



**Lenawee County Continuum of Care
via Zoom
June 8, 2021**

MINUTES

1. Introductions / Roll Call

In attendance: Madeline DeMarco, Elizabeth Salerno, Laura Pipis, Ted Crockett, Audricka Jacob, Candace Aranda, Emma Salazar, Shannon DeSloover, Jackie Bradley, Nancy Bishop, Angie Shepherd, Wendy Knox, Robyn Loveland, Chris Howard, Kelly Castleberry, Clint Brugger, Mayor Angie Sword Heath, Becky Selenko, Amy Sweinhagen, Sande Ratliff, Diana Siscoe, Mick Albright, Tim Ruple, Takisha Jones, Jill Hicks, Brian Elliott, Samantha Tubbs, Jessie (Share the Warmth case manager)

2. APPROVE: Agenda & Previous Minutes

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

3. REMINDER: Telegram Articles

June	MDHHS – where are we now?	Nancy Bishop
July	Habitat for Humanity	Wendy Knox
August	Recovery Month	Jackie Bradley
September	LISD	Chris Howard
October	Catherine Cobb – Domestic Violence Awareness Month	Jill Hicks

- a. If you notice that an article hasn't been printed, please let Elizabeth know.
- 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. They should be about 1-page (single-spaced) in length, typed.

4. REVIEW: Lenawee County Homeless Numbers

- a. # added to Housing Preference waitlist in May, 2021: 23
- b. # pulled by Housing Agent in May, 2021: 0
- i. A briefing will be held on 6/17 for 3 folks. Folks are not getting pulled from the waiting list until the EHV waiting list gets populated. Then, we will start pulling folks from there. Lenawee has 7 EHV's available.
- c. Community Waitlists:
- i. Legacy Housing Apartments: Chronically homeless individuals can apply at Housing Help of Lenawee. This is the only permanent supportive housing program in Lenawee County. These apartments are for chronically homeless individuals with a disability (documentation is required for both).
- 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. EHV

- i. After reviewing the letters of intent submitted, the Executive Committee recommends that Housing Help serve as the service agency that will support the Emergency Housing Voucher Program (EHV) services. Housing Help was the only agency to submit a letter of intent.
- ii. **Motion for Housing Help to serve as the service agency for EHV services made by Clint. Supported by Nancy. The motion carried.**

b. USDA

- i. Emails have been sent out regarding the Housing Preservation grant from the USDA. Applications are due by July 19th.
- ii. Information about the USDA's Single Housing Repair Loans and Grants can be found [using this link](#).

c. NOFA

- i. Should get a notification from MSHDA and HUD over the next few weeks regarding NOFA applications.

6. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Public Awareness

- i. Project Connect – planning for an in-person event this year
- ii. Homeless Awareness Month – Adrian's First Friday's will kick-off the Case By Case fundraiser. Looking into the feasibility of a silent auction or lottery-50/50 offering.
- iii. Norma Dell Courage to Care Award – planning to honor Helen Henricks
- iv. Housing Help will be presenting to the HRC on June 22nd about housing and the services Housing Help provides. There is also plans to have a townhall about housing in August or September that Housing Help will plan to be a part of.
- v. The next meeting link will be shared with the group. Please email Elizabeth or Nancy if you're interested in attending this group's meetings.

b. Homeless Youth

- i. Working on a needs assessment in preparation for money coming in to the county from an \$800,000,000 federal fund for homeless education. This money will be distributed in 3 rounds, influenced by student counts. Some of the funding rounds will involve a competitive grant application and one funding round will distribute money to each school district. The recommendation from the funders is to use the funds to increase and expand programs that are already being implemented. This money will get distributed and spent over 2.5 years.
- ii. Contacting local representatives about a 3rd grade reading law that unfairly targets homeless students. This law would hold back 3rd graders who aren't reading at a 3rd grade reading-level. The concern for homeless students is that a certified letter will get sent to the homeless liaison at the district who is then supposed to forward the letter to the student's parent. Then, the parent must contact school administration about a justifiable cause for why their student shouldn't be held back. Senator Zorn is working on an amendment to the law that would provide an exception for homeless students. **Chris will share information about the bill to the group and everyone is encouraged to contact their local representative about this law.**

c. Affordable Housing/Short-Term Emergency Shelter

- i. Kelly has a meeting on 6/9 with a group of community members interested in brainstorming ideas about affordable housing and the community. **If you are interested in joining the subcommittee, please email Kelly: kelly@stwlenawee.org**

7. Adrian Inn: Public Nuisance Order

- a. Last night, the City Commission voted to declare the Adrian Inn a public nuisance. The City has begun talks with Adrian Inn regarding code enforcement, safety, and other issues that need to be addressed among the city. This first set of conversations is more about building safety. Then, they will start addressing SUD, calls to law enforcement, etc. At that point, these conversations could become more open to the community.
 - i. The importance of all the resources in the community coming together to discuss feasible solutions was emphasized.
 - ii. Many CoC members expressed disappointment at the way human services agencies were portrayed in the meeting. Kelly stressed that the decision was ultimately about the structural safety of the building, not homelessness. She also encouraged the group to continue reaching out to the city about issues like this as soon as they come up.
 1. Mayor Heath also expressed disappointment with some of the Commissioner's comments and emphasized that the Human Relations Commission is a part of the City and is here to help with these issues. These problems are the whole community's problems.
 - a. **Mayor Heath agreed to reach out to Clint about featuring more community resources at pre-meetings.**
 - iii. Tim Ruple brought-up the importance of building partnerships with other hotels/motels in the city so that we can continue to provide emergency housing. Stigma and previous negative experiences are a huge barrier to building these partnerships.
 1. Mayor Heath agrees with this statement and stated that she had this conversation earlier today with the City.
 2. Kelly brought up the importance of community education to reduce stigma and the narrative around this issue. Unfortunately, a lot was planned around this during the past year, and then the pandemic happened...

8. In-Person Meetings

- a. The county building needs to be open in order for us to meet in-person. A hybrid meeting format for when the in-person return happens was suggested by Clint. Tim Ruple suggested utilizing the board room at the Lenawee Community Foundation once it's remodeled. **Elizabeth will email Paula and ask.**

9. Additions / Comments / Questions

- a. LCMHA –
 - i. Has launched myStrength, a new wellness app available to community members. myStrength offers custom online tools to help you overcome the challenges you face and stay mentally strong. It's all safe, secure, and personalized to support your goals and well-being. Tools are offered in both English and Spanish.
 1. To sign-up, visit www.mystrength.com, click "Sign Up," enter the Access Code (LENAWEE), and complete the sign-up process.
- b. Ride for Recovery –
 - i. June 26, 2021 with registration beginning at 10:00am. Motorcycle ride from Harley Davidson of Tecumseh to Covenant Church in Tecumseh. This event is sponsored by Celebrate Recovery – Tecumseh & Broken Chains – JC, with all proceeds going to Pathways Recovery Engagement Center. Call (517) 815-4044 or email crtecumseh@gmail.com for more information.

10. NEXT MEETING: July 13, 2021. This will be a full meeting via Zoom.