



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

**MINUTES**

1. Introductions / Roll Call

In attendance: Madeline DeMarco, Elizabeth Salerno, Laura Pipis, Wendy Knox, Hailey Hartig, Clint Brugger, Cheryl Holm, Samantha Tubbs, Helen Henricks, Ted Crockett, Robyn Loveland, Brian Elliott, Audricka Jacob, Roseann Miller, Angie Shepherd, Allison Green, Becky Selenko, Mick Albig, Tim Ruple, Christal Albig, Jill Hicks

2. APPROVE: Agenda & Previous Minutes

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

3. REMINDER: Telegram Articles

<b>March</b>	Housing Help – Point in Time	Elizabeth Salerno
<b>April</b>	Housing Help – CERA fund availability	Elizabeth Salerno
<b>May</b>	Share the Warmth – new Executive Director	Helen Henricks

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

4. REVIEW: Lenawee County Homeless Numbers

- a. # added to Housing Preference waitlist in February 2021: 6
- b. # pulled by Housing Agent in February 2021: 0
  - i. 3 people were scheduled for briefings via phone in February. There have been no pulls since January 28<sup>th</sup>. One of these briefings was a veteran, and he moved into permanent housing on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c. Community Waitlists:
  - i. Legacy Housing Apartments: 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: 1
  - iii. # of homeless veterans housed this month: 0
  - iv. # of homeless veterans currently seeking housing: 1
  - v. # of homeless veterans that left services without housing: 0

5. Grants

a. CERA Funds

- i. A detailed training was held recently regarding these funds, and we are hoping to be able to access them in the next few weeks. Here are some of the requirements (and differences compared to the Eviction Diversion Funds) to access the funds:

1. Recipients have to be under 80% AMI
2. The amount of assistance recipients can access will be capped at the amount of time they can receive funds for. Caps will also be determined by the size of a recipient's household. The less income you have, the more funds you will be eligible for.
3. Funds can be used for a \$300 internet stipend that will go directly to tenants.
4. Recipients don't have to be facing an eviction to be eligible. They can just have received notice of being behind on their rent.
5. Up to \$200 of funds can be used to pay late fees.
6. Landlords won't be required to forgive a portion of rent owed to participate.
7. These funds are only for renters and cannot be used for mortgage assistance. Community Action Agency (CAA) may have some funding to assist with mortgage payments. They also offer mortgage counseling.
- ii. Housing Help will manage rental payments and CAA will handle utilities. All clients should begin their process at Housing Help, regardless of their need. We have a short amount of time to spend a lot of money, and are just waiting for the governor's office to officially sign off on things before we can get started!

b. Community Foundation

- i. Contact them to apply

6. Overview of Services from USDA's Rural Development Team

- a. Cheryl Holm and Hailey Hartig are here to present about rural development resources available to us through by the USDA. The highlights include:
  - i. From 2015-2020, they've invested \$130 million in Lenawee County, primarily in housing
  - ii. 3 Single Family Housing Programs
  - iii. Single Family Home Loans and Repair Programs
  - iv. Community Facilities Loans
  - v. Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants
  - vi. Utilities Programs
  - vii. Business and Industry Loans

- b. Madeline will send the slides out to the rest of the group after the meeting.

7. Sub-Committee Reports

- a. Public Awareness
  - i. On hiatus after Project Connect. They will schedule a meeting before our next CoC meeting to start working on their next project, likely Case By Case.
- b. Homeless Youth
  - i. No updates. The group is currently working with one youth. LUXE is still available at Goodwill. Their primary focus right now is encouraging youth to go to school.
- c. Affordable Housing/Short-Term Emergency Shelter
  - i. No updates. They will schedule a meeting before our next CoC meeting. There is some potential to collaborate and connect with the Human Relations Commission and the Kalamazoo CoC. Elizabeth will attend their next meeting (3/26 @ 6:00pm)

8. Additions / Comments / Questions

- a. LCMHA – Next month will be launching MyStrength, a mobile and web based application for wellness, using evidence based strategies and modules to improve behavioral and physical health. This will be for CMH staff, consumers and the Lenawee community. More information will be available next month.
- b. Lenawee Human Services Collaborative – This is a community of human services professionals in Lenawee County that gathers once a month to network, share agency updates, and learn

something along the way. They meet on the first Friday of the month @ 8:30 am. If you would like to attend

- c. MCAH –
  - i. Virtual Michigan Homelessness Advocacy Day is on March 16. If you can't make it then, please set up an appointment with your legislator any time that week. MCAH will provide talking points and other support for participants.
  - ii. Webinar next Monday about accessing free on-line tutoring for students experiencing homelessness in Michigan
- d. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) - to schedule an appointment dial 517-247-2099 or visit [www.caajlh.itfrontdesk.com](http://www.caajlh.itfrontdesk.com). No one will pick-up if you call CAA!
- e. Habitat –
  - i. Office and construction have officially relocated to the building next to the ReStore on 223. There will be a re-ribbon cutting at some point in the future.
  - ii. Upcoming Up Cycle Challenge – purchase something from the ReStore, repurpose it, and share the before and after photos! Those items will be donated back to the ReStore where they will be auctioned off online. The top 3 entries will also win Chamber Bucks!
  - iii. Recently acquired property on Spring St. that will be a veteran's build.
- f. UWMLC
  - i. Project Ramp is "ramping up" again!
  - ii. Upcoming Golf Outing on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Raisin Valley Golf Club in Tecumseh. People can register at <http://bit.ly/GolfUWMLC>.
- g. Veteran's Affairs – Has funds for both peacetime and wartime veterans. There are also Meijer gift cards available. Send any veterans you know in need of assistance to Audricka!

**9. NEXT MEETING: April 13, 2021. This will be a full meeting via Zoom.**