**MUSKEGON COUNTY HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE NETWORK**



**Outreach Committee**

**September 11, 2023**

 ***1:00PM – 2:00PM***

**United Way of the Lakeshore**

**31 E Clay Ave. Muskegon MI, 49442**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: |  | Name:  |  |
| Alicia Cox, VA  | X | Stephen Thiele, Red Project  | X |
| Jasmine Young, VA | X | Diolinda Sali, HMIS Admin | X |
| Madison Butler, CenC | X | Angla Mayeaux, Muskegon Housing Commission  | X |
| Brandon Baskin, HW |  | Lisa Reinecke, True North  | X |
| Bridget Larson, SA | X | Josh Rubaker, True North | X |
| Sharonda Carson, City of Muskegon  | X | Lakeisha Raymond, EWP | X |
| Telesha Brown, True North | X |  |  |
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1. Call to Order - 1:06pm
2. Welcome - Introductions were made among the attendees.

II. Veterans Stand Down/ Homeless Connect – Alicia Cox spoke about the upcoming Veteran Stand Down Event at the Muskegon County Building/ Baker College Campus on Wednesday 27th, 2023. There were no big updates since the last meeting, venue changed to the student center at Baker College building. Billboards will be going up to advertise the Veteran Stand Down Event. Veterans do not have to be homeless to attend; all are welcome. There will be services for the veterans like haircuts and food available as well. There will be upcoming meetings to address any last-minute concerns. Angela Mayeaux asked if more volunteers were needed for this event. Alicia stated that they should be set with the number of volunteers that have signed up but it is encouraged if others would like to help, they certainly can.

1. By-Name-List
2. BNL Policy effective Date Sept 6th, 2023.- The policy change of how the Veteran BNL is to be managed. Diolinda Sali talked about how the list for the Veteran BNL is now an active document and other members of the Veteran BNL meetings have access to this document and can make additions when necessary. This ensures that the BNL is more of a collaborative effort among the agencies assisting Veterans.

IV. Empty Record Clean up- Diolinda Sali spoke about the Empty Record Clean-Up policy that still needs to be passed along to the Steering Committee. The policy was reworked with better verbiage and to be clearer. This policy will get presented to the Steering Committee again later this week on the 14th.

V. HARA Switching Soon- Lisa Reinecke explained how clients are getting funneled to True North from Community enCompass. There is currently no official office number for the new True North office located at the Good Will Offices in Muskegon. The offical number to give to clients for the time being is 1-877-446-8730. Clients experiencing homelessness should be directed to True North Immediately.

VI. Local Homeless population - The group discussed the best way to invest more time in the homeless population that has been noticed in the downtown area. As Downtown Muskegon becomes a more active and upcoming area, there has been an influx of homeless or individuals who have been presumed homeless and have gotten the attention of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has reached out to local organizations to find options for these individuals. Lisa Reinecke has the idea of creating a sub-committee to the Outreach Committee to have more “boots on the ground” with representation from multiple organizations such as the Men’s and Women’s shelter, someone with lived experience, local food pantry representative, individuals from substance abuse recovery agencies, and even officers from the Police Department.

VII. Homeless Awareness Month - The month of November is National Homeless Awareness Month. Local agencies are encouraged to do what they can to give more to the community during this time to spread awareness. Lisa Reinecke suggests that all collaborating agencies engage somehow to do something for our Muskegon County homeless population. Angie Mayeaux will mention this idea at the Steering Committee.

VI. Other Business-Angie asked about Red Project awareness day; the event went well. Narcan kits were given out, crafts and projects were done. It was a great event to bring better awareness to overdosing. Stephen told the committee about some increases in drug overdoses and a new drug that has been making its way around the community that is a threat to individuals who use drugs. There is a device that the Grand Rapids Red Project uses the detect the ingredients in the drugs that people use.

Adjuourned 2:03pm