



MUSKEGON COUNTY HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE NETWORK

NETWORK MEMBER MEETING

APRIL 11, 2024

9:00 AM

UNITED WAY OF THE LAKESHORE

31 E. CLAY, MUSKEGON, MI 49442

Meeting Minutes

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Jamie Hekker, CoC Chair, Call 2-11	X		Emily Merten, MCC	X	
Hillery Ross, Access Health	X		Alisha Pennington	X	
Emma Trevino, MMCAA	X		Lashae Simmons, STAND	X	
Josh Brubaker-Salcedo, True North	X		Brad Hastings, DNWM	X	
Stephanie Harmon, True North	X		Jana Routt, UWL	X	
Sharonda Carson, City of Muskegon	X		Julie Aaron, City of Muskegon Heights	X	
Lisa Reinecke, True North	X		Donata Kidd, MDHHS	X	
Eric Johnson, True North	X		Amy Florea, Senior Resources	X	
Kristen Turgeon, MAP	X		Brandon Baskin, Health West	X	
Telesha Brown, True North	X		Angela Mayeaux, MCHC	X	
Chris Shepard, Pine Grove Housing Services	X		Leslie Slater, MDHHS	X	
Amy Witt, Health West	X		Carrie Schuman	X	
Sara Johnson, Call 2-11	X		Rachel Harden, Health West	X	
Shonie Blake, Access Health	X		Maaria McIntosh, THREDZ	X	
Nicole Beagle, MSHDA	X		Kristi Smith, Family Promise of the Lakeshore	X	
Charolotte Johnson, MMCAA	X				

Call to Order – Jamie Hekker, Chair-9:03am

- I. Introductions- Introductions were made to the group.
- II. Approval of Agenda (AR)-Motion to approve Agenda by Angela Mayeaux seconded by Hillery All in favor. Motion carried.
- III. Approval of Minutes - January 11, 2024 (AR)- Tabled to address the attendance not being present on the Meeting Minutes from the January Meeting.
- IV. Strategic Plan Discussion: Madison Butler shared information on the Strategic Plan organized by John Peterson. This discussion has been had at multiple meeting within the CoC and this stands as another reminder to attempt to engage in the planning of the CoCs new strategic plan. Multiple documents were offered to the group to analyze, a Planning worksheet, a draft of the Strategic plan and a memo. Madison Butler went through each goal involved in the plan and opened the floor for others to offer input.

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- a. Leslie Slater - Questions- How is this incorporated homeless youth in our goals? Jamie Hekker – we will be re-engaging our youth action board in order to incorporate that demographic as well. This is currently a work in progress. Leslie Slater also suggests a strategy – collaborations with landlord's association. Help them get more engaged to identify more available rentals that are affordable.
 - b. Emily Merten - questions on goals 1,2,5 - what is it referring to 10-20% increase? Angela Mayeaux stated engagement in those who are outside the city limits, rural areas, and more suburban areas.
 - c. Amy Witt – clients who are in HUD housing and wanting to transition into their own permanent housing with section 8? How to get them on the waitlist? Madison Butler – Moving on vouchers specific for folks who are moving out of PSH into their own permanent housing. This is a pilot in another county currently. Reached out to Pine Grove housing services to see what is possible for our county.
 - d. Amy Witt - asked if anyone knew about Eden Village, they are tiny homes, placed on an old mobile home community. There could be potential for this model to work for those who are seeking affordable housing.
 - e. Jana Routt – suggests we identify the disparities with clients, and from there come up with strategies. She notices the lack of resources for those vulnerable, suffer from medical conditions, or have medications and are not allowed to stay at the local rescue Missions. She suggests having a licensed medical provider who can be stationed at the mission to limit liability.
 - f. Kristen Turgeon - has noticed what is happening to those with medical issues as well. After speaking with the Mission, they mentioned that this is because there is no medical staff on site.
 - g. Carrie Schuman - with what Amy said about utilizing the tiny houses for those who are looking for affordable housing. Or even finding a safe place, like a camp site, that has the appropriate hook ups for those who have been living in campers.
 - h. Goal #3 Donata Kidd – asks if there is mapping available for clients to show where there is something that describes what each agency offers to the public. Aging out of foster care – how do we prevent the homelessness of this demographic. And find a way to offer financial literacy to this group.
 - i. Lisa Reinecke - encourages to develop quality improvement plan alongside MCAH.
 - j. Kristen Turgeon – Partnerships with churches with lots of land and has plans for adding tiny homes. Looking into what churches have planned for housing.
 - k. Jana Routt – strategy – medical issues – these individuals find themselves in the ER often, we could approach the hospital and find how to collaborate to help these individuals. Jamie Hekker brought up, formal discharge planning work was previously discussed in the planning.
 - l. Brad Hastings - Has there been any discussion advocacy around source of income discrimination? Are there currently problems with people being denied housing based on their current income. Also, shelters can't make blanket statements and think this is discrimination as well based on a medical condition.
 - m. Kristen Turgeon – someone that was homeless and had a voucher and could not find housing and ended up losing their voucher. Kris Shephard from Pine grove – voucher is initially issued for 60 days (about 2 months). Eligible for two 30-day extensions if needed. In the past years they have been extended longer, as long as the applicant can show that they have been looking for housing.
 - n. Jana Routt- homeless families and individuals who go beyond their 90 days (about 3 months) at the shelter, how can we work with the shelter to extend this?
- V. DEI Committee Formation-Madison Butler shared information on the updates with the formation of the DEI Committee. Madison contacted Ken James from MCC, working on when to meet with him. This is a call to the network's membership to see who will want to participate in the committee.
- VI. Youth Action Board – Re-engagement-Jamie Hekker spoke about the re-engagement of the Youth Action Board. This was in the process of being developed before COVID occurred. This committee will be made up of youth aged 18-24 years old (HUD Youth) with lived experience. This group of individuals will be able to better help the CoC and who can offer input to the Network. Kristen Turgeon mentioned that someone for Webb Chemical has good connections with lived experience youth who they have helped with housing and support in the past.

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- a. Brad Hastings – LGBTQAI+ is usually represented in this group as well, he is wondering if there is a group in Muskegon like there is in Grand Rapids. Jamie Hekker mentioned that currently we don't, but we are interested in developing it.
- b. Emily Merten – compensations available of the youth who participate in the Youth Action Board? Jamie Hekker – yes, in 2023, Steering Committee voted to use the small amount from Community Foundation to use for stipends for those who are participating in the youth action board.
- c. Eric Johnson- Do we have data on what population and demographics this group is comfortable with? Data on the preference of housing? Some youths are just looking for safe places to park their vans if that is the type of living situation they prefer.

VII. Upcoming Grant Opportunities -

- a. New application & Scorecard- Angela Mayeaux spoke about the new application and score card for the NOFO this summer. This is a continual process, and there is still work to be done. A lot of the structure was borrowed from the Balance State's application and scorecard. Wanting to engage past agencies and looking for more capacity in our community.
- b. Looking to re-engage/expand interested organizations- We want to expand the different types of people who are involved in the process. They will need to apply to become a member of the CoC. Create a meeting as an orientation into the CoC and better explain how the grants process works and what they can apply for.
 - i. Brad Hastings – Disability Network is open to discussion with engaging in applying for housing grants.
 - ii. Emily Merten – MCC is also interested in engaging.
 - iii. Donata Kidd asked if something is sent out to organizations about this information? Angie, the information is sent out to all CoC members usually. But not to all organizations in the Community.
 - iv. Emma Trevino – also interested in engaging.
- c. Madison Butler mentioned that all the applications for becoming a member of the CoC have been sent out to everyone via email.

VIII. HARA Update – True North Community Services-Lisa Reinecke shared an update on the HARA.

- a. Stats - 8/1/2023-4/9/2024-
 - i. Phone calls-5283
 - ii. Intakes-189
 - iii. Intakes-449
 - iv. RRH-9
 - v. Prevention-68
 - vi. MICH-3 – Home repairs
 - vii. Homebuyer Education-7
 - viii. Financial Literacy – Coming soon!
- b. They were awarded LEO funds which are going towards their financial literacy classes.
- c. True North is also fully staffed.
 - i. Brandon Baskin asked about the phone calls count, Incoming or outgoing phone calls? Lisa stated most are incoming phone calls.
- d. Kristen Turgeon – asked for information on the financial literacy classes. Madison will send out that information to the whole group.
- e. Lisa Reinecke also stated that True North has staff all over the general area and they are willing to go meet that individual in person if they are not close to the city or don't want to come into the city.

IX. Committee Updates-

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- a. Coordinated Entry- A lot of work has recently been done on analyzing our current Coordinated Entry Policy and what updates need to be made to the policy to make it accurate.
 - b. Data-Started submitting the LSA and finished from the last membership meeting. This LSA was submitted with 9/11 warning flags being accepted. Compared to last year, this is a great improvement. In 2022 only one of fifteen warning flags was accepted. The quality of data in the past few months has greatly improved over time. PIT numbers have been entered in but the report has not yet been submitted. Currently the HIC is encountering a lot of glitches that unfortunately have put a hold on the process of completing that report.
 - c. Outreach- Madison Butler spoke about outreach since Alicia Cox is not available to share. The focus currently is determining how to expand our outreach efforts outside of what the HARA is currently doing. It takes a lot of work to connect with people who are out on the streets and how to encourage them to seek out the services that will help them. Training needs to be provided for those who want to go do street outreach in the community.
- X. Other Business-
- a. Angela Mayeaux – Told the group that there are two new housing projects for low-income housing tax credit. Maybe a third coming soon.
 - b. Kris Shepard – shared MSHDA has a pilot program for those aging out of foster care FUP (family unification program) grant, collaboration with DHHS.
 - c. Hillery Ross – reminds that you need to complete an application to become a member of the CoC.
 - d. Donata Kidd – May is the last month for Medicaid redetermination. MIBridges, people can track their application within the website. MDHHS working with Health West, health Liaison available to assist with families with medical needs.
- XI. Next Meetings: August 1, November 7 –In person and online.
- XII. Adjournment-10:35am

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