



Flint/ Genesee County CoC Minutes

Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2020

9:00 AM Zoom Teleconference Call

Attendance: Greg Abler, Center for Civil Justice; China Aquino, OLHSA; Anthony Barker, Hope Network; Angela Beaugard, FGLN; Kelly Bidelman, Center for Civil Justice; Linda Bielskis, SOF; Misty Bowers, GCYC; Donna Bunin, OLHSA; Maurice Bush, Wellness; Bridgett Cavette, Genesee Community Health Center; Tamara Chambers, Catholic Charities; Dwayne Clemons, Hamilton; Denise Diller, Crossover; Bill Doub, GHS; Michelle Edwards, MSHDA; Tiffani Ferrier, Family Promise; Jessica Flint, Center for Civil Justice; Damon Fortney, GCMPC; Allison Green, MCAH; Elisabeth Hamilton, Crossover; Debra Hayes, MBK; Denyatta Henry, McLaren-Flint; Allie Herkenroder, FHC; Myra Hinkle, MCD; Shelly Hoffman, SOF; Jim Hudgens, New Paths; Tracey Jackson, MCD; Lori Kunkel, GFHC; Dawn Lukowski, MDHHS; Tamika Mack, MDHHS; Erin Markell, OLHSA; Antoinette McClain, MCD; Kevin Miller, City of Flint; Molly Mueller, Communities First; Lynn Nee, MDHHS; Beth Noye, Salvation Army; Stan Page, GCYC; Christina Payton-Rice, Eastern Michigan University; Jim Perlaki, GCYC; Beth Pomranky-Brady, Ascension-Michigan; Trina Sanders, YWCA; Dinah Schaller, MCC; Vicky Schultz, Catholic Charities; Ashley Seeback, Odyssey House; Kirk Smith, GFHC; Shearese Stapleton, MJU; Lydia Tabat, Habitat; Kevin Thompson, AAVAMC; Chris Townsend, Salvation Army; David Tweedie, OrgCode; Jamie-Lee Venable, United Way; Candace Waggoner, Voices For Children; Yemisi Wells, GISD; Glory White, BECKA; Essence Wilson, Communities First; Glenn Wilson, Communities First; Rayetta Wyatt, State of Michigan-Veteran Employment Services; Ashnee Young, LSEM & The Power Initiative

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

Community Presentation: Angela Beaugard of the Flint and Genesee County Literacy Network (FGLN) shared racial disparity data points from the CoC 2019 PIT report and the SPARC report (Sustaining Partnership for Anti-Racist Community). She also presented an invitation from the FGCLN hosted community conversation titled, Equity and Education and the Racial Equity Challenge which is partnered with the Michigan League of Public Policy. She stated that in January there will be a 21-day racial equity challenge in hopes of creating a community of cross sector partners that can come together and explore the data as well as look at policy, practices, and procedures to create a more inclusive anti-racist environment.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of November minutes: Minutes were approved.

Governance Council Update: Essence stated that the Governance Council had a presentation from Kevin Miller about the City ESG Funding, one of the outcomes of the presentation was the need for agencies to have well-documented policies and procedures so they have asked Kevin to offer future training for the CoC to help better standardize their work for the benefit of those we serve. She stated that Kim Shewmaker of Odyssey House also shared a wealth of information on the programs provided by her agency. As a follow up it was asked that they work toward creating opportunities for Shelter of Flint clients to interact with Odyssey House staff on an ongoing basis regardless of where they are at in their journey to recovery. Essence stated they will schedule a meeting in January for any organizations that would like a stronger connection with Odyssey House and any other substance abuse programs.

Essence stated they also reached out to Gary Jones of the Governor's Office for clarity regarding the Warming Center opening. She stated there was a follow up from him in an updated FAQ document that now states that shelters and warming centers are allowed to be open. She stated the Governance Council is continuing to work on the by-laws and within the workgroups as well.

REPORTS

H.A.R.A: Tammy Chambers stated that Eviction Diversion Prevention (EDP) funding has been spent. Vicky Schultz stated that there were 150 people waiting in line on Saturday for EDP help. Please spread the word delicately that Catholic Charities' Eviction Diversion Program dollars are now exhausted for the community.

Tammy provided the following numbers:

Eviction Diversion Program:

Assisted: 358 tenants/landlords
Spent: \$498,000.00 (3.2 million to date; total of 4.8 million)
Processing: 398 applications currently (assisting 80-150 tenants per week)
Eviction Diversion Program Daily Calls: 140

Homelessness

Homelessness Calls: 9
Homeless Walk-Ins: 8
Housing/ Case Management: 7
Rapid Rehousing Referrals: 10
Homeless Prevention Assistance: 5

Community Outreach:

Pieces of Mail Distributed: 628
CCSGC Programs:
Soup Kitchen: 3,242
Personal Needs: 3,072
Clothing: 20,520
Work-Ready Room: 28 men/31 women (12 pair of steel toed boots)
Household Goods/Toys: 2,862
November 17th Giveaway: 302 cars, 38 walk-ups, 1071 people served.

Street Outreach (SO): Jim Perlaki stated that street outreach is continuing their work with the HARA and Coordinated Entry. SO had 193 engagements with adults in November. There were 16 homeless verifications, of those 10 were verified and 6 unable to be verified. He stated that he and his team will be working directly with Mary, Tammy, and everyone at Catholic Charities to ensure that there is continuity of service delivery. He stated the partnership with GCYC, and HARA remains positive and strong.

Warming Center Update: Vicky Schultz stated that the Warming Center will be opening on December 14th, from 7PMm - 7 AM. They will be served breakfast before they are let out at 7 am. She stated that if you have individuals that are in the shelter please urge them not to leave shelter and come to the warming center. She stated the warming center was setup as the option once all the shelters were full because they knew hundreds of people would be on the streets or in vacant houses. The warming center was never setup to be an alternative shelter but as an overflow shelter. She stated there are no daytime hours currently due to lack of staffing, however if they were to receive staffing candidates, they could look into extending the hours. Vicky stated they are hoping for nothing over a 60-65 capacity (40-45 men and 20 women and children). The average in prior years were 80-90 per night and a little over 100 on colder nights. She stated HARA staff will be doing screenings (VISPDAT and intake assessments) at the door to get clients in HMIS and on the HCV Waitlist when they are verified homelessness. In addition to that Tracey Jackson stated that through the Greater Flint Urgent Relief Fund-United Way \$30,000 was secured for hoteling in the event of shelters/ warming center reaches full capacity.

Coordinated Entry: Antoinette McClain stated that there are 296 clients on the QBNL. The demographics remain consistent (but there are only 3 veterans on the QBNL) (possibly due to the VASH voucher availability or a disconnect with the V-BNL). She stated they were able to house 1 youth for the month of November through the RRH program through GCYC. She stated on her end in HMIS she cannot see sheltered clients who exit the shelters, so if you refer a client to Coordinated Entry please let her know if they exit the shelter. Antoinette stated that it is imperative that she receives updated statuses every month on the clients referred out to your agency. There was an uptick in resource calls on the helpline and a decrease in CESAs received which could be due to the improved screening processes and the holiday week. She stated that 40 referrals were sent out in November and they were able to add many clients to the HCV Waiting List.

Subcommittee/Work Group reports: Please review the attached ESG Spending and HUD Grant spending.

CQI: Jim Perlaki gave kudos to Catholic Charities and their role as HARA. He stated that the work that Vicky, Tammy, and the finance team at Catholic Charities has done to secure nearly 5 million dollars to provide the Eviction Diversion Program has been amazing. He stated he applauds the effort and the level of confidence that the community has given them in transferring the work from Shelter of Flint to Catholic Charities.

NEW BUSINESS

PIT Count 2021: David Tweedie stated that HUD is providing flexibilities for the 2021 Point in Time (PIT) Count. He stated we are instructed to decrease face-to-face interaction with clients, decrease the number of volunteers working in proximity with homeless individuals, ensure the continued provision of PPE, and to design volunteer processes that minimize close contact. He stated that the hope is that the CoC can increasingly rely on HMIS for the unsheltered PIT Count to form the backbone of the PIT Count process. He stated our local outreach is recommending conducting an unsheltered PIT Count, but it will require some new methodology including an increased focus on HMIS. The specificities of the 2021 PIT Count implementation will be fully determined within the upcoming weeks.

Funding Update-Greater Flint Urgent Relief Fund: Tracey Jackson gave thanks to the Greater Flint Urgent Relief Fund and United Way for receiving the hotel funding of \$30,000. The hotel stay protocol has been set to be used only as the option when the shelters and warming center experiences overflow or when clients are not a candidate for congregate shelter settings.

MSHDA CARES ACT ESG-CV Round 2 Allocation: Michelle Edwards stated that through the MSHDA CARES Act ESG-CV funding, Flint has received an additional funding of \$570,000 roughly. She stated with this funding MSHDA has put in some established thresholds that must be met within each budget category.

Emergency Shelter limited to 25% of total allocation. At least 25% of the grant must go into homeless prevention.

Rapid re-housing at least 35% must be allocated to the budget category.

The remaining 15% can be used in other areas such as Outreach, Admin, HMIS etc.

MSHDA also provided a 2-million-dollar direct funding to the Michigan State Bar Foundation, she stated they are asking that the legal services go through that foundation to receive their funding. Michelle stated that Catholic Charities has the role as the new fiduciary in Genesee County and they just received their documentation regarding that this past week. They will now be submitting on behalf of Genesee County in that role moving forward. The new categories within the grant term are landlord incentives which allows for reimbursement for up to 15% for damages to property from participant. Also, they are allowing a onetime payment to a landlord to get someone into a property. She stated they are allowing new agencies, but they must fall within the Coordinated Entry system. The funds must be spent by September 30th, 2022, the deadline to apply is January 5th, 2021.

OTHER BUSINESS

Foster Youth Independence Tenant Protection Vouchers: Allie Herkenroder of the Flint Housing Commission is the point of contact for the Foster Youth Independence Tenant Protection Vouchers moving forward. She can be reached at aherkenroder@flinthc.org or via phone at (810) 736-3112. She stated they have the opportunity with HUD to implement tenant protection vouchers for fostered youth. The voucher is for youth leaving foster care between ages 18-25; the voucher would allow them a place to live for 36 months. She is requesting COC support with the MOU for the state and that any eligible youth be integrated into the prioritization and referral process of the Coordinated Entry for the federal goal to prevent youth homelessness (Home Together Program). The motion for support was unanimously approved.

Letters of Support:

Communities First- Orchard Grove Apartments: Glenn Wilson, President and CEO of Communities First Inc and Mike Wright, Real Estate Development Director of Communities First, gave a presentation about Orchard Grove Apartments which will be on the border of Flint Township/City of Flint, located at 2765 Flushing rd. Orchard Grove Apartments will be a 40-unit mixed income development with (16) supportive housing and other affordable units. He stated they have created

these units to keep the momentum going in the community with building additional quality affordable housing and wrap around supports, they are requesting a letter of support from the CoC for the MSHDA funding application. Motion for support unanimously approved.

Angela Beaugard gave thanks to Communities First and stated that the CoC needs to think of our process of how we integrate opportunities for additional housing and different developments through our Coordinated Entry system, also how we prioritize persons eligible for those properties. Tracey stated we are working to include those properties into the Coordinated Entry policy and procedures.

Shelter of Flint-Michigan Homeless Policy Council: Shelly Hoffman requested a letter of support for the Michigan Homeless Policy Council seeking a general at-large member. She stated she has vast experience in non-profit work and higher education, she could bring an interesting perspective and serve as a liaison between the CoC and the Homeless Policy Council. She is seeking a letter of support that speaks to her ability to represent local concerns, needs, innovation and success in ending homelessness. Motion for support unanimously approved.

Housing Choice Vouchers: Glory White of BECKA Management stated that they have pulled 53 people from the Genesee County Homeless Waitlist and she is hoping to do all the briefings to get them into housing. She stated the HCV packets went out today and they must be back within 14 days once received. If the personal documentation needed such as identification cards, birth certificates, social security cards and income paperwork is not sent within 14 days they could lose out, so we must stay in touch with Lansing in letting them know the items are coming. Angela Beaugard stated that depending on where the person reported some agencies upload that personal documentation to HMIS so Antoinette may be able to assist with that level of detail. Antoinette stated that she is working closely with the case managers at several agencies for the individuals pulled for the HCV list and she has sent emails on what is requested and where to send the applications. Debra Hayes stated that also upon intake it is easy to send clients to Secretary of State if they need a birth certificate, since it is a free resource. They can also contact My Brother's Keeper or the Genesee County Clerk's office (if they are from Genesee County).

Adjournment: Essence adjourned meeting at 10:36 AM. Next meeting: January 12, 2021 9:00 AM Location: Teleconference

Submitted by Myra Hinkle