



## Homeless Coalition of Greater Battle Creek & Calhoun County

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Tuesday, March 17, 2020 12pm – 1pm

Location: Conference Call: (605) 313-6341, access code: 342803

### 1. Welcome and Introductions – Maggie Honaker, Chair

- Please provide updates to Maggie daily by 2:00pm for your agency, to be included on daily email
- Please subscribe to the Homeless Coalition Listserv for the most updated information from this coalition: <http://eepurl.com/cwoyDP>

### 2. Housing Solutions Board Update to General Membership – Maggie Honaker

- Next meeting is March 20, 2020

### 3. New business, Training, and Presentations

- Shelters Update, coronavirus action plans – Ellen Lassiter Collier, Daniel Jones, Robert Elchert
  - Haven – daily check-ins, adding masks for anyone who has cold or cough-like symptoms, stressing compliance, working towards reducing shelter population by 50% by end of month – case workers are working to help place folks in other safe places. Meals for shelter guests only. Not receiving volunteers or visitors. Waiting on Grace Health to provide direction on staff PPE.
  - SHARE Center – The SHARE Center will be closing at 5:00PM today in compliance with mandates for all drop-in centers. However, they will still be providing to-go meals and bottles of water. Hours are on website at <http://sharecenterbc.org>. Will be distributing ponchos, hats, gloves. Looking into providing Sprout boxes. Can use more bottled water and hand sanitizer.
  - SAFE Place – emptied shelter over the weekend, using local hotels/motels. Checking in daily to provide services, crisis line is fully staffed 24/7, assessing for high lethality. All services are still available, some being conducted via phone, setting up confidential chat. Anticipating a rise in incidents.
  - Salvation Army – still serving meals and open with food pantry.
  - Emmett Street Missionary Church not serving meals this week.
- People Helping People BC, <https://www.peoplehelpingpeoplebc.com/>
  - Website that is centralized resource page for grass roots support. Includes a Facebook group, a timebank where folks can match needs with availability, a way to connect with neighbors. Also has a resource table based on community announcements.
  - Agencies can update first-hand information.
  - No intention to replace any agency work.
- United Way funding opportunity
  - UW-BCKR – have launched a disaster relief fund, talking to agencies and asking what the needs are – looking 8-12 weeks out. Request is to apply when you need it.
  - Can email [communityimpact@uwbckr.org](mailto:communityimpact@uwbckr.org) for more information, need to email in order to get a private link to application portal, intend to have responses within 24 hours – UW does not fund individuals, only 501c3 or approved fiduciary.
- Legal Services Update
  - Anna - Office is closed, but working remotely. Main office line is checked daily. Still doing intakes. Visit <http://www.michiganlegalhelp.org/> for more info. Most things paused with the Courts being closed. Legal hotline also still open.
  - Landlord/tenant disputes put on hold for 28 days.

- BC Housing Commission
  - Reopening Section 8 waiting list on March 30 – April 3. Online website application only.
  - BCHC will remain open. No face to face, paperwork drop-off/pick-up only. Email and phone contacts.
  - Additional sanitizing and cleaning, particular focus on senior buildings.
  - Orientation for VASH program coming up, will maintain social distancing for meeting, confirmed attendees through the VA
  - Residents with loss of income need to report to BCHC right away so that it can be reflected as change to rent requirement – don't anticipate financial hardship with BCHC residents
- Woman's Co-Op presentation
  - Will reschedule

#### 4. Updates on collaborative work:

- **HMIS User Group** – SP Housing, Tara McKernan
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- **HARA Update** – Trish Winchel – update by Nicole DuPont
  - Still working on housing by appointment only
  - Trying to keep a list of anyone in need, by zip code, even if they don't meet state requirements so that we can understand the broader community need.
- **Veteran by Name List** – Hannah Patton
  - Looking to meet bi-weekly right now by conference call
  - Looking to see veterans by appointment or phone call only
- **Rental Housing Roundtable** – Alisa Parker or Anna Moss
  - The April Landlord event has been postponed and will be rescheduled for July.
- **Income Increase / Employment** – Robert Elchert
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- **Hunger Free Calhoun – Homeless** – Laurel Clark
  - Visit Food Bank for additional information at <https://smfoodbank.org/>
- **Homeless Health Fair 2020** – Laurel Clark/Ellen Lassiter Collier
  - Renamed to be Calhoun County Connect & VA Stand Down
  - Thanks to the generosity of the Binda Foundation as a new partner
- **Coordinated Entry System** – Maggie Honaker
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- **Street Outreach – PATH and Haven** – Deborah Grays, Patrick Paradine, and Cindy Kerr
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#### 5. Next Meeting

- April 21, 2020 @ 12:00PM