



Homeless Coalition of Greater Battle Creek & Calhoun County

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 12pm – 1pm

Location: Zoom Call

1. Welcome and Introductions – Maggie Honaker

- Please subscribe to the Homeless Coalition Listserv for the most updated information from this coalition: <http://eepurl.com/cwoyDP>
- New team members?
 - Olivia Harvey, Battle Creek Homeless Shelter
 - Ronald Zorrilla, Passic County, New Jersey
- Additions to the Agenda?

2. Training & Presentations

- Dawn Smith, Executive Director, Substance Abuse Council - DRSmith@calhouncountymi.gov
 - Physically located in Marshall, services across Calhoun County
 - Discussed Calhoun County Opioid Use Harm Reduction Project (grant received by Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan through Battle Creek Community Foundation)
 - Working in partnership with SAPS, Summit Pointe, and BCCF
 1. Education on signs and symptoms, naloxone (nasal spray) distribution, importance of still calling 911 and including emergency services as naloxone is temporary
 2. With naloxone availability, overdose deaths are decreasing
 3. New interactive website under development
 - Primed for Life – first time DUI program, prevent re-offense
 - Youth training programs
 - Participant in Opioid Coalition
 - Remote training, services offered via Zoom right now

3. Housing Solutions Board Update to General Membership – Maggie Honaker

- No updates since last meeting
- Next board meeting on Friday, February 19, will focus on CERA and HUD funding discussions.
 - MSHDA has moved forward with online application portal to help streamline process

4. New Business

- **HIC/PIT Count for 2021 – Ashley Allred**
 - Review PIT/HIC efforts, current status
 - No unsheltered homeless on the night of the count, sheltered count is lower than last year (assumed Covid)
 - Final summary due in April – on track
- Direct Services Update, incl coronavirus action plans – Ellen Lassiter Collier, Daniel Jones, Robert Elchert
 - Haven – continuing to serve, overflow into hotels as needed.
 - SAFE Place – lowered level of lethality to seeking shelter, for access please call crisis line 269-965-7233. Advocates available 24-hours per day. Other services (legal advocacy, adult and children counseling) also fully available, most virtual, no shelter stay required.
 - Battle Creek Homeless Shelter – average of 50-75 people per day, about 40 people overnight. Hired 2 consultants as housing advocates. Consumer survey recently completed. Onsite security

day and night. Expanding BOD and looking at funding for next fiscal year. New website at <https://bchomelessshelter.com>

- SHARE Center – Drop-in facility, offer mental health and recovery services. Men’s group at 3PM on Wednesdays, Women’s group at 2PM on Thursdays, Narcotics Anonymous 3PM on Saturdays, Bipolar group at 1PM on Saturdays. Staff has lived experience with mental health and recovery, trauma informed approach. Offer limited basic necessities. Community Meals program is ongoing, serving about 30,000 meals/year. To-Go meals currently – Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner. Open to anyone who needs a meal. <https://sharecenterbc.org>

- HARA (Summit Pointe Housing) Update – Whitney Wardell
 - Ramping up to move to new location. Will be sharing with Neighborhoods Inc building. 47 North Washington Ave.
 - Ramping up for CERA funding – will be partnering with Neighborhoods Inc, Community Action, and Legal Services SCM.
 - Working with City of Battle Creek on CDBG (prevention), TBRA (rapid rehousing) grants.
 - From EDP program, we were able to serve about 150!
 - **ACTION: Emergency Solutions Grant – monthly report template available on spend down of community grants to present monthly to HSB – templates from Stephanie at MSHDA**
 - **ACTION: HARA needs to populate the HCV homeless preference waitlist – HUD Category 4 included**

- COVID-19 Grant Funding
 - United Way Disaster Relief Fund program is OPEN. UW reviews applications weekly. For additional information on categories and a copy of the application, please visit: <https://changethestory.org/disaster-relief/>
 1. 501c3, government entity, or fiduciary
 - CERA (Covid Emergency Rental Assistance) program is in planning process, through 2021.
 1. Awaiting appropriation approvals through the state legislature

- Other HC Agencies’ Updates
 - None today.

5. Updates on collaborative workgroups – THIS SECTION UPDATED POST-MEETING DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS:

- **HMIS Data Quality User Group** – SP Housing, Ashley Allred
 - Meetings have resumed every other Wednesday at 3:00PM
 - We have prepared to roll out a new data process in March, coordinated entry, that will ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis will have fair and equal access to assistance. This process will also ensure that individuals will be quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs.
- **Veteran by Name List** – Hannah Patton, Cindy Carrier
 - Thursdays at 12:00PM weekly virtually with community partners to address clients and their housing needs
 - Currently we have identified 19 Veterans that are homeless and accounted for on our Veteran By Name List.
- **Legal Services/Rental Housing Roundtable** – Alisa Parker or Anna Moss
 - Legal Services is covering all landlord tenant dockets. Focus on helping as many tenants facing eviction as possible. Calhoun County dockets typically are on Monday and Tuesdays and go from 9 AM-4 PM. We are also taking referrals and doing intakes on housing cases. Our hope is to try to resume the Rental Roundtable activities after CERA funding comes available.
- **Income Increase / Employment** – Robert Elchert
 - Limited face-to-face contact currently, due to Covid-19.

- Available by appointment, 269-964-8133
- Iesha Parson, the Employment and Benefits Coach, is also doing ID work now. Iesha is here M-F, 9-12. Her e-mail is iesha.parson@sharecenterbc.org.
- **Hunger Free Calhoun – Homeless** – Laurel Clark
 - Meeting on the 4th Monday of the month.
 - Email Laurel Clark at lclark@uwbckr.org if interested in participating
 - Our current goal for the year is working on access to food via mobile options, meals kits, etc. We've working on piloting with either students or seniors or both.
- **Calhoun County Connect & VA Stand Down 2020** – Laurel Clark/Ellen Lassiter Collier
 - Email Laurel Clark at lclark@uwbckr.org if interested in participating or providing information about your organization's services.
 - We're planning on our event in October to be a tote distribution with enhanced service provider connections.
- **Street Outreach – PATH and Haven** – Todd Artis, Mitch Misiacz
 - Street Outreach is working through a staffing transition and will have an update next month.
- **Coordinated Entry System** – Maggie Honaker
 - Updated website to include 2020 Racial Disparity Assessment Summary and Affirmative Marketing Report & Plan for CDBG.
 - QSOBAA Sharing Agreement is up-to-date for all agencies sharing data on HMIS.
 - Reminder: HUD Exchange has some great resources located under their COVID-19 Community Planning & Preparedness Page. <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-community-planning-and-preparedness>

6. Next Meeting

- March 16, 2021 @ 12:00PM via Zoom