



## *Flint/ Genesee County CoC Minutes*

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2020

9:00 AM Zoom Teleconference Call

**Attendance:** Kelly Bidelman, CCJ; Linda Bielskis, SOF; Crystal Black, GST Michigan Works; Jodi Blair, GHS; Misty Bowers, GCYC; Donna Bunin, OLHSA; Maurice Bush, Wellness; Dwayne Clemons, Hamilton; Kanisha Clemons, YWCA; Denise Diller, Crossover; Bill Doub, GHS; Glenda Dunlap, COF; Michelle Edwards, MSHDA; Dawn Everett, Genesee County Land Bank; Damon Fortney, GCMPC; James Gaskin, United Way; Melton Harvey, Veteran Affairs; Debra Hayes, MBK; Allie Herkenroder, Flint Housing Commission; Myra Hinkle, MCD; Angela Hood-Beaugard, Disability Network; Sherry Houston, Ennis Center for Children; James Hudgens, New Paths; Tracey Jackson, MCD; Lori Kunkel, Greater Flint Health Coalition; Craig Leavitt, Crossover; Jamie Lee Venable, United Way; Nic Lucic, LSEM; Erin Markell, OLHSA; Cheryl Mathis, HUD; Antoinette McClain, MCD; Kevin Miller, City of Flint; Molly Mueller, Communities First; Lynn Nee, MDHHS; Jill Nylander, LSEM; Stan Page, GCYC; Jim Perlaki, GCYC; Dinah Schaller, MCC; Vicky Schultz, Catholic Charities; Kirk Smith, Greater Flint Health Coalition; Shearese Stapleton, Mercy House; Lydia Tabat, Habitat for Humanity; Corey Taylor, GHP; Charles P Tommasulo, Family Service Agency; Kasie White, UofM Flint Social Work; Essence Wilson, Communities First; Rayetta Wyatt, Veteran Services; Ashnee Young, MCD/LSEM; Cheryl Zapfe, GISD

**Welcome:** Meeting called to order by Essence Wilson at 9:04 AM.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Approval of May minutes:** Minutes approved with the correction of Maurice Bush of Wellness not included in attendance list.

**Governance Council Update:** Essence Wilson stated the Governance Council has met once since the last CoC meeting. The Executive council (Essence Wilson, Jim Hudgens and Angela Beaugard) have met twice to create a matrix list of all Governance members and the sectors they represent, as well as establish priorities moving forward. Essence stated that deficiencies have been recognized and she expects within the next few months they will open participation for the Governance council again for the opportunity to fill up to 31 spots. Essence stated currently there is a gap in the governmental representation and HARA representation on the council. Essence stated that she wants to make clear that the people who apply on the Governance Council are in a position where they can make decisions within their agency. She stated that according to the Governance charter they are required to have an Executive committee of 5-6 members. At the last Governance meeting they took nominations for Executive committee and the additional members are Tiffany Ferrier of Family Promise and Debra Hayes of My Brother's Keeper. The term is six months and will be re-evaluated at the six-month mark. Essence stated that Angela Beaugard has put together resources and information of reports that come from funders. They will also look at reviewing By-laws and the Governance charter. Essence stated an email was created for the Governance Council.

### REPORTS

**H.A.R.A:** Vicky Schultz stated Catholic Charities took over the HARA on March 11<sup>th</sup>. She stated they had a difficult start due to COVID-19. The staff has had one official MSHDA training with Michelle Edwards and are slowly starting another training process with a consultant contracted through United Way. She stated that the hiring process is difficult right now. The current staff has been through training. As of yesterday, 12 people were referred from Coordinated Entry. Discussion ensued about Section 8 vouchers. Michelle stated that they have not pulled anyone from the HCV waitlist but there are project-based vouchers that we need clients to get connected to. Michelle stated she will try to have a meeting with Vicky and Tracey to see if we can get people placed on project-based voucher waitlist. Michelle stated there are openings in a development in Genesee County for 2-bedroom apartments for people who are verified as homeless and management will complete their applications. Tracey stated we have a QBNL list of people that are ready to be referred out. Essence stated that conversations can be held about how PSH units are handled and how it entails Coordinated Entry and the QBNL list. She proposes that there should be a conversation and meeting that explains the broader process to the CoC so we can get clients plugged into these waitlists with fair access to the resources.

**Street Outreach:** Stan Page stated the street outreach team has given out 181 bags to homeless population on streets, 8 grocery bags to abandoned houses or hotel stays, completed homeless verifications, CESA and VISPDATs. Jim Perlaki

stated that they were able to hire staff quickly and have approximately 85 hours per week of “boots on the ground” work and other activities. Tracey stated that the street outreach has been helpful for the Coordinated Entry Intake Specialists as well. The Coordinated Entry Intake Specialists rely on Stan’s team to deliver food to different hotels.

**Subcommittee/Work Group reports:** Jim Perlaki stated that CQI has been working on the Eviction Diversion project over the past year. CQI has put prevention as their number one focus and they came across the opportunity to look at Eviction Diversion program. He stated Kelly Bidelman of Center for Civil Justice and Jill Nylander of Legal Services of Eastern Michigan and others across the CoC came in to get all the pieces together. Jim stated that they slowed down with the court after Covid hit but they have gained buy-in from the courts and MDHHS. He stated they are about 30 days out from going live, court has put evictions on hold and any previous evictions have also been placed on hold. He stated the startup date for the state is May 28<sup>th</sup> so courts will see backlogged eviction cases prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> starting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. He stated they will provide services through the eviction diversion program as much as they can and so they will be ready to connect the dots in the community for those who are at risk of losing their home.

Tracey Jackson stated that with HUD spending there were 4 grants that expired in March; Homeless Outreach, Chronic Homeless Families, Veterans Lease Up and Coordinated Entry. She stated Homeless Outreach will spend completely down, Chronic Homeless Families is at 86% spend down but there are still administrative fees they can draw so there are more reimbursements, Veteran Lease Up is at a 94% if they do not submit anymore reimbursement. Coordinated Entry has \$6,000 left on grant. She stated that basically all grants are in good shape except the CoC Planning grant that has \$85,000 left and expires July 31<sup>st</sup>. Tracey stated MCD applied for an extension through the COVID-19 amendment process for the CoC Planning grant to buy time and contract with consultants. Essence stated that if you have ideas about what is lacking in community (for consultation needs) please email thoughts to Tracey.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**COVID-19 Responses/Cares Act:** Cheryl Mathis stated that the Cares Act funds should be used to help nonprofits and other businesses fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Agencies can receive funds for cleaning supplies, PPE or whatever the need may be. She stated Genesee County will receive CV funds via COF, GCMPC and MSHDA. Metro Community Development will receive the waivers they applied for. Cheryl stated she would like to see more direct recipients i.e. grantees. She is willing to facilitate a community training on what documents are necessary to become a direct grantee. Cheryl recommended to let Metro know of any PPE needs and she will work with Tracey. Tracey stated that Metro has been connecting agencies to the Genesee County Emergency Operations Center and they have provided such equipment. Essence stated that the Chamber of Commerce is supposed to be putting together a list of places to purchase PPE, that information will be forwarded out when it becomes available. Discussion ensued about where to go to get information to apply for COVID-19 funding. Cheryl stated the COVID-19 funds will only go to agencies already receiving funds. She also stated the HUD NOFA 2019 funds have just come out. She stated that the next round of applying may be in September or October depending on the government. Cheryl stated to check the HUD Exchange website to receive information on the next round of funding. Essence stated we will look at possibilities for training days of those who may be interested in funding for next round.

Tracey stated on April 10<sup>th</sup> MCD applied for all seven COVID-19 waivers. FMR, disability documentation for 60 days, monthly case management, quality standards, the physical inspection of units, HQS re-inspections and the 1-year lease requirement. Tracey also stated that there were three COVID-19 amendments available they were adding budget line items, moving 10% of budget line items to an existing budget line item and an extension on grant. Tracey stated of the 13 amendments submitted nine were approved.

**MSHDA:** Michelle Edwards stated that they have put out the MSHDA NOFA for the Cares Act funding has been released. They are allowing new agencies to apply as long as they follow the requirements posted on the website for the NOFA subgrantee through MSHDA. She stated they have categories such as emergency shelter, hazard pay, street outreach, homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, HMIS and admin dollars (at 8.5%). She stated that for the communities MSHDA kept 1.5% for in-house projects. Michelle stated that there is a training webinar is available on [www.mi.gov/mshda](http://www.mi.gov/mshda). She stated there is currently no known due date, they are waiting on guidance from HUD. Once MSHDA receives the guidance it will be due 10 days from that. She stated we will probably receive a second round of funding within the next few

months. The COVID-19 money must be spent down by August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Michelle stated that there are FEMA dollars that MDHHS but must be applied through the health department. She stated the COVID-19 dollars can work as 25% and FEMA pays for 75% so there are ways that funding can be coordinated. She stated that if you are a new agency you will receive training from MSHDA. She stated she can be contacted for information regarding MSHDA program funding activities as well with any questions. Essence stated that the information will be coming to agencies shortly.

**Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission:** Damon Fortney stated that last week he sent a survey around the CoC to get a better idea of what people are looking to fund. He stated that they are expecting to get \$500,000. They are trying to come up with a plan to best spend the money. He stated that they may split between rapid rehousing activities, homeless prevention, and assistance for operating shelters, right now they are working on getting an action plan approved. He stated that they sent out the ESG Caper links this week so the subrecipients through the county should have received the link requesting that you submit Caper data through software, the due date is May 29<sup>th</sup>.

**City of Flint – COVID-19:** Kevin Miller stated that the COVID-19 proposals received were reprogrammed for CDBG funds and that COVID-19 activities can be submitted for it. He stated they are in the process of reviewing and have not sent out the RFP or COVID-19 money. He stated they are still in discussion on how to move forward and seeking guidance from the Detroit office. He stated once it is worked out, he will give Tracey the information to forward out to CoC. Essence stated that for clarification the regular ESG dollars were available, reprogrammed funds and the RFP for COVID-19 funds. Kevin stated the reprogrammed funds are for CDBG, not ESG. He stated that we did receive COVID-19 CDBG and ESG funding so once it is worked out, he will send both of the RFP. Glenda Dunlap stated that they have to fast track the WellSpace program application submitted by Catholic Charities for the Holiday Inn Express (conditional program when over 40 Covid patients present at shelters it can kick into place). She stated the resolution was approved on Monday at City Council. She stated they received \$2,344,200 in the CDBG Cares Act funding and will receive \$1,178,500 in ESG so the CoC must think of activities to prepare for COVID-19 prevention. Kevin Miller stated that as agencies submit applications it is our understanding that max requirement has been waived.

**Greater Flint Urgent Relief Fund:** Jamie Lee Venable stated that they have granted a little over \$800,000 to various groups, the urgent relief fund application is still open and can be found on LoveFlint.org. Jamie Lee stated that Rihanna, in partnership with the CEO of Twitter has given, through their foundation, a considerable amount of money through a donor-directed fund. She stated that this is not funding that is able to be applied for and dollars are already allocated out to different non-profits decided upon by Rihanna, her team, the mayor's office, and a few other city individuals. She stated that United Way is the local funder for the FEMA emergency food and shelter program, that application is due on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and can be found through [unitedwaygenesee.org](http://unitedwaygenesee.org). She stated the awarded \$180,000 in EFP funds plus \$220,000 through the Cares Act is also available, check the United Way website for details.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Office Hours Meeting updates:** Tracey learned through the office hour calls that communities need to look at how they prioritize homeless individuals on the QBNL. Tracey stated we will convene a meeting for the coordinated entry subcommittee to discuss.

**QBNL- referrals in / referrals out:** Tracey stated that Coordinated Entry Intake Specialists have been busy, and we have hired a new specialist, since March 16<sup>th</sup> we have sent out a total of 18 referrals to RRH, PSH and TBRA. We have added a total of 61 individuals to the QBNL. 20 families, 30 youths, 2 veterans and 35 singles and we have sent the first referrals to Tammy Chambers at Catholic Charities. Tracey stated 61 clients that were referred into QBNL that came from various agencies. The Coordinated entry intake specialists are manning the phones and completing the CESA and VI-SPDATS, refer homeless verifications and secure temporary housing. Since March 16<sup>th</sup> 40 individuals have been added to the QBNL. Tracey stated we will utilize the number of people on the QBNL demographics and housing pathways to apply for future funding.

**Coordinated Entry Intake Specialists:** The Coordinated Entry helpline hours are from 8:30 am- 10 pm CEIS receive calls from emergency shelters. Since March 16<sup>th</sup>, the CEIS team has directed approximately 20 people since to hotels and motels. Tracey stated that we have been extremely busy helping clients in hotel with access to food, transportation, social security, mental health providers, clothing, and many other resources in the county.

Tracey stated that Coordinated Entry Intake Specialists have been busy, and we have hired a new specialist, since March 16<sup>th</sup> we have sent out a total of 18 referrals to RRH, PSH and TBRA. We have added a total of 61 individuals to the QBNL. 20 families, 30 youths, 2 veterans and 35 singles and we have sent the first referrals to Tammy at Catholic Charities.

**MCD staff updates:**

1. **Coordinated Entry Specialist** – Tracey stated Antoinette McClain, the new Coordinated Entry Specialist, has worked for Metro on lending side and was program manager for Amp and NIP. She is a certified HUD housing counselor with 8 years' experience in non-profit work.
2. **HMIS Administrator** – Tracey stated Vonda is still remotely helping and she is looking at contracting that position out with OrgCode.
3. **CoC Coordinator** – Tracey stated that if you know of anyone that will be a good fit for that position please let her know.

**Submitted by** Myra Hinkle