

CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) BOARD

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 | 3:00-5:00PM

ZOOM MEETING (LINK WILL BE SHARED VIA EMAIL)

Board members present: K. Hoener, D. Kelly, J. Little, T. Lee, R. Smith, R. Weathers, E. Schulmeister, A. Seipelt, A. Patino, D. Miller, R. Kraut, K. Wyatt, A. Carlisle, J. Hall, N. Adelman, K. Montgomery, S. Collins, Z. Fosler, W. Carty-Saxon, B. Niess-May, S. Dowling, S. Wyman
OCED Staff: A. Kramer, L. Grant, T. Gillotti, S. Turner

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
3:00pm	1. Call to Order R. Smith called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm
3:01pm	2. Welcome/Introductions
3:05pm	3. Public Comment None
3:10pm	4. Approval of Agenda (ACTION) A. Carlisle moved to approve. A. Seipelt seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion was carried with no opposition.
3:12pm	5. Approval of Minutes (ACTION) Tish motioned Alice seconded
3:14pm	6. Adjusting Date of November CoC Board Meeting (ACTION) – Andrew Kraemer, Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) Z. Fosler moved to approve agenda item for discussion. A. Carlisle seconded A. Kraemer discussed Nov 17 th board meeting, proposed moving to Nov 10 th due to other deadlines for CoC. No further discussion and motion carried.
3:17pm	7. Avalon Letter of Support: The Grove at Veridian (ACTION) – Wendy Carty-Saxon, Avalon Housing R. Weather moved to discuss agenda item. Jim seconded. W. Carty-Saxon discussed The Grover at Veridan asking for a letter of support. Project will consist of 50 units of affordable housing and 30 at supportive house. Applied for low income housing credits in February. More apps than normal - other groups scored higher and Avalon will be reapplying in Nov 1. All other funding for Grove at Veridian project has been awarded, just waiting on tax credits. In Dec/Jan, they will learn if funding is awarded and start in 2022, hopefully finish by 2023. Pantino abstained. The motion carried with no opposition
3:22pm	8. Shelter Update - Barbara Niess-May, SafeHouse Center Niess-May provided overview of SafeHouse Center services. Helpline serves as gateway for survivors to contact. Many ask for shelter or referrals, but other individuals also seeking info on DV/SA more broadly. Emergency shelter provided at SHC location as well as medical care, support groups, counseling, legal advocacy, and on-call services. Counseling services changing name to Supportive Advocacy due to state-level changes though services are not changing. Many survivors utilize multiple services at the location. Service numbers for 2019 and 2020 were shared. Helpline calls were similar for both

years, around 5,000 calls per year. Other service areas were lower since many survivors were unable to get privacy to call for support given the stay-at-home orders. Supportive advocacy and other non-residential services dropped even as services were offered virtually. Calls to police were much lower, but towards end of the year this number rose again in response teams as things opened up again.

Emergency shelter processes differ for individuals entering – typically 35 day stay at location with extensions as needed. Shelter serves for safety, rest, and referrals for survivors as needed. Blog writer in community has been sharing information that is untrue or has been cast in negative light. Reach out Barbara directly about any questions or concerns. Organization utilizes trauma informed empowerment models and supports individual choices. Capacity differs and exit circumstances are individual.

R. Weathers and R. Smith commented to provide support for Barbara and organization. Question from Tereasa regarding exit information – asked for additional information to be provided to community partners to help assist individuals asking about exits.

Barbara provided additional info on exits. Shelter is not set up for long term stays, but extensions have been provided for longer term if needed. Immediate exits conducted in cases of safety concerns for staff or other residents. However, if providing long term support, they are not able to serve other individuals in crisis. Exit dates are always provided ahead of time with safety planning and housing plans conducted prior to that exit date.

J. Mogensen discussed differences between community expectations and organization policies. Discussed creating a space for community input, education, and acknowledgment on systems that affect services. Ask CoC how can address since other organizations have had similar issues arise.

3:35pm

9. Employment Development and Opportunities Update – *Shamar Herron, MichiganWorks!*

S. Herron discussed work force and opportunities locally. Infrastructure bill brings up tangential opportunities in community.

Federal lobbyist has informed them of 735 billion workforce adjacent funding to be approved in bill. 200 billion for universal healthcare. 225 to childcare. 110 billion to community colleges. All funds will be distributed across nation.

Approval should create quick turnaround and disbursement 100 million for workforce efforts. No valid ID makes it difficult to enroll individuals in their programs and this funding could help alleviate those barriers.

State initiatives - 2.1 billion Whitmer plan with 215 million for expansion of MiReconnect and Futures for Frontlines. Goal for 60% of state have industry recognized credentials for individuals without GED, diploma, or other

	training. 100 million for training opportunities to organizations. Additional focus on smaller organizations; will be prioritized in funding disbursement. Acknowledgement of Sept 27th 60by30 talent tour. Whitmer will speak and other panelists in Region 9. Contact Shamar if interested in participating. State fund BRES Barrier removals – funds received at MichiganWorks! To address special issues ; only stipulation is they cannot use for educational scholarships. Business resource networks – supportive funding for employees (transportation, housing if needed to help get to work), expungements, even if not eligible for other MichiganWorks! Services. Other partnerships upcoming - Working with Friends of Court with non-custodial parents. Reestablishing City of Ann Arbor and Neutral Zone partnerships to employ participants if aged out of Neutral Zone and provide career pathways. Reemployment efforts needed to support businesses and communities. Herron noted population decline and lack of immigration could create larger issues in future. Teresa asked how to contact for referring participants. Reach out to Johnny for Washtenaw County contacts. Additionally, Mobile Unit has been available in community. Unit is partnered with school districts; assist w/catastrophes, mini-job fairs, school testing/training. Unit has 10 computers travels to festivals etc. Unit also available for rent if want to use for own events. Satellite and wi-fi equipped. Screens for presentations.
3:40pm	10. Fiscal Year 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Update – <i>Andrew Kraemer, Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED)</i> Andrew reviewed of one pager and annual CoC competition. Bulk of funding for housing projects. Increase awareness of program among board. Timeline – Aug 18 start date - Letters of interest going out for new projects; Nov 10th meeting will review applications. 6.5 million in renewal funding. Now all non-competitive funding, previously 85%. Can apply for potential bonus projects - Can be RRH or PSH. Two tiers of competition. Asked to rank all new projects. All in first tier automatically supported, renewals in this tier. Tier 2 is for new projects and awarded based on community scores. Near guarantee for bonus project funding. Best time to apply for bonus projects. Encourage organizations to apply. Reach out as needed. Final recommendations will be brought to board.
3:50pm	11. American Rescue Plan (ARP) Washtenaw County Update – <i>Teresa Gillotti, Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED)</i> Teresa discussed ARP updates at county. 71 million awarded in direct ARP funding. Direct funding to jurisdictions for loss revenue, housing,

	other issues affected by COVID - 21 million to Ann Arbor. County has largest funding. BOC Survey ended last month – next working session for BOC will start distributing funding BOC meeting tonight - 5 different items related to funding. Tonight will be discussing first round of funding. More information will come as things shape up. Proposed 13.7 million for loss revenues, 1.4 million for expanded weatherization, 2 million for childcare (1yr) – intended as scholarships for low income households in response to A2 schools ending childcare, 6.7 million in childhood savings accounts starting for 1-8th grade students - 500 dollars for free/reduced, 25 for non-free reduced lunch. Curriculum and training for college readiness, 15 million for broadband - expanding to west side and other rural areas of county currently without infrastructure. Additional packages coming in Nov/Dec
4:00pm	12. COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Updates – <i>Teresa Gillotti, Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED), Rhonda Weathers, SOS Community Services and Marla Conkin, Salvation Army</i> CERA has over 2000 applications in WC. Approved 675, processing 104, 464 currently under review (putting together ledgers for submissions) 602 submitted but 206 denied (customer duplicates) 4.6 million spent, weekly meetings and monthly with court
4:10pm	13. Shelter Updates, Individuals – <i>Dan Kelly, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC)</i> D. Kelly shared beginnings of winter planning for this year's program. Lots of unknowns with COVID – keeping plans flexible and working with community orgs for off-site locations if needed. Rotating shelter will move on normal schedule rather than monthly as last year. Some congregations will host more often, schedule still being determined. Packard health partnership for medical care at sites. COVID safety plans - Masks still required, testing continued, vaccine clinics on site (increasing incentives) 65-70% vaccination rate Modifying case management to provide remote services, continue voucher signups Starting a partnership with city of Ypsilanti, freighthouse site opening for day site. First time of day site but in tandem with other existing sites. Additional site will help with social distancing. More updates to come as site plans are finalized
4:20pm	14. Shelter Updates, Families a. <i>Marla Conkin, Salvation Army (Shana presented)</i> Shana presented on behalf of M. Conkin. 6 families in hotel, but hotel will not accept new families until after football seasons.

Hard to find new hotels to accept, looking outside of county in Romulus and Super 8 locations. Contact if know of locations who will accept families.

Question from Chat about not being able to get in contact with HAWC – Answer: short staffed, new hires coming in but still 20-30 VMs per day. Reach out to Shana directly if having trouble getting in contact

b. *Ellen Schulmeister, IHN at Alpha House*

Ellen presented on IHN history - IHN established in 1982, 12 congregations brought together for serving homeless families. St Joes in 2001 allowed IHN to create family structure at building. Alpha House can host 24 people at time. Churches rotate into Alpha House. Churches share shelter expenses and meal provisions. 30 congregations currently involved.

DEI statement currently being drafted and effort has been approved.

During lockdowns, some open rooms due to families not wanting to live in lockdown in shelter. No covid in shelters. Medical support provided and vaccines encouraged with incentives provided. Admin WFH with some staff in shelter and limited RRH visits. Full rent assistance provided for RRH if needed due to covid. Staff have been coming back into shelter are fully vaccinated. 35 families from shelter housed and 32 from RRH.

Statistics from Sept 1- Aug 1 2021 – served 112 people in shelter, 41 families, avg length of stay 61 days. 55% of HoH were 18-34. 88% exited to positive housing from shelter 210 individuals in RRH, 66 families 13 months 83% 18-34 94% exited to positive housing. Additional statistics from presentation will be provided to Lauren for inclusion in minutes.

IHN future plans - Open to expanding by 1 more family, 100000-200000 cost to remodel rooms and add bathroom.

c. *Rhonda Weathers, SOS Community Services*

Weather presented on SOS services. Emergency shelter programs uses scattered site models. 3 leased homes in community with families housed there. Locations tend to support large families since homes are 3 bedrooms. Staff visit 3 times a week. Homes are fully furnished and food provided. Other supplies provided by drops during pandemic

Avg length of stay now 91 days, 35 days previously before COVID. Housing market forces have impacted length of stay and availability of housing for families. 84% positive housing outcomes during past year	
4:40pm	15. Built for Zero: Ending Veteran Homelessness Update – <i>Andrew Kraemer, Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) and Amanda Carlisle, Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA)</i> Andrew presented on Built for Zero national initiative. Built for Zero is a national nonprofit with 80 cities and counties involved; focused on veteran and chronic homeless. Washtenaw has been involved since 2015 and uses their model for systems of care. 14 communities in Built for Zero program have functionally ended homeless for veterans; current goal for Washtenaw to get to functional end of homelessness would be to get to 6 from 23 veterans experiencing homelessness. Other cities similarly struggling with efforts due to pandemic. Drop in cases due to opening of Hickory Way, but number of individuals has been sustained throughout past few months
4:50pm	16. Board Member Updates/Issues
4:55pm	17. Public Comment
5:00pm	18. Adjournment