



**Lenawee County Continuum of Care
via Zoom
February 9, 2021**

MINUTES

1. Introductions / Roll Call

In attendance: Madeline DeMarco, Elizabeth Salerno, Laura Pipis, Nancy Bishop, Samantha Tubbs, Tim Ruple, Shannon DeSloover, Audricka Jacob, Clint Brugger, Sande Ratliff, Angie Shepherd, Mike Smith, Jill Hicks, Christal Albig, Diana Siscoe, Takisha Jones, Mick Albig, Roseann Miller

2. APPROVE: Agenda & Previous Minutes

- a. **Motion to approve previous meeting minutes as presented made by Laura. Supported by Audricka. The motion carried.**

3. REMINDER: Telegram Articles

February	???	???
March	Housing Help – Point In Time data	Elizabeth Salerno
April	???	???

- a. **If you would like to publish an article for February, please let Madeline or Elizabeth know!**

4. REVIEW: Lenawee County Homeless Numbers

- a. # added to Housing Preference waitlist in January 2021: 31
- b. # pulled by Housing Agent in January 2021: 38
 - i. 5 people were scheduled for briefings via phone on January 20, 2021
 - ii. There are currently:
 1. 1,164 people on the regular waiting list
 2. 5 people on the homeless list
 - iii. 80 People were pulled from the list this week
- c. Community Waitlists:
 - i. Legacy Housing Apartments has 2 current vacancies. Chronically homeless individuals can apply at Housing Help of Lenawee.
 - ii. Carriage House's voucher waitlist is open for some 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom units. Interested folks can apply directly at the complex.
- d. MSHDA Homeless Veteran Report
 - i. Total number of homeless veterans identified in previous month: 0
 - ii. Number of new homeless veterans identified this month: 0
 - iii. # of homeless veterans housed this month: 0
 - iv. # of homeless veterans that left services without housing: 0

5. Grants

- a. ESG-CV Round 2 NOFA Grant
 - i. The applications have been officially processed and we will be able to access that funding once it's finalized in MSHDA's systems.
- b. HUD
 - i. Housing Help received official notice about their renewals!

1. Renewal Housing First-Rapid Re-Housing received \$90,700 for intake, case management, rent assistance, outreach, and data collection. This will begin on April 1st.
2. Renewal Legacy Housing received \$12,994 to provide case management for Legacy Housing Apartments, the county's only permanent supportive housing program for the chronically homeless, and some support services. This will begin on May 1st.
3. CoC Planning Grant was renewed for \$8,496! These grants don't normally get renewed!
- c. Salvation Army DHHS-ESP COVID funding is available to current and new shelter providers (would end at the end of September). Elizabeth sent a link out to each of the shelters if they want to apply. Those applications are due on Friday.
- d. DHHS-ESP COVID Motel Assistance
 - i. Housing Help would like to apply for additional funding from this program as all of their other regular funding sources have been gone through. They would like to request an additional \$20,000-\$30,000 to use for motel assistance. To bolster their application, they are asking the CoC to provide them with a letter of support. Madeline would sign the letter on behalf of the CoC since Elizabeth submitted the application on behalf of Housing Help.
 - ii. **Motion to approve the request for a letter of support made by Clint Supported by Jill. The motion carried.**
- e. CERA Funds
 - i. We are anticipating most if not all of this funding to become available to us in March. This program will likely operate a lot like the eviction diversion program, except these funds can also be used for utilities in addition to rent assistance.

6. Sub-Committee Reports

- a. Public Awareness
 - i. Their main focus has been Project Connect. This event occurred at the end of January and was relatively successful, despite lower turn-out than anticipated!

Project Connect Statistics		
Housing Situation	# of Households	# of People
Homeless	9	12
Doubled Up	0	0
No Housing Crisis- Info only	49	145
Total	58	157

***Of the 157 people, 102 were adults and 55 were children**

*** Female: 75 Male: 82**

***39 people reported receiving SSI/SSDI**

***1 people reported being past domestic violence survivors**

***1 people reported being a current domestic violence survivor**

***1 people were veterans**

*** 79 people reported that they are unemployed**

*** 23 people reported that they are currently employed**

1. Thank you to De'Angelo who did a Facebook Live on site to get more participants. In the future, we'll think about other ways to promote the event.
2. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organize and plan this event! Great work all around!

- ii. Next focuses for this sub-committee include working on the Point in Time count and whether or not the typical summer activities (e.g. Case By Case) will be occurring.
- b. Homeless Youth
 - i. The sub-group is continuing to meet virtually. They are currently only working with 1 homeless youth at Goodwill. Making connections with youth during the pandemic has been a challenge.
- c. Affordable Housing/Short-Term Emergency Shelter
 - i. The sub-group tried to meet recently but only 3 people were able to attend. The sub-group really needs to have more participants if they are to be effective. If you or someone you know would be a good fit for this group, send their info to Clint. They would like to create a standing meeting time people can plan for, potentially before or after the full-member CoC meeting.
 - ii. The sub-group has also discussed the idea that Affordable Housing and Short-Term Emergency Shelter might be two distinct topics for one group to take on. These topics originally were separate sub-groups and merged because they were too small on their own to make a big impact. Tim suggested the idea of keeping the workgroups combined with the goal of ultimately reducing the need for short-term emergency shelter by promoting and increasing the accessibility of affordable housing.
 - iii. There are multiple groups in the community working on this same issue. How do we get everyone involved working together? One suggestion was to present what the group does to the All About Adrian Coalition in order to build relationships and increase awareness about our group. It was also suggested to compensate community members with lived experience that participate in our group. The Hillsdale Local Planning Body for the Michigan Balance of State CoC is looking into ways to do this in that community. The Michigan Balance of State CoC has communities that have been successful in getting participation from residents with lived experience and **Clint will share lessons learned from them and the Livingston County CoC's successes and report back. Nancy will see if the Strong Family, Safe Children funds that have been historically use to provide participating community members with a stipend are still available to us.**
 - iv. There was a suggestion of hosting a community forum around affordable housing. Ultimately, the group would like to wait until we are able to meet in person to host something.

7. Additions / Comments / Questions

- a. Housing Help – They still have some motel, veterans, and ESG funds available. There are openings for families with minor children in their emergency shelter and transitional housing programs. If you know anyone who could benefit from these funds, please send them to Housing Help!
- b. MI Works – They are hosting a [Health Care Heroes](#) virtual hiring event coming on February 23rd. Many jobs with minimal education or employment qualifications will be featured. They will also be hosting workshops the week before the hiring event about topics such as resume and cover letter writing.
- c. United Way – The second go-round of the 21-Day Equity Challenge is currently occurring. If you are interested, please email Laura directly or [sign-up online](#). February 11 is 211 day and the United Way will be celebrating all they do for our community!
- d. Catherine Cobb – They are starting 2 virtual support groups. More information will get shared with this group soon. One of the support groups will have a SUD tie to it, the other will be a therapy-guided domestic violence support group. There are currently openings at the Safe House.
- e. VITA - VITA has begun! Anyone whose household makes less than \$57,000/year is eligible for this service. People can schedule appointments via phone (517 247-2099) or [online](#). Participants can then stop by Community Action Agency or the Human Services Building to complete the

documents needed for their appointments. Please recommend encouraging folks who received unemployment or didn't receive their stimulus check this year to participate in this program. Any questions about VITA can be directed to Tami Farnum.

- f. Neighbors of Hope – The work on their new men's facility continues. They are trying to get an additional 2 beds for the men's ministry. The women's ministry has some limited availability depending on family size.
- g. Please be aware of housing scams going around the community, and help educate your consumers about ways to avoid them!

8. NEXT MEETING: March 9, 2021. This will be a full meeting via Zoom.