



## *Flint/ Genesee County CoC Minutes*

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2021

9:00 AM Zoom Teleconference Call

**Attendance:** Greg Abler, CCJ; Amy Alexander, GCCARD; China Aquino, OLHSA; Kelly Bidelman, CCJ; Linda Bielskis, SOF; Jodene Blair, GHS; Misty Bowers, GCYC & Catholic Charities; Donna Bunin, OLHSA; Maurice Bush, Wellness; Bill Doub, GHS; Bridgette Cavette, GCHC; Dwayne Clemons, Hamilton; Kanisha Clemons, YWCA; Tina Counterman, Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center; Judy Creed, YWCA; Gina DeShong, Disability Network; Denise Diller, Crossover; Damon Fortney, GCMPC; Jamie Gaskin, United Way; Brian Glowiak, MCD; Cheryl Golidy, James-Moorehouse Inc; Brooke Gow, Family Service Agency; Allison Green, MCAH; Danielle Greene, SOF; Debra Hayes, MBK; Allie Herkenroder, FHC; Myra Hinkle, MCD; Shelly Hoffman, SOF; Angela Hood-Beaugard, FGLN; Sheery Houston, Ennis Center; James Hudgens, New Paths; Giovanni Ireland, Wellness; Tracey Jackson, MCD; Paul Kilgore, SOF; Lori Kunkel, GFHC; Tamika Mack, MDHHS; Erin Markell, OLHSA; Sandy Manssur, Sunshine Family; Antoinette McClain, MCD; Kevin Miller, COF; Molly Mueller, Communities First; Elizabeth Noye, Salvation Army; Jill Nylander, LSEM; Jim Perlaki, GCYC; Dinah Schaller, MCC; Ashley Seeback, FOH; Kirk Smith, GFHC; Shearese Stapleton, Mother of Joy LLC; Mike Striler, GCYC & Traverse Place; Lydia Tabat, Habitat; Grace Taylor, GHS; Kevin Thompson, Ann Arbor VA; David Tweedie, OrgCode; Jamie Lee Venable, United Way; Amy Vining, Red Cross; Candace Waggoner, Voices for Children; Tiffani Wharry, FPGC; Kasie White, UM-Flint Social Work; Angela Willie, CTM; Essence Wilson, Communities First; Rayetta Wyatt, State of MI- Veteran Services; Ashnee Young, LSEM & Power Initiative; Cheryl Zapfe, GISD

**Welcome:** Meeting call to order by Essence Wilson at 9:00 AM.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Community Presentation:** Kelly Bidelman of Center for Civil Justice presented a brief overview of the Flint Genesee County Homeless Court Program and her request to increase participation in the Homeless Court process. This program assists individuals experiencing homelessness that have difficulty accessing housing due to a live bench warrant, misdemeanor, unresolved court fines/fees and child support arrearages owed to state. While the Homeless Court Program assists with live bench warrants this differs from the Expungement Law process that assists with convictions already on record. There was discussion at the Flint Genesee County Homeless Court meeting regarding different approaches homeless service providers can use to refer clients to Homeless Court services. Addressing housing barriers in SPDAT screenings with clients or at the initial screening for rental assistance can be an approach for referring those with legal and outstanding warrants. Kelly stated that she and the Flint Genesee Homeless Court case coordinator, Theresa Haruska wants to meet with various shelters and case workers to explain the process and increase participation. Homeless service providers and case workers can contact Theresa by phone at (810) 515-0882.

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

**Governance Council Update:** Essence stated that there is great work being done by the subcommittee workgroups. One workgroup is looking at which subcommittees are required by HUD and MSHDA and which should remain or become active. Polly McGovern of Sheppard Consulting LLC put together a list of ten CoCs across the country with all of their active subcommittees for comparison of subcommittee collaboration and to establish a better flow of subcommittee work/meetings within our CoC.

The workgroup that is focused on the by-laws and charter is looking at the governing board and syncing through designated and undesignated seats to meet requirements of HUD and the Hearst Act, while honoring the agencies that are critically important to ending community homelessness. They are also discussing un-designating seats for general categories and not specific agencies, while looking at what agencies should/should not be a voting member. This workgroup is continuing to work through agreements, there will be items and information for presentation available at July's CoC meeting.

Essence also stated that there was a meeting to address concerns related to Coordinated Entry. She stated that a plan is in place to address concerns, some issues have been resolved, but as a community additional items will be discussed on how to move forward.

## **REPORTS**

**H.A.R.A:** Misty Bowers of GCYC and Catholic Charities provided the following information for Catholic Charities in the month of April.

### Customer Service Representatives

Total Calls: 893  
Walk Ins: 181  
Appts: 7 (helping with applications)

### Homeless Prevention

Active Cases: 10  
Cases were paid/closed: 39  
Calls: 450  
Assisted with motel: 15  
Appointments: 65

### Rapid Rehousing

Open Cases: 10  
Ardelia Mincey, full time specialist, currently has 10 open cases she is managing and received five new cases

### Housing Choice Voucher

Added to waitlist: 32  
Walk Ins: 42  
Hired: 1

### CERA COVID Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Full-time CERA specialists: 2  
Calls Taken: 689  
Open Applications: 281  
Applications Completed/Paid: 167

### CERA-May 2021

- Rental Assistance= \$494,328.34 (98 total cases)
- Utility Assistance= \$69,962.08 (71 total cases)
  - Total Assistance= \$564,290.42

### CERA-Overall

- Rental Assistance= \$1,209,824.27 (246 total cases)
- Utility Assistance = \$181,535.03 (220 total cases)
  - Total Assistance= \$1,391,359.30

**GCCARD:** Amy Alexander of GCCARD presented the CERA monthly reports as, GCCARD staff were given approximately 600 CERA applications waiting to be processed. They have staff interviews for additional support underway. Hours have been extended from 8 AM- 8 PM on Mondays and Tuesdays and two Saturdays have been added for June to get more applications processed. They have a meeting with Catholic Charities to discuss how they can make this process move faster and establish resolving issues with the State CERA application software.

**Street Outreach:** Jim Perlaki of Genesee County Youth Corporation (GCYC) presented that for the month of May there were 127 street outreach engagements with people on the streets/in community. They were asked to do 12 verifications and eight were completed, four were not completed due to not meeting the conditions of homelessness through HUD's definition or they were unavailable at the time of engagement. The street outreach team's partnership work with Richfield Court and Sunset Apartments has ended as a great community effort,

additional efforts may now be made through Berkshire Apartments. The street outreach team continues to give out bus passes, food cards, food items, hygiene products and other items to help meet the needs in the community.

**Coordinated Entry/Quality By-Name List (QBNL):** Antoinette McClain stated that as of June 4<sup>th</sup> there were 234 households that were forwarded into housing intervention on the QBNL that included 165 singles, 40 families, 15 youth, six veterans and eight domestic violence clients. All veterans on the list are actively engaged with veteran services or housing programs. Five people were housed for the month of May: One through Rosewood Manor housing properties, two through the Flint Housing Commission and two through the Genesee Health System rapid re-housing (RRH) program. There has been an influx of applications submitted for the Housing Commission homeless preference vouchers (HPV), they are up to about 30 applications and 37 vouchers are available. As of the year to date, 112 people have been housed through the Coordinated Entry process. She stated that through the Coordinated Entry team we receive many calls of clients who were issued vouchers, but they are having trouble finding housing due to low housing stock in the community.

**HMIS Administrator:**

**PIT Count Report Results/Monthly By-Name List Update:** David Tweedie presented the 2021 PIT Count report results, he stated we had the most comprehensive Point in Time Count to date which is an encouraging statement to make despite all the barriers of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please view the 2021 Point-in-Time Results data as attached in June's CoC packet.

**Subcommittee/Work Group reports:**

**Social Security Outreach Accessibility and Recovery (SOAR):** Bill Doub of Genesee Health System stated that within the last month there was a SOAR approval for a client in supportive housing. He stated there is a SOAR meeting scheduled for next Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> via Google Meet set by Allie Herkenroder. He thanks United Way for supporting the SOAR process. He stated that while presenting information about SOAR at the McLaren Flint Resource Fair there was a medical professional audience very interested and asking questions about how SOAR can assist some of their patients exiting hospitals.

**County Spending Report:** Damon Fortney stated keep in mind that many of the grant contracts are expiring on July 31<sup>st</sup>, so please finish up spending the grants. They are expecting to get 2021 grant funds coming in during summer. Please view report.

**HUD Spending Report:** Please view report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Racial Equity- C4 Innovations:** Tracey Jackson stated that in every national HUD meeting there is discussion about racial equity, the Building Michigan Communities Conference also gave much focus to racial equity. Tracey stated that she mentioned developing a racial equity strategy in the NOFA 2019. She will be working with the consulting agency, C4 Innovations. C4 Innovations has worked with multiple counties in identifying how to develop a racial equity strategy. She stated that C4 Innovations looks at Coordinated Entry in terms of assessment tools and how that can be a disadvantage for people of color. It also helps look at the entire Coordinated Entry System from the intake process to clients securing housing. She stated that in 2019, minorities typically had a lower grade despite having the most urgent need and were typically delayed in being permanently housed. As a part of the NOFO, Tracey is sure that we will have to share what our racial equity strategy is. There is more information about racial equity on the HUD Exchange website.

**Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP):** Tracey stated that the goal of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is to eliminate homelessness for unaccompanied, parenting, or pregnant youth to effectively implement a system that addresses their specific needs. HUD has committed \$145,000,000 and will select 50 communities, eight has to be rural communities. The collaborative applicant has to submit the YDHP application, and it is a different system than CoC programming. It is due July 27, 2020. Tracey stated she received a call from Shelly Hoffman of Shelter of Flint with strategies and Jim Perlaki will play a big part as well on collaborating with the community for how we can best serve our youth. Each community can be awarded \$1,000,000-\$15,000,000 by 2022.

Shelly stated that the scope of this project is for many underserved LGBTQ youths as well. She stated that Shelter of Flint has space and were considering using it as a LGBTQ youth homelessness shelter. She stated they would not want to move forward without the input, coordination, and cooperation from the youth-serving organizations within the CoC. As the YHDP funding is available for planning purposes, they would also have to show capacity and capability to move forward with a variety of projects to end youth homelessness in our community.

Jim Perlaki stated that historically the Michigan Network for Youth and Families (a membership association of organizations that provide homeless services to youth across Michigan) have tracked how this funding have went into Michigan. Michigan had only been awarded one contract for the Traverse City/Grand Traverse County community. He stated we have connected with them many times and heard about their progress and challenges that come with that funding. One of the largest pieces of this effort is youths' voice, we need to come up with a plan about how to get youth involved such as an active youth advisory board. Discussion ensued about various community youth board projects to engage and connect with. The overall consensus is that the CoC should move forward with an ad-hoc meeting to explore the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program and opportunities for various youth groups in the community to participate.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Berkshire Apartments (Atlus North Apartments) Workgroup:** Ashnee Young of Legal Services of Eastern Michigan (LSEM) brought to the community's awareness the Berkshire Apartments situation with 17 tenants on the verge of being displaced from housing. She stated that we need a plan or urgent meeting to get the tenants with vouchers supported as some of them will be evicted as early as June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ashnee suggested that as a CoC we should develop strategies between the resources available within the organizations present. Misty Bowers gave a high-level overview of the situation as, Berkshire Apartments is under new management with Atlus North Apartments and has increased rents while no longer accepting the Section 8 vouchers. This poses a concern as the rent has been raised over \$250 more and there are also many tenants with disabilities and/or elderly.

Essence asked Jamie-Lee Venable of United Way to convene a Berkshire Apartments taskforce workgroup meeting as she has previous experience in leading coordination with the Richfield Court/Sunset Apartments CoC taskforce. Tracey Jackson of the lead agency will think about what their role within the convening can be and Essence stated her interest in attending as Communities First Inc may have 'no waiting list' housing options within the next few weeks. The invitation was requested to be sent to the CoC community as well for additional housing resources, ideas, and solutions. Jamie-Lee arranged this meeting via Zoom for 2:30 PM. Jill Nylander of LSEM stated that the tenants with disabilities can be referred to her as LSEM may be able to get reasonable accommodations to buy extra time. Discussion ensued about revisiting advocacy efforts for source of income protections and beginning to look at the longer-term picture of advocating for ordinance precedence whether it be through MCAH, MSHDA, HUD or through city/county legislation.

**Emergency Housing Voucher Vote:** Essence stated that MSHDA awarded 779 Emergency Housing vouchers for the state of Michigan. Of those, 38 were awarded to Genesee County and can be used for individuals at risk of homelessness if they have an emergency situation. The eligible populations included are the literal homeless, the fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence or households that have been recently homeless even if they are in a

rapid re-housing project. An overview with supplemental information was sent via CoC email on June 2<sup>nd</sup> asking if any organization would be interested in being responsible for facilitating the vouchers and providing supports that come with it. Two organizations responded and Catholic Charities is the remaining agency. A roll call vote was made for the CoC to affirmatively select Catholic Charities-HARA to facilitate those 38 vouchers and supports. Motion approved.

**Please view report.**

**Vote:**

Of the 42 agencies listed

(24) agencies participated in voting

(21) agencies in support

(0) agencies opposed.

(3) agencies abstained

Motion passed.

Please view attached Emergency Housing Voucher Vote spreadsheet for detailed results.

**Adjournment: Essence adjourned meeting at 10:35 AM. Next meeting: July 14, 2021, 9:00 AM Location: Teleconference**

**Submitted by Myra Hinkle**