

CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) BOARD

MARCH 20, 2024 | 3:00-5:00PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
3:00pm	1. Call to Order John H., Board Co-Chair, called the meeting to order.
3:03pm	2. Welcome/Introductions John H. welcomed all participants to the CoC Board.
3:15pm	3. Public Comment John H. opened the meeting to Public Comment. There were none at this time.
3:20pm	4. Approval of Agenda (ACTION) John H. called for a motion from CoC Board Members to approve the Agenda. Agenda was approved by all. No "Nays" noted.
3:25pm	5. Approval of Minutes (ACTION) John H. called for a motion from CoC Board Members to approve the Minutes from last Meeting. Minutes were approved by all with no additions or corrections needed. No "Nays" noted.
3:30pm	6. Verifying Literal Homelessness (ACTION) – Andrew Kraemer, OCED John H. called for a motion from CoC Board Members to review the Action Item for Verifying Literal Homelessness. Jim M. and Dan K. moved the motion. Andrew K. shared the document included in the CoC Board Packet (Page 12). The policy came out of a desire to codify existing community practices. This policy does not include new items but ensures that Washtenaw County uses limited resources to prioritize those that are Literally Homeless or Category 1 according to HUD's definition of homelessness. This policy requires a Shelter stay or Verification from CMH PATH or another Service Provider within the past 30 days to receive a referral. This would be noted by the By-Name CHP list. Those that are Category 4 Homeless are exempt from this policy. The policy also goes through the sources of allowable documentation that verifies the status of a household. Due to system limitations, we are rely heavily on Intake Worker Observations for Literally Homeless Families. Efforts are under way to address this gap. Andrew K. summarized the Policy again and opened the floor to those with questions, concerns, comments. Andy L. asked Andrew if there were pieces of information that should be flagged for Board of Commissioners.

Andrew K. responded that there are no major changes that require surfacing but highlighted the gap for Families and system need for street outreach.

Katie H. asked if clarification could be provided that CMH PATH is dedicated funding for Individuals and not Families.

Andrew K. confirmed that edits would be made to the policy to clarify CMH PATH's role.

Katie H. also asked about clarification around Self-Certification which is not explicitly listed in the policy as an allowable verification.

Andrew K. responded that this was intentional as it is not permissible by HUD.

Katie H. reiterated that this is a Washtenaw County standard and asked for further clarification due to discrepancy.

Andrew K. responded that while this is a CMH PATH standard, this approach is covered under item ii. 2.

John H. requested that Andrew K. clarify the policy clarification that Katie H. previously requested.

Andrew K. shared his screen and highlighted the sentence in the Purpose section "CMH PATH will take the lead" and identified that he would remove the sentence.

Katie H. confirmed that this change would address the previous concern.

John H. confirmed that this edit would be Administrative and not need to go before the CoC Board again.

Tish L. thanked Andrew for the explanation and the challenges verifying Literally Homeless Families. Tish asked if protections could be offered to Families that seek to mitigate bias due to the current heavy reliance on Intake Worker Observations.

Andrew K. concurred with this observation and shared that Intake Worker Observation is further verified by the Family Shelter Assessment Agency.

Tish L. asked if there was an appeal process.

Andrew K. responded that Families are taken at their word.

Kara P. interjected and reiterated that when verifying Families during their Shelter Assessment, they are taken at their word and only removed from the CHP list if what they report shifts their eligibility per HUD.

Andrew K. shared that it is not uncommon to go back and forth via the CHP process. As much as possible, the system is designed to not punish people who go about securing their own housing while awaiting a resource.

Jim M. shared that historically, Families were penalized/criminalized for their homelessness via contact with Child Protective Services. Families work hard now to evade this.

Andrew K. shared that the system is very much aware of this dynamic and that MDHHS knows that Homelessness alone is not criteria for a complaint. Families may not be aware of this, and reassurance is important, and this plays a role in the difficulty verifying Literally Homeless Families.

Renee S. referenced her previous professional experience in Child Welfare and confirmed Andrew's statements.

John H. opened the floor for further dialogue. Hearing none, he officially moved the Motion for a Vote.

CoC Board Members approved the Policy. No Nays were noted.

3:50pm

7. CoC Board Meeting Format Poll and Results (**ACTION**) – *Andrew Kramer, OCED*

John H. requested the next Action Item be moved for discussion.

Alice S. moved the Action Item.

Andrew K. reviewed the Action Item Summary on Page 11 of the CoC Board Packet. The CoC Board previously met In-Person at the Learning Resource Center prior to the Pandemic. Since then, the CoC Board has been meeting Virtually. This Action Item seeks to assess current preferences of CoC Board Members for future Meeting Format. Andrew put the link to the Google Poll in the Chat and reminded members that the link could also be found via email from Kristin Kunes. Andrew K. requested that all CoC Board Members place their vote and results would be shared Monday and go into effect for the May meeting.

	John H. shared that the majority vote would be accepted by the CoC Board and moved this Item to a formal vote, reiterating that the results would be adhered to. Ruth K. shared that she took the Poll and wanted to flag for participants that only one option could be selected which creates some confusion. Andrew K. shared that votes would be consolidated to either be Virtual or In-Person. John H. moved this Action Item for a Vote. CoC Board Members approved this Action Item. No Nays were noted.
4:00pm	8. Housing and Homelessness Immediate Impact Funding Update – <i>Toni Kayumi, OCED</i> Toni K. shared that 106 Families have accessed the Barrier Busters funding as of 3/14/2024. \$187,827 in Direct Assistance has been issued leaving a balance of \$282,172. The YTD Weekly Average is \$1,782 which will likely increase now that more people (30 different provider agencies and 96 staff attended the Trainings) are accessing these funds. Moonson with OCED is estimating a depletion date of May 24, 2024. Brian G. requested that the current Balance be reiterated. Toni K. repeated the balance of \$282,172. Amanda C. thanked Toni for the information and asked if there is a requirement of those seeking assistance to maintain their current housing. Toni K. rephrased the question for confirmation, asking if Amanda means that Eviction must be prevented before issuance of Direct Assistance. Amanda C. clarified that this was a previous requirement of the Emergency Solutions Grant that those receiving Direct Assistance for Rental Arrears would be required to verify proof of future income to maintain their housing. Toni K. shared that she was not familiar with this answer and invited others from OCED to answer.

	Kara P. shared that participants must write a statement attesting to ability to pay for future rent under the HHII funds but clarified that MSHDA did away with the previous ESG Sustainability Rule. John H. opened the floor for more dialogue. Hearing none, this item was closed.
4:15pm	9. CoC Funding Priorities – <i>Andrew Kraemer, OCED</i> Andrew K. began sharing the Presentation on Page 17 of the CoC Board Packet. Traditionally, the CoC Board votes on Funding Priorities after traditional Competitions have completed. This conversation is an effort to be pre-emptive and proactive, clarifying Board priorities to help inform the summer Funding Competitions. Andrew reviewed CoC Mission and Values, opening the dialogue up to the CoC Board if any key items were missed. Amanda C. shared that the Blueprint to End Homelessness references increasing stock of affordable housing which has been a value since 2004. Further, data is used to drive decision-making and accountability. Andrew K. thanked Board Members for their feedback and transitioned to System Data Trends and shared that having a conversation about Funding Priorities is challenging due to the high level of system needs. The goal of reviewing system data is to help ground the dialogue through data. Andrew K. reviewed existing funding which includes annual funding: HUD CoC, HUD ESG, and MSHDA ESG and explained their respective project types and grant terms. John H. asked Andrew to explain the acronym HMIS. Andrew K. thanked John for the question and explained that HMIS stands for Homeless Management Information System which is responsible for the bulk of CoC system data. John H. asked if Andrew could clarify the HOME ARP Supportive Services Funding. Andrew K. shared that, unless the CoC Board advises otherwise, the current plan is to break down/divide the Supportive Services funding to annual allocations to allow for flexibility as CoC needs evolve each year.

John H. thanked Andrew for the explanation and shared agreement with the strategy.

Andrew K. reiterated that the focus of today's dialogue is to help inform new funding opportunities such as the HOME ARP process.

Katie H. inquired about the total allocation of the HOME-ARP issued to Washtenaw County.

Andrew K. shared that the information would be shared via email following today's meeting, but it was presented to the CoC Board prior to submission to HUD for approval. Andrew K. placed the code for the Mentimeter Survey in the Chat and on the Screen. This is not binding information but intended to be informative for OCED staff.

Ruth K. inquired if the average household size has increased.

Andrew K. shared that yes, the average household size has increased from 3 to nearly 4 since the Pandemic.

1. Please rank the list of projects for funding in order of greatest amount of funds (1) to least amount of funds (4)

Results

1st-Permanent Supportive Housing

2nd-Coordinated Entry

3rd-Rapid Re-Housing

4th-HMIS

2. If funds were limited and you had to choose, which would you prioritize?

Results

Rapid Re-Housing Case Management (10 Votes)

Rapid Re-Housing Rental Assistance (8 Votes)

3. If funds were limited and you had to choose, which would you prioritize?

Results

Homelessness Prevention Rental Assistance (10 Votes)

Homelessness Prevention Case Management (7 Votes)

4. Please rank the list of projects for funding in order of greatest amount of funds (1) to least amount of funds (3)

Results

1st-Homelessness Prevention

2nd -Rapid Re-Housing

3rd-Shelter Essential Services

5. If given the choice to bring in NEW Supportive Services funds to Washtenaw County, which one activity would you fund?

Results

Eviction Prevention/Rental Assistance (10 Votes)

Rapid Re-Housing (1 Vote)

Move-In Costs (2 Votes)

Income Stabilization Services (2 Votes)

Street Outreach and Transitional Housing (3 Votes)

6. Please rank the following populations from greatest need for additional resources (1) to least need for additional resources (4)

Results

1st-Families

2nd-Non-Chronic Single Adults

3rd-Chronic Single Adults

4th-Veterans

7. Taking into consideration data, system needs, and existing funding, what resource would you prioritize for Families?

Results

Rapid Re-Housing (7 Votes)

Permanent Supportive Housing (11 Votes)

8. Taking into consideration data, system needs, and existing funding, what resource would you prioritize for Single Adults (Chronic & Non-Chronic)?

Results

Rapid Re-Housing (4 Votes)

Permanent Supportive Housing (13 Votes)

9. If available, what type of Permanent Supportive Housing funds would you prioritize for Chronically Homeless Individuals?

Results

Supportive Services Only (3 Votes)

Units with Services (17 Votes)

Andrew K. opened the floor for further dialogue and comments.

Amanda C. reflected on continued questions around the HAWC Budget. The HAWC RFP process was open-ended and did not have any funding associated

	outside of traditional CoC and ESG funding. Agencies were asked to submit their best guess at how much funding would be needed to support the project proposals. There is still confusion on how much it costs to operate the Call Center, Assessment Agencies, etc. and it has almost been a year and a half. We have a Call Center that is functioning better but likely 3 times the cost than Salvation Army was running it. There hasn't been any discussion about whether that is the best use of funds versus shifting to prioritizing In-Person operations or other functions. Can we have a further conversation at Coordinated Entry or the next Board Meeting to help inform future funding cycles. I worry our HAWC operations are not sustainable, and funding is already being cut. Andy L. thanked Amanda for the question and reassured that he would be following up with both County staff and Amanda to ensure that the questions are addressed.
4:50pm	10. Public Comment John H. welcomed the new Executive Director at Avalon, Aaron Cooper, to the CoC Board. Aaron C. thanked John for the Welcome and expressed gratitude for joining this work. John H. opened the meeting to Public Comment. Jim M. shared that Religious Action for Affordable Housing was founded 25 years ago but has been struggling with Board capacity and is now dissolving. There will be checks going out to several providers with notices included. Amanda C. shared that the CoC Youth Advisory Board continues to meet every other week with the next meeting occurring at Ozone House tomorrow. The meeting is at 6pm. We are looking for Agencies with existing Youth Advisory Boards to send a representative or to help identify clients between the ages of 16-24. They are looking for 6-10 Board Members who will work over the next few months specifically on the HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project Application to secure more funding and new programs for Youth Homelessness. There is meaningful work occurring over the next few months and more members would help. The Washtenaw County Public Safety Mental health Millage is going to be discussed in several spaces and funds critical resources. Andy L. thanked Amanda for surfacing the topic and shared that the Board of Commissioners will set a Public Hearing on April 17th with Board Action on the

	first and second meetings in May. These will be good times for engagement with the Board directly or indirectly.
5:00pm	11. Adjournment John H. adjourned the CoC Board March Meeting.

Board Position	Board Member
WHA Director	Amanda Carlisle, Director, Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA)
CoC At-Large	Aaron Cooper, Avalon Housing
Homeless or Housing Program	Dan Kelly, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC)
Homeless or Housing Program	Jan Little, Michigan Ability Partners (MAP)
Faith Community	Jim Mogensen, Religious Action for Affordable Housing (RAAH)
Domestic Violence Provider Representative	Kim Montgomery, SafeHouse Center Services Director
WHA Board Member	Rhonda Weathers, SOS Community Services
Police/Sherriff	Sheriff Jerry Clayton, Washtenaw County Sheriff OR Kathy Wyatt
OCED Director	Toni Kayumi
Housing Commissions	Jennifer Hall, Director of Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC)
Workforce Development	Johnny Epps, Michigan Works Southeast
CMH Director	Katie Hoener, Community Mental Health OR Melisa Tasker, Community Mental Health (CMH)
Housing Access for Washtenaw County	Amanda Guanco, Call Center Supervisor
Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency Director	Nicole Adelman, Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan (CMHPSM)
Another Township or City Highest Elected Official	Renee Smith, City of Ypsilanti
Public Health Director	Ruth Kraut, Deputy Health Officer
CoC At-Large	Tish Lee, Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM)
Housing Commissions	Zachary Fosler, Director of Ypsilanti Housing Commission (YHC)
City of Ann Arbor Mayor	John Hieftje, Former Mayor
McKinney Vento Liaison	Kellie Rutledge, Ozone House Director or Danielle Zochowski, Ozone House Associate Director
Currently/Formerly Homeless	Jennifer Monahan, Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD)
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director	Renee Adorjan, MDHHS Director OR Alice Seipelt, Community Coordinator
Veterans Administration	Gabriel Parra, Health Care for Homeless Veterans Coordinator
Washtenaw County Board Chair	Greg Dill, County Administrator OR Andrew LaBarre, County Commissioner
Private Funder	Jillian Rosen, VP for Community Investment for Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
Police/Sherriff	Vacant
Police/Sherriff	Deputy Chief Jason Forsberg, Ann Arbor Police Department
WHA Board Member	Vacant
CoC Non-Funded Agency	Vacant
Institute of Higher Education	Vacant