



CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2023
9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Elizabeth Stoddard		
Meeting Attendees:	<p>Elizabeth Stoddard (Fair Housing Center of West Michigan), Gordie Moeller (Double Up Food Bucks), Lindsey Reames (Grand Rapids Housing Commission), Ryan VerWys (ICCF), Fran Dalton (Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association), Jennie Compagner (Hope Network), Katherine Besaw (Pine Rest), Emma Henkel (Volunteers of America), Maranda VanZegeren (Community Rebuilders), Amy West (YWCA), Molly Perez (Kent County Health Department), Caity Young (Family Promise of West Michigan), Mateah Schleben (Exodus Place), Kelli Beavers (MCAH), Victoria Arnold (Salvation Army), Alex Kontras (Housing Kent), Catherine Landers (North Kent Connect), Kelsey McFarland (ICCF), Jenni Lewis (ICCF), Matt Perin (61st District Court Eviction Diversion Initiative), Socorro Rodriguez (Cherry Health), Zenaida Jimenez (Safe Haven Ministries), Jamiela Owens (Access of West Michigan), Victoria Sluga (Pine Rest), LoRae Robinson (Covenant House), Crystal Kitten (AYA Youth Collective), Monique Carter (Arbor Circle), Jacob Doorn (Disability Advocates), Bryan Holt (Pine Rest), Bill Weld-Wallis, Wende Randall (ENTF)</p> <p>Members of the Public: Sharon McKelvey</p> <p>CoC Staff: Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Robach, Ronan Parmenter</p>		
sTime Convened:	9:35am	Time Adjourned:	10:45am

Approval of Minutes		March 23, 2023	
Motion by:	Lindsey Reames	Support from:	Ryan VerWys
Discussion			
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Approval of the Consent Agenda			
Motion by:	Ryan VerWys	Support from:	Victoria Sluga
Discussion	Courtney provided background and context on the Housing Choice Voucher Homeless Preference List document. She indicated that the community could discuss prioritization of these vouchers. She also provided an overview of the MSHDA housing process.		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Housing Navigation Planning			
Discussion	<p>Brianne shared that the community received funding for Housing Navigation staff which is being allocated to The Salvation Army. Victoria Arnold overviewed their vision for the positions.</p> <p>Discussion around Coordinated Entry and the capacity of housing navigators to coordinate a landlord database, serving as point of contact for landlords to help with client concerns. Lindsey shared that the Grand Rapids Housing Commission already has in place the Housing Barrier Fund, an incentive program for landlords to work with voucher programs. Funding is limited, but there is planning to</p>		



CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2023
9:30-11:00am

replenish it. Next quarterly Grand Rapids Housing Commission landlord forum is scheduled for mid-May. Brienne shared the timeline for housing navigators, and noted that funding is expected to start May 1st, but no grant agreement has come through yet. Victoria Arnold shared that positions have been posted.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program: Coordinated Community Plan

Discussion

Courtney gave an update on the Coordinated Community Plan, which is out for signatures now. Next steps in the YHDP process include the RFP process, the Bidder's Conference in May, and further discussions with youth around recommendations and expectations. Project applications must be submitted in eSNAPS by the end of June 2023, with grant agreements needing to be established with HUD by September 30, 2023.

Courtney spoke to the number of unhoused youth who identify as LGBTQIA+, and noted that there was a lot of discussion by the Youth Action Board around the hesitance of LGBTQIA+ individuals in accessing mainstream providers in the community.

There was interest in using a client voice-centered model for other demographics, and Courtney spoke to how labor-intensive the process is and the funding and staffing needs required to support.

Coalition Staffing and Infrastructure Update

Discussion

Courtney shared that a new administrative coordinator had been hired, and that hiring is underway for a Youth Homelessness Coordinator, HMIS Administrator, and Data & Analytics manager. The Coordinated Entry Manager position has not yet been posted.

Request for Proposals

Discussion

Brienne updated that MSHDA has released an RFP that will award up to \$1.5 million per project, which must be spent within 3 years of effective grant date. CoCs can only provide one letter of support per community, and a local RFP was released by the CoC in which responses are due by April 24, with a letter of support being submitted by May 5.

Community Partner Announcements & Updates

Discussion

Kelli Beavers shared about the 9th annual MCAH Breakfast of Champions on June 22 in Livonia. Nominations for community housing champions could be submitted online.

Elizabeth Stoddard shared that the Fair Housing Center's annual event is Thursday, April 27. She also celebrated that in March, Governor Whitmer signed a law to protect gender identity and expression.

Wende Randall noted proposed legislation (SB 205, 206, 207; HB 4062, 4063) for source of income protection for housing to prevent vouchers being considered third party by landlords. She encouraged reaching out to state representatives in support of these bills.



**CoC MEMBER MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

April 20, 2023
9:30-11:00am

Alex Kontras shared about Housing Kent’s action team that is focused on eviction prevention and a collaborative centralized approach. He shared that community collaboration labs are open to anyone interested.

Adjourn			
Motion by:	Amy West	Support from:	Victoria Sluga