

Alliance for Housing

Bi-monthly General Membership Meeting; Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Meeting Minutes - Respectfully submitted by Daniel Kelly

Attendance:

Jessica Mumma (CHN), Karla Chambers (CHN), Sarah Sporny (CG), Jim Perlaki (CG), Elizabeth Kelly (HOPE), Linoa Riggs (Rochester Area Neighborhood House), Leah McCall (Lighthouse), Diane Hart (JFS), Cheryl Case (JFS), Jill Anderson (DHS), Ecole Brooks (OCHD), Jennifer Lepard (CHN), Roger Burghdoff (Elder Living Construction), Juanita Harper (CHN), Melissa Woodruff (HAVEN), Amy Coniff (CHN), Jamie Christofel (CHN), Evette Szajna-Barry (Szajna & Assoc), Sara Orris (Oakland Schools), Gloria Lutey (OCHD), Ernestine McRae (HAVEN), Courtney Moore (HOPE Network), Deborah Busch (Busch Housing Services), Julie Day (Resident), Kathy Williams (Oakland County CHI), Jenny Poma (SOS), Daniel Kelly (SOS), Matt Brinkman (OCCMHA), Jill Shoemaker (CHN),

Introductions

Marc Craig called the meeting to order at 1:37pm.

Marc Craig called for introductions. Each present gave their introductions.

Jim Perlaki motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the January 8, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Kathy Williams, motion carried unanimously.

Elder construction stated they were not able to present that day.

Kathy Williams asked to add the Building Michigan Communities Conference scholarship to the agenda. Jim Perlaki motioned to approve this addition and to approve the agenda for the meeting. Elizabeth Kelly seconded the approval.

Announcements

Kathy Williams read a notice from Liz Lucas of OLHSA. She stated that if you have any clients who are HIV positive, funding is available to assist these clients with rental and utility assistance. Please contact Liz Lucas at lizl@olhsa.org if you would like any more information.

Leah Mccall stated Lighthouse has funds available for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing, please contact her at LMcCall@lighthouseoakland.org for more information.

Board Report

Marc Craig reported. He stated the group just completed their board retreat. He said at the retreat they discussed the progress the Alliance has made so far in several areas including the challenges and gaps they need to fill. The group looked at the Alliance's mission and goals, and the potential to hire new staff in the next year as well. Marc stated the Alliance would like to have a staff person on board

before the next COC application.

Marc noted that the Alliance committees are recruiting as well – he asked that people please join a committee.

Operations Committee

Kathy Williams reported. She stated the goal of the committee is to keep the operations of the COC going, especially until they have staff. She stated the committee is planning the annual Continuum retreat. She stated the first meeting was on Feb. 25th. She stated they have a very long list of things the committee needs to accomplish in the next year. The retreat will be May 13, 2013 for the COC.

The next operations committee meeting is March 25, 9:00am at the community home improvement offices at 250 Elizabeth Lake Rd, Pontiac, MI 48341.

Systems Coordination and Implementation

Ernestine Mcrae reported. She stated the committee includes several workgroups including one for prevention, the central interagency service team (CIST), and Community resource day.

Finance and Audit

Jim Perlaki reported. He stated the committee has four members right now and that they are looking for new members as well. Jim stated this committee is useful for anyone that likes numbers. He stated the next meeting will be soon – it will be posted on the Google group email notifications soon. He stated this committee will focus on preparing the Alliance for being the united funding agency in the future.

Jim congratulated those that wrote the successful grant to the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness for the community resource day.

The next Finance and Audit meeting is April 11th at 9:00am at Common Ground.

Public Awareness

Dan Kelly and Elizabeth Kelly presented. The public awareness group is focusing on developing messaging including a short “2 minute” speech about the Alliance, a boiler plate informational paragraph about the organization for press releases and other correspondence, and revising the current Alliance website.

The next meeting is April 2, 2:00 at HOPE, 249 Baldwin, Pontiac.

Project Monitoring and Performance Outcomes

Kathy Williams and Jill Shoemaker reported. This group will focus on project monitoring and measuring performance outcomes including those that are HMIS and non-HMIS related. It will include information about how to run reports, how to clean up reports, and how to work data into internal

program monitoring.

The Outcomes workgroup met yesterday, 3/11 at CHN at 10:00am. The workgroup will meet the second Monday of the each month at 10:00am moving forward. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2013 at 10:00am at CHN.

Marc noted the operations committee will be working with agencies that had data collection issues in the last HUD funding round. Kathy noted that agencies that scored lower than 60% will need to have a plan of correction in order to receive funding. She stated the committee will be contacting these agencies soon to set up technical assistance and create a plan of corrective action. She stated if an agency does not make these corrections they may have their funds cut.

By-Laws/Code of Conduct/Business Plan

Marc stated he will send out the Alliance by-laws, code of conduct, and business plan to the COC listserv to give to the Alliance membership. Marc stated that at some point, the funded agencies may have to kick in some money in order to fund Alliance operations. He stated there was funding for a planning grant in the current round of HUD funding and that is currently pending formal approval. He noted that the long term goals of the Alliance including becoming the United Funding Agency (UFA) with HUD for Oakland County which could bring in an additional 6% of the total HUD funds received in the county to fund the UFA's operations.

Membership Dues

Jim Perlaki reported. The alliance dues request went out in late January; 16 agencies have paid thus far. Jim asked that agencies please pay their dues if they have not been paid yet. Please check with your agency to see if they have paid the dues. Another reminder will be going out soon. He noted that paying dues allows your organization to vote at general meetings. Marc stated that the membership going forward will elect the Alliance Board and are the only group that can change the by-laws.

Region 8 Report

Evette Szajna-Barry reported. Evette stated that MCAH stated the awards were going out for the community connection days. The group also talked about the sequester during the Region 8 meeting. MSHDA reported at the meeting that the upcoming grants will be strongly performance-based. The group discussed the MSHDA homeless choice vouchers. It was noted that there is a 4.8 percent cut in these services so the waiting lists may become longer because of this for homeless consumers.

HARA

Amy Coniff reported. Amy shared that the HARA continues to serve those that are currently homeless or at risk of being homeless. She stated they have rapid re-housing funds for homeless consumers who are under 30% Area Median Income. She stated please have those in need contact the Housing Resource Center at 248-928-0111 should anyone be in need of assistance with these services.

Amy stated this year the Landlord Breakfast will be an event that is done in conjunction with the Macomb County Homeless Coalition.

Street Count

Jill Shoemaker reported. Jill passed out preliminary statistics from the 2013 Oakland County homeless street count. Jill thanked everyone who assisted with the street count this year. She stated it was very successful. Jill explained that the street count is an annual event, mandated by HUD, where the Alliance counts people that are homeless, both sheltered and unsheltered. She stated that the count for 2013 was on January 23 and there were two deployment center locations, one in Ferndale and one in Pontiac.

Jill stated for this year, there were 544 sheltered individuals and 88 individuals counted as unsheltered. She stated this year marked a decrease from 237 unsheltered individuals counted in the 2011 Oakland County Street Count.

The group discussed the possible reasons for the large change in unsheltered individuals – reasons included the weather being much worse during the 2013 count as well as an increase in warming shelter numbers.

She stated the Warming Centers were over capacity this year.

Jill also reported on the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). This report submitted to HUD each year gives an assessment on homeless activities in Oakland County. Jill stated that the AHAR was submitted well before the Feb. 15, 2013 deadline. Jill stated that she recently found out that the data from the AHAR will be used by HUD. Jill stated she can give anyone who would like a draft copy of the annual AHAR and PIT who would like one.

Marc Craig noted that the street count will have to be conducted again in 2014 as it is being required to be conducted every year as of now by HUD.

HUD Homeless Application

Kathy updated the group that the application was submitted for 5.4 million dollars. She stated the application was submitted before the January 18, 2013 deadline. She stated this year, groups had to be tiered; she stated that it was announced yesterday that Tier 1 will very likely be funded for this next year. She stated the formal announcements for tier 1 funding will be made by HUD very shortly. She stated the tier 2 and new applications for funding will be announced later this summer.

Program Presentation

Anthony Thornton – Center for working families, Lighthouse

Anthony noted the Center has been in existence for 4 years. He stated it provides financial literacy skills to households including financial classes on budgeting, banking, and mortgages. They also teach a class that focuses on soft skills including teaching people to learn how to look for employment.

including utilizing the internet and computers to look for jobs. They also teach people how to write resumes and how to interview. They also have certified financial literacy coaches and provide access to free credit reports every six months. They will work with clients up to three years. They help individuals to increase their net worth as well.

So far they have had 150 people come through their soft skills program and graduate and receive a certificate. They have had about 85 of those 150 find employment. They help people set-up email addresses that are professional and discuss social networking. Anthony stated the class lasts for three weeks – they are held Monday – Thursday from 9:30 – 12:30.

He said they also assist people with the decision to go back to school. In addition, he has a new program called Community Ventures that works with those with barriers including those with criminal records, employment gaps, etc., to find employment with employers the Ventures program is linked with.

Please contact Anthony if you know of anyone that could benefit from these services – the center is currently looking for clients. Please contact him at 248-920-6100 ext. 2121 for more information or to refer someone to the program.

Community Resource Day

Sara Orris reported. Sara stated the Community Resource Day served 120 individuals. She thanked everyone who came to the event. She noted that the group recently successfully obtained a Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness Grant (MCAH). The next planning meeting date has not been scheduled yet.

Logo Contest

Kathy Williams reported. Kathy stated the group is trying to come up with a new logo for letterhead and the website. There will be a contest to develop one. Please ask your consumers/clients/guests to participate. Something will be going out to the membership on the google group very soon. The deadline will be early May. Please get out your artistic graphic design skills and participate!

A note from the contest: The Alliance for Housing is the name of the organization and the goal is to bring together partnerships with area housing providers.

Retreat Survey

A survey will go out either today or tomorrow to ask what sessions people would like to see for the COC Annual Retreat in May.

The retreat is at the Oakland County Conference Center on Monday, May 19th. Map will be sent out shortly. Please respond to the surveys by the end of the month

Scholarship to Building Michigan Communities Conferences

The conference is state-wide and about 5000 people attend each year. It does feature homelessness as a major issue. It is April 29th – May 1st in Lansing and costs \$175 for all three days with a continental breakfast and lunch included. The Alliance would like to offer a scholarship to an agency that does not have the funds to send someone they would like to go. The stipend will be \$300 for the event. The scholarship application will go out on the Alliance listserv on March 13th ; please return it by April 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 2:43pm.