



Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County – MI 506  
Continuum of Care Membership Meeting Agenda  
December 16, 2021 □ 9:30-11:00 am □ Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86785111647?pwd=M1NvLOY4Nmc5eEhKK21oY05aanBWZz09>

Or dial +1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 867 8511 1647, Passcode: 40145

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of October 28, 2021 Minutes\*
3. Steering Council Elections
4. Strategic Plan: Narrative Plan
5. Advisory Council Update - Dreyson Byker and DL McKinney
6. Continuums of Care 101
7. Community Partner Announcements and Updates
8. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 9:30-11:00am

*\*indicates potential action item*



**CoC MEMBER MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

October 28, 2021

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Karen Tjapkes		
Meeting Attendees:	<p>Karen Tjapkes (Legal Aid), Alisha Pennington (MDHHS), Alyssa Anten (The Salvation Army), Brian Strong (Veteran Career Advisor, State of Michigan), Dave Gantz (Pine Rest), Jennifer Colby, Marcia Patrick (Senior Neighbors), Shannon Vinson (DRIVE Challenge), Lisa Cruden (Family Promise), Todd Furlong (The Salvation Army), Victoria Arnold (The Salvation Army), Wanda Couch (Grand Rapids Housing Commission), Fran Dalton (Garfield Park Neighborhoods Assoc.), John Wynbeek (Genesis), Tom Cottrell (YWCA), Bill Weld-Wallis (Community member), Dreyson Byker (Community member), Bryan Holt (Pine Rest), Leatha Roberts (The Salvation Army), Casey Gordon (Kent ISD), Carolyn Allen (Covenant House), LoRae Robinson (Covenant House), Dan Baker (network180), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Elizabeth Stoddard (Fair Housing Center), Tammy Yeomans (Community member), Marcelle Marcelletti (Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center), Shelby DeVoe (Senior Neighbors), Roxane Hiler (ICCF), Tracy Mulvaney (The Salvation Army), Crystal Kitten (AYA), Mary Engle (Mel Trotter), Yejae Kim (Calvin Center for Social Research), Sherrie Gillespie (Kent County Community Action), Hattie Tinney (Grand Rapids Housing Commission), Hilary Ortiz (HealthNet), Megan Iams (Covenant House), Alonda Trammell (Dwelling Place), Julie Kendrick (Degage), Catherine Landers (North Kent Connect), Kathy Besaw (Genesis), Allison Green (MCAH), Jeffrey King (Community Rebuilders), Kendra Avila (AYA), Stephanie Brock-Knoper (City of Wyoming), Erin Banchoff (City of Grand Rapids), Doug Booth (HealthNet), Jeanie Olach (Exodus Place), Jinnifer Ortquist (MSU Extension)</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Czyzio Robach</p>		
Time Convened:	9:32	Time Adjourned:	10:30

<b>Approval of Minutes</b>		<b>August 26, 2021</b>	
Motion by:	Tom Cottrell	Support from:	Doug Booth
Discussion			
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
<b>Strategic Plan Update</b>			
Discussion			
<p>The Coalition recently went through a strategic planning process. A common mission, values, and beliefs were identified in addition to a vision for 2024. To reach these goals, part of the planning process was developing a rhythm with quarterly rocks and an implementation team. This team guides the execution of rocks and meets regularly rocks to track progress.</p> <p>Courtney overviewed the Coalition's rocks and results from Q3. It is exciting to see that the majority of the goals were met and significant progress was made in those that were not met. Courtney also</p>			



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shared the Q4 rocks for the Coalition. Many of the rocks build upon progress made in Q3 rocks. [See the meeting slides for a listing of Q3 and Q4 rocks.](#)

If you have questions or want to get engaged with any of these goals, connect with Brianne and Courtney.

**Nominating Committee Formation**

Discussion

The Nominating Committee (NC) is responsible for recruiting members to serve on the Coalition’s Steering Council. Steering takes on much of the decision-making responsibility of the Coalition and serves a similar function to a Board of Directors at a non-profit.

This committee forms to recruit members and facilitate elections in December. The group is made of 3 CoC members and 2 Steering Council members. Cheryl Schuch and Hattie Tinney are the Steering Council members serving on this group.

A call for nominations was put out prior to the meeting and Emily Schichtel was nominated. Karen called for additional nominations. Stephanie Brock-Knoper and Lisa Cruden were nominated.

Fran Dalton asked about efforts to ensure inclusivity and diversity of the Steering Council. One of Nominating Committee’s roles is to work to ensure membership is representative of different populations and sectors. Brian Strong encouraged the Coalition to ensure that diversity is present in all committees, noting that the NC would be composed of all women.

Fran noted that without diversity as an integral part of an organization, it can be hard for people of color to nominate themselves. Karen noted that this nominations process is the process required by the Coalition’s current Governance Charter. Staff are looking at updates that can be made to make processes more inclusive in the future.

The Charter does not contain requirements for a certain ethnic and/or racial populations to be represented on Steering Council.

Karen made three calls for nominations; no additional nominations were provided. **Hattie motioned to appoint the 3 nominees (Lisa Cruden, Stephanie Brock-Knoper, and Emily Schichtel) to Nominating Committee. Tom Cottrell provided a second. All in favor, motion passes.** Nominating Committee will work to ensure Steering Council is reflective of diversity in community. With suggestions for members or strategies, please reach out to staff.

**Relationship with the Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF)**

Discussion

Staff from the Coalition and the Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF) recently developed a communication that clarifies their relationship. Courtney provided background on the two entities. When HUD began requiring communities to have a Continuum of Care in 1995, the housing



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subcommittee of ENTFF meeting was a natural fit and became known as the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness. In recent times, and through the strategic planning processes of both entities, there have been conversations around whether the Coalition should branch out on its own while remaining a strong partner with ENTFF.

Moving forward, ENTFF and the Coalition will remain partners and will serve as Lead Convening Partners in respective spaces, but the Coalition will not serve as ENTFF's housing subcommittee. Both entities sit within Heart of West Michigan United Way (HWMUW) and this will structure continue, though budgets and staff responsibilities will be separate. HWMUW will continue to serve as collaborative application for CoC Program funds.

Strong communication and collaboration will remain between entities. [Read the communication here.](#)

### Housing Vouchers Update

Discussion

Wanda Couch from Grand Rapids Housing Commission shared that they were awarded 42 vouchers and have since received 76 referrals. They have issued several vouchers and have 10 households who are leased up. They are seeing barriers with the lack of affordable housing as well as requirements for households (co-signers required, 2x monthly income requirement)

Alyssa Anten with The Salvation Army shared that MSHDA awarded 53 vouchers to Community Housing Advocates. The Salvation Army and ICCF have been assisting with case management for these vouchers. 47 have been issued to participants and they will be pulling additional names for the remainder. 23 households have officially leased up and a few more have identified a unit.

The Salvation Army is excited to introduce Leatha Roberts who was recently hired as the Housing Navigator! They hope she will be a resource to the community assisting with housing searches and landlord engagement. If staff are needing assistance with housing search, please reach out to Leatha ([Leatha.Roberts@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Leatha.Roberts@usc.salvationarmy.org)). Leatha introduced herself and shared that she is looking forward to meeting community partners, strengthening community connections, and addressing common barriers.

### Community Partner Announcements and Updates

Discussion

None.

### Adjourn

Motion by: Tom Cottrell

Support from: Tammy Yeomans

## 2022 CoC Steering Committee Nominations

Incumbents noted by (\*)

At-Large Positions (Vote for up to 9):

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Declared Affiliation</u>
<b>Michael Bohnsack</b>	CEO	Bohnsack & Associates	Family with Children, Chronically Homeless

For the past four years, Michael has had the opportunity to work with several organizations on exploring potential solutions for affordable housing and reducing Homelessness in our community. Research project for Family Promise and K Connect on best practices for solution across the US and Canada in the Homeless space. Also, his work on the United Way Executive Board on the Fulton major project was pivotal in learning more about the impact of homelessness in West Michigan and the number of our residents impacted and the flaws in our system of support. Ninety percent of Bohnsack & Associates work focus is with the Nonprofit community and is done totally on a Pro-Bono basis.

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<b>*Tom Cottrell</b>	Chief Program Officer	YWCA	Victim or Survivors of Domestic Violence
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Tom has been involved with the Coalition since its inception, serving on various committees and work groups. The YWCA has been providing shelter services for domestic violence victims for 45 years and transitional housing services for over 20 years. Tom's focus within the CoC has been to ensure that the voices of victims are accounted for in our community's policies and procedures with regard to our homelessness response. Tom has been with the YWCA, serving survivors of violence, since 1983.

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<b>*Mark Contreras</b>	Medical Director	Catherine's Health Center	
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Mark has worked with Catherine's Health Center, an organization primarily serving disenfranchised populations, for more than 7 years (2012-2019, 2021-current). Previously, (2019-2021), he worked for GVSU as an affiliate faculty member in their Family Health Center that provides medical care to underserved populations such as those experiencing homelessness. During his time at GVSU, Mark also worked with AYA (formerly HQ) to provide health education and facilitate access to primary care for at-risk homeless youth in Kent County.

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<b>Wanda Couch</b>	HCV Program Manager	GR Housing Commission	Chronically Homeless, Families with Children
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Wanda has worked with the Grand Rapids Housing Commission for six years. Her initial employment began at Hope Community working with single mothers and their children who were experiencing homelessness. In addition to that role, Wanda continues to work with families who are striving for economic self-sufficiency to avoid homelessness.

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## 2022 CoC Steering Committee Nominations

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Declared Affiliation</u>
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**Frances Dalton** Operations Director Garfield Park Neighborhood Association Active Human Service Network

Frances's entire career has intersected with housing as a critical service community resource. She has worked in allocation of housing service program dollars, administration of housing services and administration of ancillary programming to recipients in primarily in need of housing resources. In her current work the unhoused community has become a primary area of concern of the constituents she represents.

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**\*Casey Gordon** Supervisor of Special Populations Kent ISD Family with Children, Unaccompanied Youth

Casey has served on the Steering Committee for multiple terms and would be honored to continue doing so. She is a past Chair of our CoC and an active member of both the Youth Committee and Finance Committee. Casey works with families and youth experiencing homelessness and supports the School Homeless Liaisons within Kent and Allegan counties as the Regional McKinney-Vento Grant Coordinator.

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**Julie Kendrick** Program Director Degage Ministries Chronically Homeless, Seriously Mentally Ill

Julie Kendrick is the Program Director at Dégagé Ministries. Prior to her three years at Dégagé, Julie worked at several other local agencies including Dwelling Place, Mel Trotter, Our Hope, and Salvation Army. Julie has a degree in Social Science from Aquinas and studied Counseling Psychology at Spring Arbor. She has extensive experience designing and implementing new programs in the areas of housing, substance abuse, mental health, diversity and inclusion, and human resources.

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**\*Jose Salinas** Recovery Coach Network 180 Formerly Homeless Individual, Substance Use Disorder

Jose has served individuals experiencing homelessness through Network180 Access Center for seven years as a Peer Recovery Coach. Assigned to the Homeless Outreach Team since October of 2020. He is also a person in long-term recovery who has experienced homelessness.

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**\*Elizabeth Stoddard** Director of Advocacy Fair Housing Center Victims of Domestic Violence, Formerly Incarcerated

Ms. Stoddard is one of 6 full-time staff members of the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan, a private non-profit organization providing comprehensive fair housing services to a 12 county service area throughout west Michigan. Ms. Stoddard currently serves as the Director of Advocacy for the Fair Housing Center with over 10 years of experience in case development and management, investigation and advocacy, professional writing, and program management. Ms.

## 2022 CoC Steering Committee Nominations

Stoddard's experience includes resolving over 300 administrative complaints filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and/or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. She has published a report entitled, "Fair Housing for Seniors in Kent County: A Guide for Senior Housing Providers", and has been called on to provide fair housing presentations on expert panels. She has led the Fair Housing Center's enforcement programs to consistently receive "Excellent" ratings from HUD and other contracting agencies.

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<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Declared Affiliation</u>
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<b>Ryan Verwys</b>	President/CEO	Inner City Christian Federation	Chronically Homeless, Families with Children
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Ryan VerWys, President and CEO. He has faithfully served homeless individuals and families for the past 20 years. He uses a strengths-based approach and is results driven, always seeking creative ways to ensure families are housed and not priced out of the market. Ryan has been ICCF's President and CEO since 2015. Previously, he founded and ran a nonprofit in California that worked to end homelessness through affordable housing, employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals, and community development. At ICCF, he has overseen major projects that addressed the affordable housing crisis and increased ICCF's capacity, including mixed income developments, major scattered site renovation projects, community development initiatives, and relocating ICCF's headquarters to better serve our neighbors.

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<b>*Holly Wilson</b>	Director of Client Services	Safe Haven Ministries	Chronically Homeless, Families with Children
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Holly Wilson, LMSW is the Director of Client Services at Safe Haven and provides leadership to its direct client services programming, including a 14-room emergency safe shelter. With 13 years experience in the domestic violence field, Holly has spent the last four years in Grand Rapids, where she has been actively involved in the work of the Coalition to End Homelessness. During that time, she had become increasingly involved and familiar with the coalition, its coordinated entry system, including engagement around the current Family Functional Zero work initiative and supporting Safe Haven staff in their involvement with the Coordinated Entry Committee. In October, 2021, Holly was nominated to the Steering Committee to fulfill a position that ends in December 2021. In October 2020, Safe Haven partnered with Community Rebuilders to develop a new program, including the creation of a Safe Haven Housing Resource Specialist role that to date has successfully connected 9 households impacted by violence secure permanent supportive housing. Safe Haven has also received DV Bonus prioritization in creating a TH/RRH program, which will house 8 households in TH and 16 in RRH. With the increase in lethality and complex needs of domestic violence survivors experiencing a housing crisis, Holly looks forward to her involvement with the Steering Council and is committed to bring her expertise at the intersection of relationship abuse and homelessness.

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