# MINUTES………………………..………………………… Muskegon County Homeless Continuum of Care Network

**Muskegon, MI 49442**

**Meeting Description:**  **MCHCCN Member Meeting**

In Person at the United Way and Via Zoom

**Meeting Date: September 8, 2022 9:00 am**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Representatives | Present | Absent |  | Representatives | Present | Absent |
| Jamie Hekker, Chair, Public Health of Muskegon County, voting member | x |  |  | LaToya J – Trinity McClees | x |  |
| Heather Fry – Family Promise | x |  |  | Jill Bontius – Pioneer | x |  |
| Kristen Turgeon – MAP | x |  |  | Sara Johnson, Call 211, voting member | x |  |
| Oneata Bailey, City of Muskegon Voting member | x |  |  | Angela Mayeaux, Muskegon Housing Commission, voting member | x |  |
| Shonie Blake – Access Health | x |  |  | Jana Routt – United Way of the Lakeshore | x |  |
| Anetria Conyers, Community enCompass, voting member | x |  |  | Dan Moran, HMIS Administrator (non-voting) | x |  |
| Dwanda Greene, Neighbor, Non-Voting Member | x |  |  | Hillery Ross-Furse, Health Project, Non-voting member | x |  |
| Julie Aaron Shyne, City of Muskegon Heights, Voting member | x |  |  | Lashae Simmons | x |  |
| Brenda Waslusky – Arbor Cirle | x |  |  | John Peterson, consultant, Non-Voting Member | x |  |
| Stephen Thiele – Red Project | X |  |  | Cherelle Hughey, Community enCompass | X |  |
| Nicole Smith, Community encompass | x |  |  |  |  |  |

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Ms. Hekker.

II. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves, what agency they are from, and what committee they are on, if any.

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Bontius and seconded by Major Mayeaux to approve the agenda. The motion

carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2022

A motion was made by Ms. Mayeaux and seconded by Major Nance to approve the minutes of January 20, 2022. The motion carried.

V. New MCHCCN Member Applications

Ms. Ross-Furse provided information on the member applications and to let her know if anyone needs to fill one

out. Members do not have to be from the Social Service agencies. Agencies can have only one voting member

but can have other non-voting members.

VI. Update on COC Coordinator Position Hiring

Ms. Robere and Ms. Hekker gave an update on the hiring of a person for the COC Coordinator position. The person

will be an employee of the United Way of the Lakeshore but will also be overseen by the COC. There are two UW

members and two COC Executive Committee members on the hiring team. Hopefully, the new person will be in place by October 1, 2022.

VII. HUD Application Rankings

The Executive Committee met on August 30, 2022 to take action on the Review Committee recommendations

related to the rankings of the HUD projects. The Executive Committee approved the recommended as provide in the agenda. The Executive Committee emphasized that our HUD ratings have not been as strong as they could be which puts the funding at risk.

VIII. Member News/Updates

The Salvation Army reported that their doors are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the food pantry being back

face to face rather than through phone calls. Also, they have hired a new Administrative Assistant.

The United Way’s Campaign Kick-off is Friday, September 9, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Also, it is their annual Day of Caring

which will be at 18 sites helping the community with projects.

The Red Project is located at 1270 E. Laketon. They are now partnering with Feeding America for a food pantry.

Currently it is only available to their clients but will soon be open to the public. Red Project helps our community out with HIV/HEP Testing, Recovery Coaching, Housing and many other services to addicts. They also partner with Life Align, Inc. which offers a drop-in center from 12 to 8 pm Monday through Saturday. They are located at 3375 Miriam in Muskegon Heights.

Sacred Suds now has a refrigerator program with fresh groceries, laundry at $2 a load (doing 40-60 loads a week), showers (around 30 a week), and clothing. Everything is by appointment only. Their number Is 231-726-4161.

Community enCompass announced that CERA is ending so they are transferring those clients into the Homeless Prevention Program. There are only two caseworkers for this program. But the numbers have tripled. The Rapid Rehousing has 5 caseworkers but the numbers have also increased dramatically. There are a lot of transition happening in their agency so please be patient while seeking information. Part of the reasons numbers are increasing is because landlords are either selling their house, changing to Air B&B’s or are raising rents 25 to 37%. Also, some landlords are not willing to sign the VAWA paperwork which is a HUD requirement. All appointments are through phone calls at this time.

Ms. Bailey announced that she will be moving into a new position that will not allow her to attend these meetings. She announced Community enCompass’ new director, Kimberly Leavell.

Ms. Mayeaux reported that the Samaritas building will have 8 units for extremely low-income seniors in December. There are other projects that will be completed by 2024 which will provide for more low-income and the disabled agest18 to 49.

MAP is out of utility and rental funds except for CERA until the end of the month. They have their medical fund and their clothing and food pantries (Tuesdays and Thursdays). They will be hosting a cooking class starting the 2nd Wednesday of October which will last six weeks. Mark your calendars for their November 5 homecoming event.

Access Health has COVID self-testing kits for anyone who needs them. They have been working with the schools with COVID resources.

Family Promise has been very busy. They have no availability right no and when one opens, their priority is 2 parent households.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Major Valerie A. Nance, Secretary