudgens, New Paths; Tracey Jackson, MCD; Tanya Jefferson, Catholic Charities; Latoya Jenkins, GCCARD; Lori Kunkel, GFHC; Tamika Mack, MDHHS; Sandy Manssur, Sunshine Family Care Clinic; Erin Markell, OLHSA; Antoinette McClain, MCD; Maeko McGovern, City of Flint Public Health Navigators; Kevin Miller, City of Flint; Molly Mueller, Communities First; Elizabeth Noye, Salvation Army; Jill Nylander, LSEM; Nicole Palmerton, MCAH; Jim Perlaki, GCYC; Shaundale Richmond, MCD; Trina Sanders, YWCA; Dinah Schaller, MCC; Vicky Schultz, Catholic Charities; Ashley Seeback, FOH; Kirk Smith, GFHC; Shearese Stapleton, MOJ; Grace Taylor, GHS; Kevin Thompson, Ann Arbor VA; Chris Townsend, Salvation Army; David Tweedie, OrgCode; Jamie-Lee Venable, United Way; Angela Willie, CTM; Essence Wilson, Communities First; Rayetta Wyatt, State of Michigan Veteran Employment Services; Ashnee Young, LSEM; Cheryl Zapfe, GISD

**Welcome:** Meeting call to order by Essence Wilson at 9:06 AM.

**Addressing Barriers to Housing:** Jill Nylander of Legal Services of Eastern Michigan announced a reminder of the Legal Lounge Facebook Livestream on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> for Fair Housing Month regarding 'Barriers to Affordable Housing.' The hope is that this will be an informative forum for an audience of caseworkers and housing navigators on how to help homeless clients get identification and understand the workings of Homeless Court and subsidized housing. Debra Hayes of My Brothers Keeper and Essence Wilson of Communities First will be presenting as well. This training was created in place of the CoC discussion last month about housing barriers. A Facebook live replay will be available on the Legal Services of Eastern Michigan social media page.

**Lead Agency:** Tracey Jackson of Metro Community Development presented a high-level overview of Metro Community Development's lead agency role and key tasks as lead agency. She discussed in detail five key areas that the lead agency operates.

- (1) CoC Program NOFA submission,
- (2) Grant administration
- (3) Meeting management
- (4) CoC leadership
- (5) Data and information flow

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Approval of March minutes:** Minutes were approved.

**Governance Council Update:** Essence stated that the Executive Committee, Governance Council, and the Governance workgroups are continuing to meet. The Governance communications workgroup met with Metro Community Development (MCD) staff regarding the new website and offered feedback. Also, Essence stated that the RFP process has been drafted and is being reviewed. Going forward the RFP process will be proposed in selecting the lead agency, HARA and possibly other key roles and vendors for a broader range of services. There has also been more progress on the bylaws and charter as a comprehensive and guiding document. The Executive committee members and some members of the MCD

staff have provided feedback as well as an opportunity to optimize operations and incorporate the Governance charter that was put in place.

**Continuum of Care Membership Survey:** Jill Nylander stated that the Continuum of Care membership survey's end goal is that it will be the means for creating the CoC Directory. Jill stated that Angela Beaugard has been very hands on with the work in finalizing the survey as well. The survey was also sent to the Governance council last week for refinement and final review. Completing the survey will be useful in collecting information about agency services so there is a better sense of how we can all collaborate and coordinate together. Please complete the survey link attached to the CoC agenda before the next CoC meeting.

**Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures:** The motion to approve the Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures as presented was brought forth with one opposed from the Flint Housing Commission. The suggestion was noted that specific concerns from the Flint Housing Commission will be discussed and clarified with the Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures workgroup lead and be presented back to the committee for review to move. The Policies and Procedures can be drafted so the assessment is referenced and dated as an updated addendum. The motion has been resent.

## **REPORTS**

**HARA:** Vicky Schultz stated that the CERA (COVID Emergency Rental Assistance) program is currently operating with the two program providers, Catholic Charities and GCCARD. The CERA work and funding in Genesee County is divided by zip codes and the software training for the CERA program work took place last week. The process for applying into the program is on the Catholic Charities website and it is strongly encouraged that the tenant and landlord apply through the online application. Vicky stated they have spent over \$410,000 in funding since March 22<sup>nd</sup> in paying utilities, water, and internet bills as well as other bill coverage that tenants may need for homeless prevention. Catholic Charities and GCCARD staff presented to the Genesee County Landlord Association and the landlords are eager to participate and learn the process.

Discussion ensued about how calls are routing from HARA at (810) 600-4525 and the Coordinated Entry Helpline at (810) 544-4357 and the need to ensure that there is a process in place, so callers are being assisted without creating more barriers. An ad-hoc workgroup will meet to discuss how this call line routing process can evolve.

**Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI):** Jim Perlaki stated that the first CQI meeting will be held at 1 pm on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. A recurring call calendar invite will be coming via CoC email soon.

**Street Outreach:** Jim Perlaki stated that the Street Outreach has engaged with 174 individuals, in addition to their engagements with the community efforts at Sunset Village apartments and Richfield Court apartments. He stated that 18 homeless verifications were completed this month. There were four homeless verifications that were not done due to the persons not meeting qualifications of homelessness or not being able to locate the person listed on the homeless verification. He stated that the Street Outreach team gave out numerous bus passes and made many connections with community partner organizations.

**Coordinated Entry:** Antoinette McClain stated that there is an increase in trend with individuals housed within the last two months. She also stated that Homeless Preference Vouchers (HPV) are still available through Flint Housing Commission for anyone impacted by COVID-19. MSHDA has Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) openings as well, the recurring issue is the lack of case management in fully completing the initial application as well as including all the identification documentation required. Essence stated the barriers of the HCV process will be discussed once a meeting date can be finalized among all of the individuals who expressed interest in attending.

**HMIS Administrator:** David Tweedie stated that 220 individuals in Flint and Genesee County experienced homelessness at the beginning of March with 122 new inflow entries. There were 30 people who moved into housing and 101 people who exited elsewhere. This resulted in 211 people experienced homelessness at the end of the month which is an overall reduction from the beginning to end of the month but an overall increase in the last six months. David stated he is looking forward to working with the Coordinated Entry group and CQI group to look at some analysis and discuss some nuance approaches. The OrgCode report data will be sent via CoC email when available.

### **Subcommittee/Work Group reports:**

**SOAR: Bill Doub** stated that the SOAR subcommittee met in March and many participants on the call expressed interest in the SOAR process and training. He stated there has been discussion about whether the CoC will consider locating a SOAR trained individual to assist providers in the Continuum. He stated they are working with some CoC member agencies now and he appreciates the support. These objectives will be discussed at the May SOAR meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2021 Continuum of Care Program, Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA):** Tracey Jackson stated that in the next few weeks the CoC will receive emails about community meetings and assessing our projects as well as 2019-2020 scoring sheets etc. It will be discussed as a community so we can be ready when it drops in July. She stated they will begin to look at/discuss the Strategic Plan (formerly known as the 10-Year Plan). As well as the coordinated entry data and trends that David Tweedie has noted. The subrecipients interested in direct relationship with HUD that will be a discussion and an overview discussion for new agencies that would like to apply for funding and new programming. Stay tuned as the information will be coming out to the community within a couple weeks.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**My Brothers Keeper of Genesee County Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO):** Debra Hayes stated that the Department of Veteran Affairs for COVID-19 has developed a plan in reducing the congregate settings in a shelter/grant per diem and increasing the number of single units with a bathroom. She stated that the requirement is that all grant per diem beds must be in a single unit with a bathroom. Our goal is to move the grant per diem program to a different location and the Department of Veteran Affairs is giving 50 thousand dollars per grant per diem bed to make that happen. Debra stated that an organization they are working with the board of directors to ensure that they can find the property access to acquire. My Brothers Keeper is asking for CoC support in helping build a veteran's community with that funding. The request was reviewed by the Executive Committee the Governance Council to be forwarded the general CoC body for motion of approval for the letter of support. The motion was approved with one abstention from Center of Civil Justice.

**Adjournment: Essence adjourned meeting at 10:29 AM. Next meeting: May 12, 2021, 2021 9:00 AM Location: Teleconference**

**Submitted by** Myra Hinkle