



CoC MEMBER MEETING
MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

October 27, 2022

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Elizabeth Stoddard		
Meeting Attendees:	Elizabeth Stoddard (Fair Housing Center), Molly Wiersma (Family Promise), Wende Randall (ENTF), Dave Gantz (Genesis Non-Profit Housing), Morgan Zielke (Kent County Community Action), Susan Sheppard (Arbor Circle), Shannon Tanis (community member), Tom Cottrell (YWCA), Allie Whitman (Mel Trotter Ministries), Mateah Schleben (Exodus Place), Nicole Beagle (MSHDA), Liz Keegan (Fair Housing Center), Jinnifer Ortquist (MSU Extension), Alisha Pennington (MDHHS Regional SOAR Navigator), Sherrie Gillespie (KCCA), Melonie Cooper (Pine Rest Street Reach), Cecilia Rush (Battle Creek VA), Ryan VerWys (ICCF Community Homes), Tanesha Jordan (Safe Haven Ministries), Jeremy Wartella (VOAMI), Mackenzie Vilmont (Family Promise), Wafa Haddad (Noor's Heaven), Nicole Hofert (City of Wyoming), Marcelle Marcelletti (Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center), Alyssa Anten (The Salvation Army HAP), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Tammy Vincent (City of Grand Rapids), Amy Wittenbach (YWCA), Niki Perkins (Access of West Michigan), Rebecca Rynbrandt (community member), Tracy Mulvany (The Salvation Army ESP), Stephanie Brock-Knoper (City of Wyoming), John Wynbeek (Genesis Non-Profit Housing Corporation), Stephanie Gingerich (LINC UP), Zenaida Jimenez (Safe Haven), Fran Dalton (Garfield Park Neighborhood Association), Molly Perez (Kent Co Health Dept) Staff: Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Robach		
Time Convened:	9:35	Time Adjourned:	11:00

Approval of Minutes		August 25, 2022	
Motion by:	Tom Cottrell	Support from:	Zenaida Jimenez
Discussion	Shannon Tanis requested that the word 'perceived' is removed regarding her statement. Courtney Myers-Keaton indicated is a conflict is not legally present which it why it was listed as perceived.		
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	In favor: 16 Opposed: 1. Motion passes.		
Fair Housing and Nondiscrimination		Elizabeth Stoddard, Liz Keegan	
Discussion			
Elizabeth Stoddard and Liz Keegan of the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan (FHCWM) provided a training on fair housing and nondiscrimination. The training included an overview of the Fair Housing Act and related laws, protected classes, covered dwellings, examples of housing discrimination, recent changes to regulations, and trends. FHCWM collects fair housing complaints which can be submitted anonymously. The presenters also reviewed the Equal Access Rule which applies to all HUD housing programs. They also discussed the 2016 update regarding gender identity and how CoC-funded programs should implement the rule.			



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Brianne Robach shared that the Coalition adopted an interim Fair Housing and Anti-Discrimination policy in June of 2022 which is applicable to all CoC and ESG receipts and subrecipients and encouraged for all Coalition members. Elizabeth overviewed nondiscrimination requirements included in the policy. There is also a requirement that program participants are given information on their fair housing rights; the FHCWM is willing to help providers meet this requirement. FHCWM has developed fact sheets and are open to suggestions for community outreach methods.

Shannon Tanis commented that the Fair Housing Act does not address patterns and practices of fraud and thinks this should be explored.

Wafa Haddad asked about landlord education. FHCWM provides education to many groups, including landlords and has information available in multiple languages.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Funding

Discussion

Courtney Myers-Keaton announced that the CoC has received just under \$2.5 million dollars in Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) funding. This provides the community with an opportunity to work with youth providers and the Youth Action Board (YAB) to develop a coordinated community approach to youth homelessness with significant technical assistance and expertise from youth with lived experience of homelessness. The application was a community undertaking and Courtney thanked all partners for their support.

Voter Engagement Resources

Discussion

Courtney noted that Election Day is a few weeks away. Resources are available to help providers encourage clients and neighbors to vote. If you are interested in discussing opportunities to collaborate regarding transportation to the polls, connect with Courtney.

Nominating Committee

Discussion

Courtney shared that there is one Nominating Committee vacancy which will be filled by a Steering Council member during tomorrow's meeting. Nominating Committee is responsible for ensuring systemic representation on Steering Council, seeking candidates, and facilitating the election in December.

CoC Equitable Results Team Update

Discussion

Brianne Robach shared that the Coalition with participation with a statewide racial equity strategic planning effort with support from C4 Innovations. A local CoC Equitable Results Team (CERT) is leading this effort for the Coalition. The group recently held listening sessions for individuals with lived experience of homelessness to share about their experiences, the strengths of our local homeless response system, suggestions for improvements. Next steps include analyzing the session responses and a system mapping activity.

CoC Membership Application: Renewal Reminder

Discussion



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Brianne Robach shared that membership in the Coalition is open to all organizations and individuals and invited applications from interested parties. Current members must renew their membership annually by reapplying. Membership applications are available on the Coalition’s website and should be returned to Brianne.

Community Partner Announcements & Updates

Discussion

Alisha Pennington recognized a Pine Rest staff member as a recent award recipient for SOAR navigation work. She also shared a report detailing the outcomes of SOAR practitioners in Kent County.

Wende Randall shared the link to recording from League of Women Voters presentation on the three state-wide ballot proposals.

Adjourn

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