



## *Flint/ Genesee County CoC Minutes*

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2020

9:00 AM Zoom Teleconference Call

**Attendance:** Jennifer Acree, Mott Foundation; Anthony Barker, Hope Network; Kelly Bidelman, CCJ; Misty Bowers, GCYC; Laurel Burchfield, MCAH; Maurice Bush, Wellness; Tamara Chambers, Catholic Charities; Dwayne Clemons, Hamilton; Kanisha Clemons, YWCA; Gina Deshong, Disability Network; Denise Diller, Crossover; Bill Doub, GHS; Damon Fortney, GCMPC; Brooke Gow, Family Service Agency; Kahlia Harper, Flint Housing Commission; Melton Harvey, Veteran Affairs; Debra Hayes, MBK; Allie Herkenroder, Flint Housing Commission; Myra Hinkle, MCD; Shelly Hoffman, Shelter of Flint; Angela Hood-Beaugard, FGLN; Sheery Houston, Ennis Center for Children; James Hudgens, New Paths; Tracey Jackson, MCD; Latoya Jenkins, GCCARD; Craig Leavitt, Crossover; Tamika Mack, MDHHS; Erin Markell, OLHSA; Antoinette McClain, MCD; Melissa Melhalko, Catholic Charities; Kevin Miller, COF; Molly Mueller, Communities First; Lynn Nee, MDHHS; Morgan Neeley, Wellness; Jill Nylander, LSEM; Gloria Parker, GCYC; Jim Perlaki, GCYC; Beth Pomranky-Brady, Ascension Michigan; Anna Raykov, MDHHS; Shaundale Richmond, MCD; Thomas Robinson, BECKA Management; Dinah Schaller, MCC; Vicky Schultz, Catholic Charities; Kirk Smith, Greater Flint Health Coalition; Shearese Stapleton, MJU/Mercy House; Lydia Tabat, Habitat for Humanity; Kevin Thompson, Ann Arbor VA; David Tweedie, Orgcode; Jamie-Lee Venable, United Way; Angela Willie, Carriagetown; Essence Wilson, Communities First; Rayetta Wyatt, State of Michigan-Veteran Services; Ashnee Young, LSEM ; Cheryl Zapfe, GISD

**Welcome:** Meeting called to order by Essence Wilson at 9:02 AM

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Approval of July minutes:** Minutes approved

**Governance Council Update:** Essence stated they had a kick-off call with a consultant for a review of the by-laws and Governance charter, there will be more information to come as they continue to move forward. The Governance Council will have HUD present in their September meeting to present data from MCAH and local data. She stated the Governance Council has approved an extension of the current Executive Committee for 6 months to continue the Governance Charter and by-laws structure work for the next transitional leadership.

**MSHDA ESG CV Funds update:** Shelly Hoffman stated that on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the CoC were awarded the funds of \$426,770. She stated she has the paperwork and will hopefully have it signed and completed by end of week so it could be spent momentarily. The funds can be spent for COVID-19 funding, hotel/motel dollars, subject matter expert, sheltering, RRH and street outreach.

### **REPORTS**

**H.A.R.A:** Vicky Schultz stated they have been extremely busy with phone calls and are working on how to get another phone line implemented for roll over calls. Tammy Chambers stated they have been taking 80-100 calls per week, she stated they have a staff of 8 and are always looking to hire contractually. Tammy stated that they currently are up to almost 400 appointments made with Eviction Diversion. The Eviction Diversion appointments involve clients bringing in the tenant application from MSHDA, a copy of lease, proof of income and proof of id, then HARA puts together a mailer package and tries to provide a check with a settlement agreement to the landlord within 7-10 business days. She stated they currently do not provide sack lunches but they do have the food containers daily from 12 pm-1 pm for the community. Vicky stated that they still do not have their contract and she followed up as of Monday and is hoping for a response since they have expended a lot of resources for paying rents the past three weeks. She stated that they are not able to submit for an advance without the signed contract. Vicky stated that Catholic Charities may have spent about \$80,000 in resources for the Eviction Diversion program.

**Street Outreach:** Jim Perlaki stated that the Street Outreach team has been busy for the month of July. There were 679 engagements with adults in streets, hotels, and motels for service connections. 492 lunch bags were distributed. They completed 4 Coordinated Entry verification requests, others were not able to verified due to individuals not being located or being displaced in hotels/motels. The street outreach team provided 67 total direct referrals to the emergency

shelters, HARA and Coordinated Entry System. They also handed out bus passes, hygiene items, safety items, sleeping bags, etc.

**Coordinated Entry:** Antoinette McClain stated that as of August 3<sup>rd</sup> there were 243 individuals on the QBNL. She stated she is still receiving CESAs from partner agencies and most are funneling through the Metro helpline to streamline the process. She stated that the highest priority QBNL clients were not on the QBNL for more than 2 weeks so the community did well with addressing those with the highest needs and getting them in the process of being housed. She stated that with rapid re-housing (rrh) referrals being requested at a rate of 10-12 per week that trend will increase, and we should be able to house more individuals. Jim stated that within the last 10 years it has been pushed by HUD to increase/use additional dollars to create more permanent supportive housing (psh) projects as a community. He stated when we look at the NOFA in relationship to the dollars coming to us our biggest needs are rrh and we can use this data to move the target. Essence stated that she will make note of the Governance Council to discuss this and keep it on their radar. Bill Doub stated we need to look at long term solutions as well and implement other solutions when rrh runs out for the client. Essence stated that regarding psh there is the newly developed Berkley Place apartments which has 16 psh units so a few clients can be moved there as well.

**Hotel/Motel:** Tracey Jackson stated that she would like to thank the Coordinated Entry Intake Specialists, Jessica Addy, Patrice Gayle-Harper and Verneda Burnett who supported clients during the height of the pandemic. She stated that she also thanks Chad Adams, Path Outreach and the HUD Outreach who has helped 109 individuals through July. She stated the original vision for the Coordinated Entry team has changed after the COVID protocols and CDC recommendations were set in place. She stated that with shelters working on 50% capacity and not being able to fill shelter space with those who are at-risk but needed it most, she knew our clients would need to have a number they could call as well as a remedy to get them housed in the midst of the Stay Home Order. She stated that out of the 109 individuals and families they have housed 9 through Coordinated Entry. She stated there were 16 referrals from this group, 90% of those in the hotel came from PATH Outreach, HUD Outreach, Job Corps, shelters, CHAP, CPS and the health departments. She stated Pastor Bobby with Catholic Charities played a vital role in transporting clients when buses were down. Coordinated Entry specialists were averaging 75-100 calls a day which involved making 4-5 additional calls to get them connected to other services. She stated they did food distributions and partnered with street outreach and gave food gift cards weekly and partnered with Crossover for food box distributions. She stated that they had 2 suicide attempt calls at night that they were able to intercept and made connections with the Genesee Health System lines. She stated that the top 3 industries were food, construction and retail. Keeping in mind CDC guidelines, the top reasons why clients are displaced in hotels/motels were clients had asthma or they were over 60 years old or they are pregnant.

**HMIS:** David Tweedie explained numbers and data and why break downs are so important. He stated we need a weekly, monthly and yearly data snapshot. He stated that because one-night PIT Counts can have many nuances this could make the homeless data unhelpful. He stated we should look at the criteria of; "Are we efficient?" (how quickly can we house people) "Are we effective?" (are we actually ending homelessness and to what extent) and "Are we knowing?" (when we end someone's homelessness how effective are we at making sure they don't return to homelessness). He stated what he proposes is with OrgCode servicing as HMIS administrator in the community, their first step is to build this list where any HMIS user can login and see the dashboard that shows how many people are served weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly. He stated we need snapshots of how many people were homeless at the beginning and how many people left for housing to other locations and how many people were there at the end so we can show the people we are talking about in the local prioritization criteria. He stated that with this, lists such as V-BNL can be filtered in on specifically or can be which would be significantly differentiate from how we get the V-BNL lists currently as it stands. He stated that he most effective dashboard shows parameters. He stated he is seeking feedback from the rest of the community and if they are supportive of OrgCode working to spend next month building a BNL list in HMIS and then working to be able to report back on a regular basis for both veterans and the broader community on metrics. The CoC unanimously sees value in OrgCode spending next month investing in trying to make this easy for the general HMIS lead teams to access. David stated he will dive in next month to try to offer this as something the community can see with actual local data for reporting back system-wide, agency-wide and staff-wide. He stated that the real intention is that week by week and month by month we can have a real-time understanding of how effective we are at ending homelessness instead of the once every 12 months snapshot.

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

**CQI:** Jim Perlaki stated the Eviction Diversion Prevention program (EDP), is a perfect example of a community effort and our HARA is doing an excellent job. He stated that the Legal Services of Eastern Michigan and Jill Nylander's team have gone out to the courts and met with judges and clients at the court buildings. Tammy has created more than 200 appointments and Catholic Charities have been able to front almost \$80,000 to end homelessness before it starts. He says great job to the whole community.

**SOAR:** Bill Doub stated he continues to get referrals and the obstacle is not having access to his papers from the office so please bear with him. He stated he has been working with Social Security and the clients to get things processed. He stated within the next couple of weeks he would like to hold a SOAR Stakeholder meeting and regarding information on SOAR cases he can be reached at [wdoub@genhs.org](mailto:wdoub@genhs.org).

**HUD Spending Report:** Tracey Jackson stated that she has an update after speaking to Margaret Momon and Cheryl Mathis from HUD. She stated that due to grants being extended due with the COVID-19 amendment process she could not produce the end of year report. She shared the grants that have ended; Homeless Outreach 800 grant spent down to zero- partnership between GCYC and Metro, Shelter of Flint Chronic Homeless Families spent to \$3,000, Shelter of Flint Veteran Lease Up spent down to \$3600. The MCD Coordinated Entry has been spent down to zero but the new grant with dv component has not been actioned yet. GCYC RRH has not been actioned. Tracey stated there is currently something going on with HUD but they are hoping that the grants can be actioned by next week. SOF LU Rosewood has been extended through September 30<sup>th</sup>, she stated their money will be spent down in the time it was requested. Tracey stated that HUD claimed that it would be back to the original end date and they will have new funding coming in. The GHS rrh grant will spend down fully. LU will spend down fully. 144-GCYC has a zero balance. CoC Planning has been spent down to \$46,000 and because the HUD rules have changed the date has been extended possibly to October. Tracey stated that now that we know the grants are ending, she will do an end of year report hopefully by next CoC meeting.

**County ESG Spending Report:** Damon Fortney stated the grant contracts are expiring September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**MSHDA ESG NOFA (\$234,387) Vote:** Shelly Hoffman stated that they received proposals from Shelter of Flint (SOF), Genesee County Youth Corporation (GCYC), My Brother's Keeper (MBK) and Catholic Charities and the funding model would divide the emergency shelter funding in three ways. We were off by a few hundred dollars because GCYC turned in slightly lower numbers to reach the 30% (\$11,016) and for \$12,422 Catholic Charities would use the rest of the funding. SOF requested a small portion for serving as fiduciary, although the funding begins at the same time that we are turning over the fiduciary role. Motion was unanimously approved of the ESG Recommendations as presented.

Becka Management- No vote  
Carriagetown Ministries- Support  
Center for Civil Justice- Abstention  
CS Mott Foundation- No vote  
Family Promise- No Vote  
Family Service Agency- Support  
Flint Genesee County Literacy Network-Abstention  
Flint Housing Commission- Support  
Flint Odyssey House-No vote  
GCYC- Abstention  
Genesee Health Plan- No vote  
Genesee Health System- Support

GISD- No vote  
Greater Flint Health Coalition- Support  
Hamilton Health Network- Support  
Hope Network- Support  
Legal Service of Eastern Michigan- Support  
Mercy House- Support  
State of MI Veteran Services- No Vote  
UM Flint Social Work Department- No Vote  
United Way- Support  
Wellness Aids Services- Support  
YWCA- Support

**MCAH Election Program:** Jim stated that MCAH received a small grant from the ACLU and Flint was one of the four communities chosen to receive it. Their goal is to increase voter registration and election activity among vulnerable populations that are experiencing homelessness. He stated MCAH is looking for a community partner to work with them at the state level to use funds to increase voting among those that we are serving who are identified as homeless and may be in our shelters. Essence expressed interest in taking the role on in working with MCAH to engage Genesee County partners for engagement. He said there are requirements to conduct voter registration and we must identify a media peer administrator/ambassador (who may have experienced homelessness) that can speak on behalf of encouraging others as well tracking and providing info back to MCAH. He stated that there will be phone calls and Zoom meetings that MCAH will provide for technical support to the community partners. Jim stated he presented it to the Executive Council on behalf of MCAH and Genesee County and Essence expressed bringing it to the entire body to see if anyone else would be interested in this role. If so there is a 1 page miniature proposal requirement that must be completed for MCAH. Jim stated that he would chair that proposal committee to select an organization to take this role on for us. Any questions or interest can be emailed to Jim Perlaki at [jimp@recah-traverseplace.org](mailto:jimp@recah-traverseplace.org). Laurel Burchfield of MCAH stated that they will also be making educational opportunities available for anyone who is doing voter registration and education work as well as candidate engagement work. She stated feel free to reach out to her if you are doing voter registration and outreach work as she would love to hear about it and support at [lburchfield@mihomeless.org](mailto:lburchfield@mihomeless.org) or call (517) 853-3894 or cell (913) 461 7703. Jim stated if anyone is interested in participating please present an email by the close of business day on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**CoC EDP marketing campaign update:** Tracey stated that the bus panels highlighting the Eviction Diversion program will start next week. Sometime in September-October there will be radio ads as well as other media sources to support the program.

**CoC Coordinator Introduction:** The new CoC Coordinator, Shaundale Davis-Richmond stated she is excited for the opportunity to join Metro Community Development as she is very passionate about people. She stated that she started in the housing industry as a leasing consultant and had the opportunity to change many lives and help people find help. She was a property manager for 15 years and has been in the HUD housing arena for a long time. She is certified in the project based rental assistance Section 8 and certified in low income tax credit housing, tenant based rental assistance and also she worked for the Flint Housing Commission. She has been through many intense HUD audits and she has always scored high and not gotten on HUD's radar.

**CoC Program NOFA 2020:** Tracey stated there is no NOFA update, they have opened the Grant Inventory worksheet and asked us to check those and make sure the numbers are accurate. She stated beyond that we do not know if there will be a CoC Program NOFA as of yet.

**CoC Response System funding strategy discussion:** Tabled

**Adjournment:** Essence adjourned meeting at 10:43 AM. Next meeting September 9, 2020 9:00 AM Location: Teleconference

**Submitted by** Myra Hinkle

