



## Continuum of Care (CoC) Member Meeting

April 28, 2016

9:30-11:00 am

Kroc Center

### MINUTES

**Present:** Rebecca Rynbrandt, Chairperson\* (City of Wyoming), Tom Cottrell, Executive Member\* (YWCA), Erin Banchoff\* (City of Grand Rapids), Shannon Bass\* (Community Member), Nancy Marshall\* (Kent County DHHS), John Wynbeek\* (Genesis NPHC), Sherrie Gillespie (ACSET CAA), Karen Leppek (Area Agency on Aging), Donald Eikenhout (Cherry Health Services), Johanna Schulte (City of Grand Rapids), Tammy Yeomans (Community Member), Vicki Squires (Community Rebuilders), Anna Diaz (Community Rebuilders), Liz Keegan (Fair Housing Center of West MI), Lisa Cruden (Family Promise), Tom Feeney (Fosters Forward), Caroline Gillilan (GR Housing Commission), Laura Mosley (GR Housing Commission), Wanda Couch (GR Housing Commission), Tammy Dillon (Grand Rapids Public Schools), Shandra Steinger (HQ), Alison Schuyler (Heartside Ministry), Chris Romero (Home Repair Services), Lyndsay McGarry (Hope Network BHS), Amy DeMott (Indian Trails Camp), Nina Bowser (Kent County Health Dept), Dave Gantz (Pine Rest), Kris Stougaard (Pine Rest), Elizabeth Mac Innis (St. John's Village), Tim Beimers (The Salvation Army), Christina Soulard (The Salvation Army), Jenna DeBoer (The Salvation Army), Linda LaNew Scott (Senior Neighbors), Rachel Taplin (Senior Neighbors), John Mitchell (United Way 2-1-1), Sherri Vainavicz (United Way 2-1-1), Emily Schichtel (United Way), David O'Neill (Volunteers of America), Jean Olds (Well House), Jodi Smith (Well House), Heather Colletto (Westminster Presbyterian Church), Jessica Vail (Coalition Staff) (\*denotes Steering Council member)

**1. Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Rebecca Rynbrandt at 9:32 am.

**2. MOTION** to approve to minutes from March 4, 2015 by Nancy Marshall, seconded by Tom Cottrell, all voted in favor, motion carries.

### **3. Presentations**

#### **A. New HUD Guidance on Criminal History** (Liz Keegan, Fair Housing Center of West Michigan)

The Guidance from HUD is not necessarily new, it is a compilation of case law and data. HUD has found that criminal background can be limiting to those seeking housing. Nearly 1/3 the population has a criminal history of some sort. With policy changes on early release, more people are coming out of the corrections system and in need of housing. This HUD guidance does not tell you what you can or should do but instead tells how HUD would analyze different choices. There is a Shriver Foundation webinar to discuss this that has good information. Things to consider are: 1. Does a policy have a disparate impact on a particular population that would be a protected class? 2. Is the policy necessary to protect residents' safety and property? And 3. Note that the burden is shifted to the person filing the complaint to suggest there is a better way to screen than criminal background.

Also important is that the criminal conduct should show a clear risk if used to screen.

1. All housing providers should not use arrest records, only conviction records
2. Blanket bans will be hard to defend as non-discriminatory
3. No liability on housing providers for drug manufacturing and distribution convictions

Additionally, the age of the person at the time of conviction should be considered and note the discretion can be good but does open up the risk of discrimination complaints if applied unevenly. Having an appeals process is important for housing providers to make decisions in cases that are not obvious.

#### **B. 2-1-1 Phone App** (Sherri Vainavicz and John Mitchell, United Way 2-1-1)

The information in 2-1-1 needs to be kept up-to-date, agencies can submit changes to their information at any time. There are three versions the information is coded into, 1) John's editable information view, 2) what the call centers can view which includes the main information as well as private contact information for call specialists, and 3) the online public version with all but the confidential information.

The phone app still has bugs in it, they are testing and fixing bugs as they go. Something to consider is what information is NOT there but should be.

The online database can be accessed at [mi211.org](http://mi211.org) and is a statewide database.

If agencies uncover errors in their information, they should tell John at [jmitchell@hwmuw.org](mailto:jmitchell@hwmuw.org) and include what they searched for when they found the error as the path to getting the information is helpful to retrace where errors are.

### **3. Updates**

#### **A. Veteran Housing Goal** (Anna Diaz, Community Rebuilders)

A handout was provided to the group showing the progress that has been made. 157 Veterans have been housed, 52 are currently seeking housing with a resource in hand, leaving 165 Veterans to be located and/or housed. The team is now in process of tracking how many of the 165 have touched the homeless system in the past 180 days.

Mel Trotter has been assisting in outreach efforts to Veterans and has pledged to ensure Veterans needing shelter will have a place there. Safe Haven Ministries has dedicated a bed for a Veteran fleeing domestic violence. Representatives have spoken at a Rental Property Owners Association (RPOA) breakfast to recruit landlords to the cause and have met with the Mayor of Grand Rapids.

#### **B. Staff Updates** (Jesica Vail)

The Housing Choice Voucher waitlist currently has 332 households on it. We have been told that the wait times will be increasing as MSHDA has fewer vouchers available. The longest wait at the moment are names added to the list on 11-20-2015.

The Coalition Website is launching May 13, it is [endhomelessnesskent.org](http://endhomelessnesskent.org)

#### **C. Agency Updates**

1. 3-11 Youth Housing is opening a new house for 18-24 year olds.

### **4. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.**