Alliance for Housing
Annual Retreat 2024
May 1, 2024
Oakland County Executive Building

Attendees: Ashley Cuniberti, Audrey White, Leah McCall, Holly Guathier (Alliance for Housing), Sandi Elanges (Oakland County Health Division), Chris Powers (ReciproCity), Marlo Sheppard (Easterseals MORC), Tara Irwin (Jewish Family Services), Sian Washinton (DNEM), Pamela Harmon, Irene Lane (CNS Healthcare), Courtney Marshall, Olivia Raye-Leonard, Miriam Halprin, Anita Scott-Meisel (Lakeshore Legal Aid), Benjamin Ogden (South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless - SOCH), Brian Wright (HOPE Shelters), Taylor Eberhart, Shelley Brinkmann, Eric Burton, Genny Bull, Gisele Poole, Kimberly Diggan, Shawna Reynolds, Samantha Talbot, Sarah Muhich, Sarah Neuenfeldt, Mindy Huang, Dayna Swindell, Matt McCormick, Kirsten Elliot (CHN), Princess Staples, Trisha Swan, Molly Mueller, Erinn Johnson, Jenny Poma, Jessie Polito, Joseph Rusher, Michael Centi, Bonnie Haney (Lighthouse), Christy Moceri (HAVEN), Kathy Koths, Emily Wallath, Liz Lucas, Alicia Powell (OLHSA), Stephen O'Donnell, Melissa Preville, Darryl Earl, Khadjia Walker-Fobbs (Oakland County Neighborhood & Housing Development), Beth Baker Callen (VA), David Permaloff (Common Ground), Jacob Willson (Pontiac Community Foundation), Jacqueline Curry (Nation Outside), Kelly Phillips (Oakland Schools), Ki-Jana Malone (Aetna), Kimber Bishop-Yanke (Kids Empowered), Mitchel Blum-Alexander (Red Maple Resources), Jill Rochelle Anderson, Rebecca Tallarigo (DHHA), Zienab Fahs (MSHDA), June Malone, Cayte Boyer, Virginia Wright, Rebecca Reyes, Cecelia Caponecchice, Curtis Smith, Mathew Turner-Reed, Michelle Cochenour

Introductions

Oakland County 2023 State of Homelessness Report
Presented by: **Audrey White, HMIS Director, Alliance for Housing, &**
              Holly Gauthier, HMIS Manager, Alliance for Housing

Point in Time (PIT) Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.
Point in Time (PIT) Count 2024: January 31, 2024
- 357 Total
- 78 Transitional Housing
- 30 Unsheltered
- 249 Emergency Shelter

Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Oakland County 2023:
- 1175 Total Persons
- 860 Households
- 82% Adults only

- 13% Adult/child
- 6% Child only

Year: 2023 – 1175 Literally Homeless Persons
- At least 1 disability reported: 31%
- Average age: 43
- Children (under 18): 30%
- Top prior living situation: Place not meant for Habitation=43% & Emergency Shelter=13%
- First time homeless: 39%
- More than 12 months homeless: 24%

Year: 2023 – 53 Homeless Veterans
- At least 1 disability reported: 43%
- Average age: 50
- Adult Only HH's: 92%
- Adult Child HH's: 8%
- Male: 79%, Female: 19%, Other: 2%
- Top prior living situations: Place not meant for habitation=32% & Staying with friends= 15%
- First time homeless: 62%
- More than 12 months homeless: 25%
- Black, African American, or African=17, White=28, Multi-Racial=5

Year: 2023 – 265 Chronically Homeless Persons
- At least 1 disability reported: 55%
- Average age: 44
- Adult Only HH's: 92%
- Adult Child HH's: 7%
- Child Only HH's: 1%
- Male: 59+%, Female: 40%, Questioning: .38%
- Top prior living situations: Place not meant for habitation=57% Emergency Shelter=12%
- First time homeless: 27%, Four or more times homeless=49%
- More than 12 months homeless: 67%
- Black, African American, or African=119, White=114, Hispanic=1

**Year: 2023 – 206 Homeless Seniors (a*ge 55+)*
- At least 1 disability reported: 49%
- Average age: 61
- Adult Only HH's: 99%
- Adult Child HH's: 1%
- Male: 62%, Female: 38%
- Top prior living situations: Place not meant for habitation=47% 2nd top place: Emergency Shelter including hotel/motel
- First time homeless: 49%
- More than 12 months homeless: 34%
- Black, African American, or African=97, White=91, Multi-Racial=11

Year: 2023 – 49 Unaccompanied Youth *defined as under the age of 18 (child only households)*

- Average age: 15
- Male: 41%, Female: 55%, Transgender=4%
- At least 1 disability reported 24% with the highest being developmental at 16%
- Top prior living situation: Staying or living with a family member=49% & the second being tied at 14.9% emergency shelter, place not meant for habitation, and staying with friends
- First time homeless: 51%
- Black, African American, or African=35, White=8, Multi-Racial=5

Contact

- HMIS questions: hmishelp-alliance@oaklandhomeless.org
- Audrey White: awhite-alliance@oaklandhomeless.org
- Holly Gauthier: hgauthier@oaklandhomeless.org

ReciproCity Updates Presented by Chris Powers, Co-Founder, ReciproCity

- Reciprocity builds and launches platforms that scale nonprofit programs
- Track record:
  - 140,917+ program requests fulfilled
  - 33,200 unique individuals served
  - 13,493 households served
  - 7,339 donors & volunteers registered
  - 40+ community projects launched
- Reciprocity has conducted focus groups and interviews to gather feedback around the barriers and challenges of the homeless response system from organizations, shelters, and those with lived experience
  - More resources are needed across the board including coordinating resources for staff and those seeking services
- Three phases planned:
  - Design (May 2024 - October 2024)
    - Launch a website with programs and resources available, program requirements, and intake documents
    - Continue requirements gathering interviews & make designs to manage housing resource requests
    - Building an interoperable data dictionary
  - Build (January 2025 - May 2025)
    - Build and pilot system based on initial design work
    - Have community determine business rules, eligibility requirements, standard requirements and equity/accessibility considerations
    - Start collecting intake/request date and send automated notifications to participants based on business rules we agree upon
  - Iterate (June 2025 – November 2025)

- Explore third party integrations
- Onboard more programs and service providers
- Gather feedback from participants and resource providing organizations
- Ongoing Support (2025 – Beyond)
  - Support
  - Maintenance
  - Improvements based on community feedback
- Ways you can help
  - Spread the word
  - Submit all relevant documents related to housing and homelessness prevention resources
  - Attend office hours and set up a series of calls to share your program details

MSHDA Regional Housing Partnership Updates Presented by Jacob Willson
- MSHDA Statewide Housing Plan
  - A comprehensive plan to address a wide variety of housing issues in Michigan
    - 8 objectives
    - 34 goals
    - Over 100 strategies
  - Establish 15 Regional Housing Partnerships across the state
  - RHP's are a regional planning approach to address housing needs over the next 5 years
- Oakland County RHP
  - Initial meeting with MSHDA and ~80 individuals working in housing in Oakland County
  - From this meeting 4 lead organizations were identified
    - Alliance for Housing
    - Pontiac Housing Commission
    - Community Housing Network
    - Pontiac Community Foundation
- Overview of RHP Structure
  - 3 focus areas
    - Preventing and ending homelessness
    - Affordable housing stock
    - Communication and education
  - Each focus area has 2 co-chairs to guide work
  - Co-chairs also sit on a steering committee to guide the work of the entire RHP
- Action Planning Process
  - Over the summer of 2023, OC RHP leads held multiple convenings to establish:
    - Focus areas for the OC RHP

- Goals
- Strategies
- Key performance indicators
  - The OC RHP submitted a finalized action plan to MSHDA in August 2023
- Action Plan Overview
  - 6 goals
    - Improving the quality and connectedness of the homelessness response system
    - Increase the supply of affordable housing in OC and encouraging equitable zoning reform
    - Increasing the awareness of and support for affordable housing in OC
  - 18 strategies
- Oakland County RHP in 2024
  - Preventing and ending homelessness
    - Created a survey to assess the digital landscape of homelessness services in OC
  - Communication and education
    - Launched webpage on the Alliance for Housing website
    - Began work towards finalizing a contract with Issue Media Group
  - Affordable housing stock
    - Established a contact list and curriculum for zoning reform education
    - Began work with Sugar Creek Capital to lobby for a statewide LIHTC program
  - Establish partnerships with Blueprint to End Homelessness working groups
- What's Next?
  - Preventing and ending homelessness
    - Analyze survey results to establish a baseline
    - Begin contacting organizations for programmatic information with the goal of having all of these resources in a centralized digital location
  - Communication and education
    - Finalize a contract with Issue Media Group to increase awareness of affordable housing in Southeast Michigan
    - Create a separate website to host all RHP activities
  - Affordable housing stock
    - Draft policy language for a statewide LIHTC program to present to legislators
    - Begin contacting planners and city officials for zoning reform education workshops
- Questions?
  - Contact: Jacob Willson, jacob@pontiaccommunityfoundation.org

ALLIANCE for HOUSING

<u>Oakland County Blueprint Updates</u> Presented by Khadija Walker-Fobbs

- Purpose:
  - o Oakland County, Michigan is committed to ending homelessness through prevention, housing with services, reforming the system of care, and engaging the community. With the collaboration of providers across Oakland County's homelessness service system contributing to the development, the Blueprint outlines how Oakland County will prioritize actions towards eliminating homelessness.
- Vision Statement:
  - o People at risk or experiencing homelessness in Oakland County will have timely, equitable access to shelter, and affordable, quality housing in the communities of their choice through organizations working together seamlessly to navigate a holistic range of supportive services.
- Timeline:
  - o In 2019, Sen. Rosemary Bayer secured a grant for the Blueprint to End Homelessness.
  - o In 2020, Oakland County Neighborhood & Housing Development engaged staff from the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) to help develop the Blueprint.
  - o In October 2023, Neighborhood & Housing Development Division Officer, Khadija Walker-Fobbs, collaborated with Alliance for Housing and other key stakeholders to undertake putting the plan into action
  - o In November 2023, the first Blueprint to End Homelessness meeting was held with 60+ stakeholders in attendance.
    - ▪ Five work-groups were formed, each with their own goals and objectives to achieve
  - o In January 2024, the work-groups prioritized an objective to undertake.
  - o On April 25, 2024, a quarterly meeting was had with all stakeholders to provide an update on their selected objective progress.
- **Goal #1 Prevent Root Cause of Homelessness**
  - o <u>Objective</u>: Develop an advocacy plan to address root causes of homelessness.
  - o <u>Group Update:</u>
    - ▪ Expand Project Clean Slate outreach efforts.
    - ▪ Distribute survey to identify community resources.
    - ▪ Joined Regional Housing Plan (RHP) Group.
- **Goal #2: Increased Affordable, Quality Housing**
  - o <u>Objective:</u> Identify and develop at least one program to preserve existing and increase new affordable housing units.
  - o <u>Group Update:</u>
    - ▪ Discussing the potential to increase affordable housing stock by leveraging the expertise.

- **Reduce stigmas of affordable housing by creating marketing materials that help inform the community.**
- **Goal #3: Ensure equitable access to shelter**
  - <u>Objective:</u> Establish a centralized repository of shelter bed availability to improve system navigation.
  - <u>Group Update:</u>
    - Single point of entry/800 number – live answering service to connect individuals to resources and prioritize sheltering (in development)
    - Deepen engagement with Common Ground
    - Continue to research best practices in other communities to help strengthen our own system
- **Goal #4: Improve Continuum of Care Outreach and Education**
  - <u>Objective:</u> Implement an outreach plan to effectively get information about services and resources to individuals and families at risk or experiencing homelessness in Oakland County.
  - <u>Group Update:</u>
    - Working on centralized center for press releases, as well as an alternative center when necessary, combined with Regional Housing Plan Group
- **Goal #5: Support Organizations and Improve Collaboration**
  - <u>Objectives:</u> Provide training materials to support agency staff knowledge of the available homelessness services in Oakland County, improve well-being of service providers, and increase cultural competence of providers.
  - <u>Group Update:</u>
    - Collaborate with State & County to create human centered communications.
    - Model the application process developed by Civilla (Project Re:form) to design a streamlined process to access services.
- Blueprint Co-Chairs:
  - Khadija Walker-Fobbs, Officer, Oakland County Neighborhood & Housing Development
  - Leah McCall, Executive Director, Alliance for Housing, Oakland County Michigan's Continuum of Care

<u>Alliance Updates</u> Presented by Leah McCall & Ashley Cuniberti
- United Way Basic Needs Grant Update
  - Grant term: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
  - Amount: $50,000
    - $20,000 for ReciproCity app development
    - $25,000 for Flex Funds
    - $5,000 for Admin

- o This funding was available to Alliacne member agencies to utilize their program participants in a housing crisis that are facing a barrier that current funding could not assist with.
  - Capped at $1,500 per individual/family
  - Can be utilized one time per household/family
- o Ways to Utilize:
  - Emergency shelter services
    - If shelter is full and we have an emergency situation, utilize funds for a hotel stay.
  - Supportive housing services
    - Provide items for move in, ie, furniture, appliances, household items
  - Eviction
    - If someone is over AMI for current programs and needs rental assistance
  - Housing stability support services
    - Pet fees, exterminator
  - Transitional housing services
    - If unit will be ready in one week, we could provide hotel stay until unit is read
  - Utility Assistance
    - Old bills that current funding cannot assist with
  - Housing relocation fees
    - Helping with application fees, rental truck or storage unit
  - Security Deposit for HCV or if over income for other programs

Housing for Older Persons Navigation Program Presented by Taylor Eberhart, Community Housing Network

- CHN has been partnering with the Michigan Campaign Against Homelessness and Red Maple Consulting on a housing navigation program for older adults (55+) that are medically involved and experiencing homelessness
  - o No financial assistance, just navigation assistance
  - o Program is set to end in November but working to ensure it continues.

Shelter Updates Presented by Lighthouse, Hope Shelters, HAVEN, SOCH Welcome Inn

- Lighthouse non-congregant shelter project overview
  - o Full campus redevelopment
  - o East side of campus focuses on NCS services
  - o West side of campus focuses on various supportive services
  - o Full campus will be accessible to shelter guests during and after shelter stay
  - o Increases beds from 61 to 159

- o Process began in 2021 and will break ground in June 2024 and plans to be completed at the end of 2025
- Hope Shelters has 2 shelters; the main shelter on Baldwin has 60 beds, and 15 beds at the Hope Recoup shelter.
    - o Brian Wright from Hope Shelters outlined the plan for shelter expansion.
- HAVEN provided funding update that increases shelter beds from 64 to 80.
- Ben with Welcome Inn provided updates regarding working toward a 75-year ground lease for year-round shelter at 13 & Crooks Rd. with anticipated opening date in Spring 2025.
    - o Welcome Inn is currently operating as emergency winter shelter through the process of expansion.

Agency Updates & Networking

- Following is the McKinney-Vento.org registration page link. Community partners will select "Community Partners". The training courses give an overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act including liaison responsibilities, the definition of "homeless" regarding McKinney-Vento eligibility, educational rights of students, and ways community partners can collaborate with our local homeless liaisons.
    - o https://training.mckinney-vento.org/register/
- Eric discussed the importance of continuing advocacy for additional funding in Oakland County.
- Housing Choice Voucher Mobility program – CHN is working with families eligible for receiving assistance to move into opportunity areas.
- VA is pushing to increase outreach efforts.