

CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) BOARD

JULY 17, 2024 | 3:00-5:00PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
3:00pm	1. Call to Order J. Hieftje called the meeting to order
3:03pm	2. Welcome/Introductions
3:18pm	3. Public Comment
3:20pm	4. Approval of Agenda (ACTION) LaBarre moves to approve Mogensen seconded Rutledge suggests to change item number 9, Amanda is on sabbatical, there are things to discuss with the youth homelessness project, but it is not a policy decision (change Youth Homelessness Policies to Youth Homelessness Projects) (but do have a voting item - need a vote by August 29 th) Add action item to item number 9 to give executive board the authority to add a virtual vote Approved
3:22pm	5. Approval of June Minutes (ACTION) LaBarre moves to approve Fosler seconded Approved
3:25pm	6. FRT HOME ARP Funding Recommendations Virtual Vote (ACTION) – Kristin Kunes, Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) Moved by Hoener Seconded by Mogensen Kunes shares: There is new funding coming into the county through the ARP Act. Washtenaw County was dedicated 1.25 million for supportive services for homelessness. Funding Review Team is in charge of reviewing the applications. After CoC board reviews and approves the grantees, the Urban County and the BOC needs to approve as well. There is a request to vote virtually for the CoC board to help the timelines align and move along. Poll would be open from August 26 th to August 30 th .

Approved

3:30pm

7. FRT's ESG Funding Recommendations **(ACTION)** – *FRT Representative and Kristin Kunes, OCED*

Rutledge moved

Smith seconded

Kunes shares: OCED oversees ESG funds in Washtenaw County (supports emergency housing, rapid response, prevention, etc.)

Applications were due on June 14th and the funding review team met and made recommendation for who should get funding. FRT is recommending that all applicants move forward with funding.

MSHDA: Avalon Housing is asking for the same amount; SOS is asking for the same amount; SAWC is asking for slightly more than in the past; IHN has not received funding in a while, getting a little bit in this recommendation; OCED is getting just admin costs; any excess goes to SOS services for homelessness prevention

HUD ESG funds: Ozone House applied for more with the assumption that Washtenaw County is not going to receive more money (FRT is recommending that the excess in ESG go to Ozone House); SafeHouse gets the same amount; SOS gets the same; SAWC is getting the same; OCED gets admin costs

Lutomski shares: Need to make a corrective action plan, FRT is looking at this and policies and procedures that can be put in place to have a more objective project when partner agencies do not spend down all of their money. MSHDA has said that when money isn't spent down, it will not be allocated in the same way in the following year, and we will receive 50% of what was returned the coming year. FRT knows we have the ability to use all of the funds; FRT wants OCED to assist with this.

Kunes shares: MSHDA pay for performance opportunity for organizations to get more funds based on performances (specific measures: timeliness on financial status reports, system performance measures/benchmarks) possible that Washtenaw County will receive more; communities need to meet at least three performance measures to get extra funds

Washtenaw County met three measures (not financial status reports) (did hire someone with lived experience of homelessness) (met two additional performance measures)

	Approved Kelly, Alexander, Rutledge, Cooper, and IHN abstain
3:45pm	8. Letter of Support (ACTION) – <i>Wendy Carty-Saxon, Avalon Housing</i> LIHTC Funding for Hickory Way Phase III Hoener moved Smith seconded Carty-Saxon shares: Development next to current Avalon Development Hickory Way. All units are one-bedroom. Start construction of development August 2025 and finish development in August 2027. Approved Cooper abstains
4:00pm	9. Youth Homelessness Policies – <i>Amanda Carlisle, Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA)</i> (ACTION) Rutledge shares: Team has been working on the YHDP application and would like feedback from the board. Ozone House and WHA are working on the Grant Application which is due to HUD on August 26th. If awarded, Washtenaw County would be issued funds to support on addressing youth homelessness Question: if we were selected as a YHDP community, what would stakeholders define and measure success? Discussion: Cooper: graduation rates from high school Pankey: ability to be sustainable and have direction at the end of stay, ability to be independent but also having trusted advisors, education on finances, navigating systems, etc. Kraut: Look into what research driven best practices there are and use those as guiding principles Kelly: Having additional programming in community for young adults (have unique needs), work with McKinney-Vento Mogensen: LGBTQ+ population having (family) support and prevention for younger people going into the adult homeless system, trauma- and mental health-based services for populations Question: how do CoC members involve young people/individuals with lived experience in their organizations (with program design/implementation/etc)? Discussion: Kunes: email listed contacts for any work currently happening with Youth involvement/people with lived experience involvement

	- Sharon Lapidess, lapidess@washtenaw.org - Kellie Rutledge, krutledge@ozonehouse.org - Danielle Zochowski, dzochowski@ozonehouse.org (ACTION) Item to be voted on is youth membership on the CoC board and the executive committee (from youth from the Washtenaw Housing Alliance) Kraut moved Seipelt seconded Approved
4:15pm	10. Board of Commissioners CoC Resolution – <i>Andy LaBarre, Washtenaw County</i> LaBarre: Want to get the history of the CoC, policy expertise that it has, collective responsibilities of the CoC, what should future commissioners know about the function of the CoC to make a resolution. Hope to get something in draft form by the end of the month to get into the August agenda, but is flexible. Asking members to email him for information (labarrea@washtenaw.org)
4:30pm	11. Verification of Literal Homelessness: Families – <i>Kristin Kunes, OCED and Pam Smith, OCED</i> Kunes: Category 1 literal homelessness: families that lack a defined structure. HUD and MSHDA allocate ESG funds have policies around how we define literal homelessness and how it is proved. (prefer it is from a provider or third party, not self certification) Have noticed that families rates of experiencing literal homelessness is increasing and using self certification to verify their status. Last week we had 120 families on the CHIP list, 73 were verified using self certification, no supplemental verification. Not verifying during assessment, it is possible that people aren't meeting the definition of literal homelessness. - There are inequities between how families and individuals are being triaged based on staff available to verify literal homelessness - It is making the counties numbers inflated, people aren't in the right place in the system Guanco: Call Center staff can only take word that they are in the county and category 1. Process between getting put on the list and section 8. Section 8 is when they need the homelessness verification. Get letters from McKinney-Vento, shelters, etc. Families must call the center once a week to do a family center check in (again taken on their word that they are still

category 1). Family situations are difficult because they don't want to give too much information based on fear of CPS/losing their children/getting turned into the police making it more difficult to verification

P Smith: We hope to get the board together to get feedback/brainstorming on how to address the self certification issues that the county is experiencing

Kraut: what other types of certifications are there?

P Smith: Shares what kind of certifications are usable

Hoener: This has been a discussion in the past; recently talked about this with other communities in Michigan; a lot of communities are having similar issues (this is a very challenging space/contentious topic). Haven't been able to find a solution. Most communities are heavily reliant on self certification (but some communities refuse to take self certification – turning some families away)

Pankey: How did you verify the locations of the families using PATH

Hoener: Team knows often where families are based on common locations, but must see people sleeping in a place that isn't meant for human habitation, tried many times to verify homelessness

Pankey: Did you go at night to find the families

Hoener: Yes we tried a variety of time frames

Pankey: Where are the 100 families? I don't see them on the sidewalks. What is CPS's position when it comes to homelessness and children in this county?

Smith: Homelessness is not enough to rule a child in an unfit environment

Pankey: Perhaps we need to disclose to families that CPS will not be called/what CPS's role is in the family/dangers

Guanco: Call Center staff do disclose this to families

Taylor (IHN): Some families are in shelters, hotels, etc. the number is probably less than 120. Years ago, interventions used to be face to face, talking to families on the streets/in their cars. Face to face you get a lot more information than talking to someone over the phone. Perhaps worth

looking into getting more funding to support in-person intake and assessment

Kunes: Intake and assessment are two different processes, so where would we need the in-person is something that should be discussed.

Kelly: This conversation has been on going for many years. Oakland county adopted a practice many years ago (balance a process that isn't punitive and meeting people where they are) where you go from gold to silver to bronze documentation

Kraut: Reluctance has to do with the fear that people are lying about their circumstances. If we aren't getting in trouble for it, it may not be a large issue. If other agencies aren't getting in trouble for it, it is fine. It is often noted in ER notes, other documentation that families are homeless – does this count as verification? "Have you ever told any of your doctors that you are homeless?"

Lapides: Yes, letters from doctors do count as verification. HUD does give guidance on this issue. Similar to what Dan said – there is a three step verification process with self certification being a last resort. HUD asks that intake workers do their due diligence at the very least. Also helps saving time of those who are trying to do rapid rehousing and finding verification.

Painter: SOS takes a lot of pride in how they offer customer service over the phone. Staff always offer compassion and empathy to those that they are serving. Have found with experience that it is hard to tell just by in person assessments that they live in their car, etc. There are benefits to doing intake over the phone (no transportation, have to take entire family). Do not see nearly as many no shows over the phone as they have in person in the past. SOS is successful in getting verification letters, but sometimes it takes a really long to get, process can be challenging.

Kunes: Knowing that self certification should be used as a last resort, it is worth asking if it is an equitable approach, if families are treated the same as individuals. It is an ongoing issue and there isn't a clear cut solution right now. In the absence of an immediate solution, does the board have any requests for shifting or maintaining the process to bring to committees?

Hieftje: It is just important that the agencies are doing their best.

Smith: It is important to talk to those with lived experiences to find where change needs to happen. Maybe would be worth making a survey for those with lived experiences.

4:50pm	12. Public Comment Patrick Olding from an affordable housing development company based in Ohio: Share a project that they are working on in Ann Arbor on West Stadium Blvd to submit to MSHDA for low-income tax credits. Plan to have 92 units with 35% being affordable units (PSH units). Hope to get on the agenda at the September meeting and get an official letter of support. Hoping to target the chronically homeless. Gregory Dill: Thank you all for the work that you do. Labarre is always focused on what we can do and how we can approved. Want to let people know that the ARPA funding cliff is before us.
5:00pm	13. Adjournment Hieftje adjourned

Key Terms

FRT: Funding Review Team

ARP: American Rescue Plan

ESG: Emergency Solutions Grant

LIHTC: Low Income Housing Tax Credits

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
Lived Experience Representative	Vanessa Pankey
Lived Experience Representative	Vacant
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	Elizabeth Alpert, Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD)
Institute of Higher Education	Neeraja Aravamudan, Director of the Edward Ginsberg Center