



Homeless Coalition of Greater Battle Creek & Calhoun County

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 12pm – 1pm
Location: United Way Lower Level Meeting Room

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Organizational Updates – Robert Elchert, Co-Chair

- Kalamazoo Community Mental Health is becoming Integrated Health Services – more info to follow
- Meridian Health Plan is looking for community partners to help people with the new work requirements for Medicaid
- Food Bank of South Central Michigan
 - Changing its name to Food Bank of South Michigan and will have new logo in October
 - New Food Pantry opening at the Fort Custer Industrial Park in October
- Community Action Agency will have no money for utility assistance until mid-October
- Summit Pointe Housing
 - ESG funding is coming soon
 - There is still a waiting list for Section 8
 - The Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) can help provide first month's rent and security deposit for people who have a mental health diagnosis and some form of income
- United Way is having issues with their server and their e-mail is down, which has delayed communications and the release of the RFP for Basic Needs and Education
- The Haven of Rest distributed a new resource packet they assembled

2. Housing Solutions Board Update to General Membership – Robert Elchert

- MSHDA ESG Exhibit 1 submitted on-time
- HUD Combined CoC grant application is well underway and will be submitted by September 27
 - Minor adjustments were made to the rankings due to limitations of the HUD electronic form
 - SAFE Place withdrew from the HUD competition for this year
- Formalized Temperature Emergency Mitigation & Provisions (TEMP) Plan
 - Being presented at the 2019 Summit on Ending Homelessness (Michigan's Campaign To End Homelessness). The format is a panel discussion, showcasing the county's collaborative effort during the weather emergency in January. Haven, First Congregational, Red Cross, SHARE Center, and CoC will be presenting.
 - Creating county wide resource list

3. Updates on collaborative work:

- **HMIS User Group and HARA Update** – SP Housing, Trish Winchel
 - Focused on data quality
 - Following ESG CAPER Guidelines
 - Need full SSNs from clients now. They previously only collected last four digits.
- **Veteran by Name List** - Hannah Patton VOA: Next meeting is Monday, September 23, 9am at the Haven
- **Rental Housing Roundtable** – Alisa Parker or Anna Moss: Next Landlord Dinner will be September 26, 5-7 at the Salvation Army. Will have Housing Hour from 5-6 and the guest speaker is Stephanie Hoffman from Open Doors in Kalamazoo

- **Income Increase / Employment** – Robert Elchert
 - SHARE Center is currently interviewing for an Employment and Benefits Coach through the AmeriCorps Program
 - Responsibilities will include helping people with job searches, resume writing, job skills, and maximizing benefits for those who cannot work
- **Hunger Free Calhoun – Homeless** – Laurel Clark
 - Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month
 - Laurel Clark from United Way and Marsha Keefer from the Food Bank are now the Co-Chairs
 - Current projects include assembling emergency food boxes and identifying locations where they could be distributed and picked up
- **Homeless Health Fair 2019** – Lora Stevens
 - Friday, October 18 at Full Blast
 - National Anthem and prayers to begin at 8:30am, doors open at 9am
 - Had 600 people attend last year
 - Need more volunteers, winter clothes, blankets, backpacks, and personal care items
 - Thought they were going to need canvass bags for participants like they had in previous years, but the Food Bank said they will be donating all of the bags needed.
 - Food Bank is also donating the food
 - Trish Winchell – Summit Pointe is doing a blanket drive
 - Gerald Croissant- Is doing a podcast on Win Radio Monday or Friday. Was not sure of the time.
 - Currently have seven haircutters, but could use more, especially need a barber
 - Volunteers needed to stuff food bags on Oct. 16 from 10-12 at the Food Bank
 - Elaine is retiring and this group needs a new Chair
- **Coordinated Entry System** – No Updates
- **Street Outreach - PATH and Haven** - Ahja Surratt, Patrick Paradine, and Cindy Kerr
 - Gerald Croissant – There are homeless camps behind Coleman School, along the river east of 20th St., and about ¼ mile behind the ballpark
 - Having monthly meetings at the SHARE Center, will have schedule at next HC meeting
 - Gerald- There is a need for more GLBTQ+ crisis workers. Trish Winchell – Summit Pointe has some
 - Alisha Pennington from MDHHS is a good resource
 - Trish Winchell – Crisis Line is always available and number should be distributed – (800) 632-5449

4. **Next Meeting:** October 15, 2019