

## Homeless Coalition of Greater Battle Creek and Calhoun County

Meeting Tuesday December 17, 2019 12pm-1pm

### MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Robert Elchert, Co-Chair
2. **Housing Solutions Board Update to General Membership** – Robert Elchert
  - a. Completed volunteer training in December for 27 people
  - b. Lora Stevens verified the trainings were informative and very helpful
3. **Updates on Collaborative Work:**
  - a. **HMIS User Group and HARA Update** – SP Housing
    - i. Currently under audit from MI. Coalition Against Homelessness who is going through their reports
    - ii. Half of the Rapid Re-Housing money received in October has already been spent. They are trying to stretch dollars as much as possible.
    - iii. HHAP is still available: \$350 Security Deposit
    - iv. Section 8 waiting list is now over 50 people long and can take six months to a year for your name to be drawn
  - b. **Veteran by Name List** – Hannah Patton not present
  - c. **Rental Housing Roundtable** – Cheryl Grimes
    - i. Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11am Landlord Lunch and Learn
  - d. **Employment and Benefits Coach** – Robert Elchert
    - i. JoAnna is just getting started and is learning about the various resources in the area
    - ii. She will get training in Mental Health First Aid, SOAR, and trauma informed
    - iii. Robert will bring her to the next HC meeting
    - iv. There are also employment and benefits resources at the Albion Health Alliance, Fountain Clinic in Marshall, and most hospitals
    - v. Chad Timmerman will send a list of Hub Neighborhood Employment sites to Robert
  - e. **Hunger Free Calhoun** – Tammi Morgan
    - i. Have been getting a lot of inquiries regarding the emergency food boxes
    - ii. If interested, contact Tammi or Marsha Keefer
    - iii. Also partnering with MI. Works!
    - iv. Doing a trial run at KCC with the CNA students – one box/week and getting good response
  - f. **Homeless Health Fair** – No updates
  - g. **Coordinated Entry System** – No updates
  - h. **Street Outreach** – SHARE Center received a Byrne Grant to purchase and assemble 250 Winter Care Kits (mylar blanket, hats, gloves, hygiene supplies), which are now ready to be distributed.
  - i. **Other**
    - i. Jim Haadsma had a meeting last night at the Kellogg Manor re: Housing
      1. Many people in attendance were not aware of that
      2. MSDHA, Lee Talmage, Calhoun Co. Housing Commission and Daniel Jones were there.

3. Building costs and restrictions are making it difficult to build affordable housing
4. Much of the new housing being built in the area is not affordable

ii. **Food Stamps** –

1. People are already starting to lose their food stamps
2. Some seniors are only getting \$18/mo.
3. Tammi will bring updates to future meetings

**4. PIT Count**

- a. Will be Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>
- b. Volunteer registration forms distributed
- c. SHARE Center hosting a volunteer training on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> 2-3pm