



Alliance for Housing

General Membership; Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Meeting Minutes - Respectfully submitted by Daniel Kelly

Attendance: David Layne (MORC), Ryan Hertz (SOS), Kevin Bogg (TTI), Zach Dieck (TTI), Alysa Wamsler (TTI), Deborah Busch (Busch Housing), Marc Craig (CHN), Ryan Hertz (SOS), Victoria Martinez (SOS), Debra Hendren (CHN), Sarah Sporny (CHN), Danielle Redilla (OIHN), Jamie Leclair (CHN), Gloria Lutey (Oakland County Health Department), Liz Lucas (OLHSA), Jenna Connell (MORC), Elizabeth Kelly (HOPE), Luke Hassevoort (CG), Dan Kelly (SOS), Jenny Poma (SOS), Laura Wesley (OLHSA), Kelly Bidelman (LAD), Rebecca Cheezum (OU), Deborah Nelson (HOPE), Ecole Brooks (OCCMHA), Tara Wiedbusch (JFS), Kathy Losinski (Neighborhood House), Angelique Rawls (ULDSEM), Miriam Green (DNOM), Melissa Furdikian (CHN)

Introduction

Meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by Debra Hendren.

Approval of Minutes for May 24, 2016 Retreat

The minutes were motioned to be approved by Kevin Bogg and seconded by Sarah Sporny. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Veteran Updates

Zach Dieck reported. He noted that the group that is working to end Veteran homelessness is sending out information packets to DNR to inform park rangers of those who are homeless at their park grounds. He also noted the goal is to end Veteran homelessness by September 30, 2016. He noted the Veterans workgroup continues to work with the Veterans By-Name List.

HARA & ESG Updates

Jamie Leclair reported. She noted there are limited funds for ESG rapid re-housing with CHN. Dan Kelly noted that South Oakland Shelter still has very limited rapid re-housing funds available. He noted that a paper referral had been previously sent out and that anyone who would like this referral to reach out to him and he'll send it over. He noted that anyone using HMIS can send a referral through that system as well. He noted that SOS's goal is to provide ongoing follow-up to all referrals so referring case managers are kept in the loop of client's housing progress. He also noted that SOS would like to work with any case managers to aid in this housing process.

Advocacy & Public Awareness

Ryan Hertz reported. He noted that the committee is currently working on creating more guidance around advocacy efforts. There was discussion about the committee advocating with local municipalities and landlords to help obtain more landlords for housing programs locally.

Housing Choice Vouchers & Special Needs Housing Units

Jamie Leclaire reported. She noted that the group is getting upwards of 30 names on the waitlist each month. She notes that recertification of names on the waitlist is every 120 days. Jamie noted that there are housing units coming up at Unity Park in Pontiac in the near future for supportive housing units. She noted there will be units at the Jefferson Oaks housing complex in about a year. She noted that there is an interest list that clients can add their name to on Community Housing Network's website at chninc.net. Dan Kelly noted the exceptional job the HCV team has done with following up on the eligibility of those linked with the resource.

Eviction Diversion Updates

Jamie also discussed eviction diversion efforts locally. She noted these efforts are taking place at the 50th district court currently and that they are working on expanding efforts in the Southfield court system.

Board Report

Marc Craig reported. He noted that the Board recently evaluated the Alliance for Housing's Executive Director Leah McCall and overall her performance was good. He noted he was informed the retreat was a success.

Old Business

Annual Retreat

It was noted that the retreat was overall a success. There was a discussion about the small workgroups at the retreat as well including a workgroup that discussed currently fair market rent (housing rates) issues in Oakland County that housing programs are experiencing. There was discussion about FMR changes that HUD is currently in the process of making. It was noted that these changes may not affect our community.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

CIST Meeting

The meeting minutes were motioned to be approved by Kevin Bogg and seconded by Kelly Bidelman. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation - The Urban League of Detroit's Angelique Rawls

Angelique discussed the Southeastern Michigan's Urban Seniors Program. She noted the program's goal is to help seniors over 55 years old to re-enter the workplace. She noted the requirements of the program include: 55 year age minimum; must live in Oakland, Wayne, or Macomb Counties; the participant must have a disability or have housing challenges currently; and there is preference given to Veterans. She noted they are not currently enrolling residents of Wayne County but are actively enrolling residents of Oakland County. She passed out flyers and cards with contact information and asked that people reach out to her if they are interested. It was noted that those receiving disability benefits can still participate.

Presentation - Macomb County Community Mental Health's Connie Lasher

Connie was not able to attend the meeting and did not present. It was noted that her program currently has rapid re-housing funds available to households with a mental health disorder. She noted that she can provide assistance to those who are displaced currently but originally from Macomb County.

ID Exception Pilot Updates

Debra Hendren reported. She noted that there are now several counties that have joined the Michigan Secretary of State's exceptions pilot program. She noted these include Genesee County among others. She noted that the group is currently working on developing a birth certificate fee waiver program at the state level as well. Elizabeth Kelly noted that she is presenting with Deb Hendren on this issue to the State. She noted that there are discussions with the secretary of state and social security administration about issues with obtaining both these documents. She noted they are working with them to create more waiver circumstances for those who do not have either of these vital documents. She noted that the secretary of state is able to give a letter that the social security administration can use in place of an ID when ID requirements are not met. She noted they are working on developing alternatives to forcing clients to obtain previous school records when they have no other documentation. Debra Hendren noted that there have been exceptions developed to requirements to mail certain vital documents to a permanent address when clients are currently homeless.

Homeless Healthcare Collaboration and Related Workgroups Update

Gloria Lutey reported. She noted the next homeless health care collaboration meeting is Friday, 9/9 from 9-12pm. She noted the last meeting was 7/8 and that at that meeting Dr. Burns and Dr. Wasserman presented on a book that was written exploring homelessness and healthcare issues.

She noted the next hospital discharge taskforce meeting is Thursday, 8/18 at 2:00pm at 1200 North Telegraph in building 34 East on the 4th Floor. She noted a date has not been set for the next transportation taskforce meeting; she noted the group is waiting on arranging a training with SMART on how to ride the SMART bus. She noted that if anyone has any questions, please email her at Luteyg@oakgov.com.

SOAR Collaboration

There were no updates.

Vacancies

There were no updates.

Case Presentations

Elizabeth Kelly noted a recent residency issue with a client who was born in Canada but is a United States Residence. She noted she had found difficulty obtaining a birth certificate for a Canadian citizen recently. She noted this took several months to obtain a "long" birth certificate form. She noted the long form is needed for most federal programs. She noted this was needed in conjunction with a DD-214 military status document for this individual. She noted she is able to provide any assistance to anyone that is struggling with these types of residency issues.

There was discussion about how to best refer clients to a higher level of services, including ACT team services when case managers feel this is needed. It was noted that there is no formal way to refer clients but it is helpful to reach out to their case manager and supervisors. It was noted that if you are unable to successfully increase service levels, you may open a recipient rights case to expedite the process.

There was discussion about the Non-Elderly Disabled homeless voucher program that the Michigan State Housing Development Authority recently created. It was noted that this program does not affect Oakland County as there are no Vouchers locally.

There was discussion about recent issues clients have encountered related to the MSHDA \$50.00 minimum rental payment for those receiving housing choice vouchers.

Welcome Inn Conversation

Dan Kelly presented. He noted that the Welcome Inn Day Time Warming Center has informed him that they do not have a site to host their operations this year. He noted that he was presenting on behalf of Peter Mohr, the Welcome Inn program's Board Chair who was unable to attend the meeting. He noted that their closing could have a large effect on homeless services and homelessness in general in Oakland County. There was brainstorming amongst the group about possible solutions. Dan Kelly asked that if anyone would like to provide assistance on this critical community need to please call Peter Mohr at 248-890-2347.

Round Robin

Hand-Up

Jenny Poma reported. She noted that the program Hand-Up, a crowd-funding platform to aid homeless households, is now available to collaborate with agencies in Oakland County to help meet the financial needs to homeless households. Jenny noted that if anyone was interested in participating in this program to reach out to her at jenny@oaklandshelter.org.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51pm. The next meeting is Wednesday, 9/7 at 1:30pm at 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford Twp., MI.