



# **Lenawee County Continuum of Care** **via Zoom** **April 13, 2021**

## **MINUTES**

### 1. Introductions / Roll Call

In attendance: Madeline DeMarco, Elizabeth Salerno, Laura Pipis, Helen Henricks, Nancy Bishop, Roseann Miller, Samantha Tubbs, Angie Shepherd, Brain Elliott, Chris Howard, Robin Aldrich, Sande Ratliff, Shannon DeSloover, Tim Ruple, Emma Salazaar, Audricka Jacob, Barb Phillips, Jill Hicks, Robyn Loveland, Mick Albig, Nicole Beagle, Clint Brugger, Allison Green, Takisha Jones, Amy Sweinhagen, Christal Albig

### 2. APPROVE: Agenda & Previous Minutes

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

### 3. REMINDER: Telegram Articles

<b>April</b>	Housing Help – CERA fund availability	Elizabeth Salerno
<b>May</b>	Share the Warmth – new Executive Director	Helen Henricks
<b>June</b>	<i>This could be you!</i>	<i>This could be you!</i>

- a. Chris Howard can potentially write an article about schools in August.
- b. **If you would like to publish an article, please let Madeline or Elizabeth know!** Articles should be submitted by the last week of the month.

### 4. REVIEW: Lenawee County Homeless Numbers

- a. # added to Housing Preference waitlist in March 2021: 2
- b. # pulled by Housing Agent in March 2021: 0
  - i. 7 people were scheduled for briefings in March.
- 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: 2
  - 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: 3
  - v. # of homeless veterans that left services without housing: 0

### 5. Grants

- a. CERA Funds
  - i. CERA Funds are now available to the community! The portal went live on 4/7, and paper applications will always be accepted. Lenawee County has received \$1.8 million in funding for this program. The courthouse has more information about eligibility that

will get mailed to tenants who have received an eviction notice. Housing Help is handling rental assistance and Community Action Agency (CAA) is handling utility assistance. Everyone should apply through Housing Help, regardless of need. If folks need assistance in addition to CERA, they also need to fill out the Housing Help-specific application. All applicants do need to complete a release of information document.

- ii. A huge thank you to all of the CERA staff at Housing Help, CAA, and MSHDA for coordinating this giant undertaking!

b. THAW

- i. THAW has funding available to provide utility assistance. Call 1-800-866-8429 or visit [www.thawfund.org/programs](http://www.thawfund.org/programs) to learn more.

c. HUD

- i. Rapid Rehousing and ESG funds should be available. New applications have been processed so there shouldn't be a gap in services.

6. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Public Awareness

- i. Their next focus will be Homeless Awareness month. This is typically preceded by Case by Case. The group is discussing whether or not this event will be held this year. Another option being discussed is holding a virtual fundraiser. There are needs in the community for utility and emergency housing assistance. The group agrees that a fundraiser for motel funding through Housing Help would be useful.
  - 1. Some motel funding is still available
  - 2. Motels will not take folks who are COVID-positive. However, if someone is already checked-in and later tests positive, they will not be kicked out.

**Motion to approve a virtual fundraiser for emergency motel housing made by Tim. Supported by Clint. The motion carried.**

- ii. The Public Awareness sub-committee would like to participate more with the Human Relations Commission. The HRC is planning a town hall in June or July focused on housing. Elizabeth is in contact with the members of the HRC. Hopefully this will help raise awareness about what CoC is doing, and build new relationships with other community groups.
- iii. The Sub-Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month @ 1:30pm. If you're interested, please contact Elizabeth or Nancy!

b. Homeless Youth

- i. The group continues to meet regularly. Much more resources will likely be needed over the summer to help students make up the ground that was lost due to COVID this past school year.
- ii. Funding for homeless students is getting increased by 800%! Most of this will go towards credit recovery or "lost learning". This will likely be offered as a wrap-around program.
- iii. Road Map is still working with one student and they continue to do well.

c. Affordable Housing/Short-Term Emergency Shelter

- i. No updates.

7. Additions / Comments / Questions

a. Share the Warmth

- i. Kelly Castleberry is stepping into the director role so this will be Helen's last meeting with us. Guest numbers are low since the shelter has been on a quasi-lockdown. As a result, they are discussing taking 2 new guests weekly that supply a negative COVID test.
- ii. Thank you for all your service, Helen! We will miss you at our meetings!

b. MSHDA

- i. The annual homeless summit that typically happens in the Fall will be occurring virtually this year on October 4-5.
  - ii. The Building Michigan Communities Conference will occur on May 4-5. This will include sessions on housing and developers. Registration is now open!
- c. Lenawee Human Services Collaborative
  - i. 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, please reach out to Madeline.
- d. MCAH
  - i. They are hosting a webinar on 4/16 to help attendees better understand the Child Tax Credit and how to access their stimulus check. The target audience for this webinar is individuals living with homelessness. Please use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/stimulus-taxcredit>.
- e. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
  - i. To schedule an appointment dial 517-247-2099 or visit [www.caajlh.itfrontdesk.com](http://www.caajlh.itfrontdesk.com). New appointment times are constantly getting released, so please check back frequently if no appointments are available.
- f. CAA
  - i. Still has some CSBG funding available for funeral expenses, transportation, and connectivity.
- g. UWMLC
  - i. Upcoming Golf Outing on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Raisin Valley Golf Club in Tecumseh. People can register at <http://bit.ly/GolfUWMLC>.
  - ii. The new ALICE report was released recently. This and the State's 2021 Poverty Taskforce Report are great data resources.
- h. Veteran's Affairs
  - i. 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!
- i. Housing Help
  - i. Hosting a Bring CHANGE to make a CHANGE event on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-2:00pm. This will be a drive-thru event for folks to drop-off coins, cash, checks, and shelter supplies (toilet paper, paper towel, cleaning supplies, etc.). All donations will support their homeless prevention programs and the Family Emergency Shelter program.
- j. Transportation Taskforce
  - i. The new Mobility Manager, Misty Pope, is collecting resources on all the transportation options available in Lenawee County. If you're aware of any transportation resources in the community, please email Clint or Misty ([mpope@caajlh.org](mailto:mpope@caajlh.org)). This includes everything from senior centers or churches with vans to Dial-A-Ride.
- k. Drug Take-Back Day
  - i. Drug Take-Back Day is on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-2:00pm at ProMedica Hickman Hospital (follow the signs for COVID testing). Please bring your unused, unwanted, or expired medication!
- l. Legislative
  - i. Sen. Zorn's office can assist with unemployment.
  - ii. If you have any suggestions about how the State can use all of the funding they're receiving, please share your ideas with Rep. Kahle and Sen. Zorn's offices!

**8. NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2021. This will be a full meeting via Zoom.**