**MUSKEGON COUNTY HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE NETWORK**

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**Outreach Committee**

**December 14, 2022**

***2:00PM – 3:00PM***

**United Way of the Lakeshore**

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

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Nancy Todd-Community enCompass, Madison Butler- Community enCompass, Kay Kay Smith-Public Health, Jamie Hekker-Public Health, Cory Davis-City of Muskegon, Rhonda Kleyn-City of Muskegon, John Peterson-Consultant, Cherrelle Hughey-Community enCompass, Dan Moran-HMIS CoC, Miranda Paggeot-CoC

1. Call to Order --
2. Welcome and Introductions –

Due to no chair being assigned to the Outreach Committee Miranda facilitated the meeting. Miranda called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

II. Outreach Engagement--

1. Overview best practices-

Having year-round outreach is vital to know where homeless encampments are located. Often people need to be engaged a few times before they are willing to reach out or accept help. Reaching out to local churches and municipalities service officers can add helpful insight on locating homeless individuals and families.

John reported that the PIT is so important as it helps locally to identifying the amount of supports that are needed in the community for the unsheltered population. Reporting of the PIT to HUD (federal level) which is used in many ways and helps set the rational for funding for individuals and families as well as demonstrates the degree of need for local CoC’s. HMIS has more detailed data than the PIT but the PIT is recognized more nationally than HMIS data. Outreach is essential in setting standards and outcomes and is scored in the CoC application which determines funding.

The CoC adopted a policy that determines when an individual or family is removed to the inactive status on the By-name-list. Outreach was key in this process and needs to be reactivated.

1. Past Efforts-

Cory Davis was a part of the Outreach team many years ago when it was at a prime point of function. PIT was done 4 times a year and often a hot meal, snack, or coffee as well as resources was given to individuals/families who were encountered and surveyed on the night of the PIT.

Project Homeless Connect was also a small event that grew large and was hosted at the LC Walker Arena. This event became in tandem with the Veterans Stand Down. It eventual had a name change and became a resource fair and a food truck was also available to those who participated.

Dan Moran- In the past the outreach team would reach out to the local police department to try to gain intelligence on where camps or homeless individuals/families are.

Cherrelle Hughey inquired about the four PIT counts that were done in the past.

Miranda Paggeot explained the methodology behind the PIT being conducted four times a year. The National PIT date is the 4th Wednesday in January. January is typically one of the colder months and often the unsheltered population is harder to find during this time. Getting a gage of the homeless population through out the year allows us to measure our unsheltered population more effectively by having four PIT counts conducts.

1. New Ideas

Cory Davis suggested an outreach email where people from the community, businesses, churches, and other organizations can report a homeless encampment or identify a location where homeless individuals or families can be found.

Rhonda Kylen- suggested reaching out to the local municipalities. Typically, they will have knowledge of locations of homeless individuals/families. Often they will have maps of the area that can aid in the location.

Cherrelle Hughey reported that in the past there was more of a community engagement with the outreach team. Bringing the community support from churches and businesses can help with the efforts of the outreach team. Resources that are provided by these groups can be used in ways that CoC dollars cannot, such as hot meals, food vouchers, hotels rooms ect.

Nancy Todd- reported that some churches have been reaching out and wanting to be more engaged. Cherrelle and Nancy will reach out to local agencies, businesses, and churches to re-engage.

Cherrelle Hughey reported that a Montague church in the past has reached out when they have come across a homeless individual or family. Cherrelle will reach out to re-engage this church.

III. PIT round up

Miranda Paggeot explained that the night of the event all the volunteers will meet at a location designated to be the HUB. A brief training will be provided to the volunteers to ensure a common understanding of respect and best practice. Volunteers will be placed with a buddy or group as it is safe practice to never go alone. A paper survey will be handed out and reviewed to understand the data elements being collected. Teams deploy and survey homeless individuals by ensuring they have not been screened and are literally homeless. Collection forms are then compiled and then the HMIS admin enters the data in HMIS and ensures deduplication.

Dan reported that the PIT will occur on January 4th, 2023, at 8pm.

In the past the PIT HUB was the health project until last year it was hosted by Fresh Coast Alliance. Fresh Coast Alliance was not at the meeting, Miranda is scheduled to meet Joe on Tuesday December 13th.

A collective conversation was had on where the PIT HUB could be hosted if Fresh Coast Alliance was not able to accommodate. Sacred Suds (Community encompass) will be a back up location to host the event.

Miranda Paggeot reported that youth providers need to be engaged to ensure that we are capturing the youth population that is 18-24. In the past federal monies were available to serve this population. Muskegon applied for this funding and scored well on the application except we were not able to show that Muskegon CoC had a need. They looked at the PIT counts and determined funding based on that as well as collaboration.

IV. Round Table--Open

Jamie Hekker- reported that Michael Ramsey, Dan Skoglund herself were invited to a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the concerns of the homeless and the downtown businesses. Business owners and the Chamber of Commerce have expressed interest in how they can help with the homeless population and the business owners. Having a representative from that sector on the Outreach Committee could add lots of value.

Corey Davis- reported that the Veterans Service Center has a food pantry and has federal money to help homeless veterans. Corey will reach out to see if we can have a representative from that organization added to our committee.

Miranda Paggeot reported that as soon as the PIT HUB location is decided she will update the PIT Engagement posters and send them out. She also asked if anyone has any connections with the local radio stations to be able to have them promote the PIT Count.

Coffee with Craig and the Andy O’Riley shows would be great sources. We are looking for at least 20 volunteers for the night of the PIT. Any agency that is CoC funded should have at least 1 representative depending on capacity volunteering for the event.

Next Outreach Meeting is scheduled for January 9th 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm