



## CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2018

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Lisa Cruden		
Meeting Attendees:	<p>Dave Gantz (Pine Rest), Madelaine Clapp (FHCWM), Julie Clossen (Arbor Circle), Erin Banchoff (City of GR CDD), Stephanie Gingerich (LINC Up), Wanda Couch (GRHC), Laura Oesch (GRHC), Johanna Schulte (City of GR), Tom Feeney (Fosters Forward), Alyssa Auten (HQ), Shandra Steininger (HQ), Tom Cottrell (YWCA), John Wynbeek (Genesis), Mikayla Webb (Salvation Army), Carena Smith (Salvation Army), Cathy LaPorte (Salvation Army), Jamie Kamp (Salvation Army), Anna Diaz (Community Rebuilders), Kwan McEwen (Urban League of W MI), LaRon Harris (Urban League of W MI), Steve Tigchelaar (MTM), Bethany Egan (In the Image), Vanessa Jimenez (Health Net of W MI), Gayle Witham (Veterans Affairs), Jennie Oompagner (Degage), Nina Bowser (KCHD), Denise Price (Reliance CCP), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Emily Stroka (KCCA), Wende Randall (ENTF), Karen Leppek (AAAWM), Lauren VanKeulen (3:11), Matt Kuzma (DHHS), Rebecca Rynbrandt (City of Wyoming), Deanna Rolffs (ICCF), Kelsey Dracht (ICCF), Chris Romeo (Home Repair Services), Casey Gordon (Kent ISD), Tim Beimers (Salvation Army), Amber Troupe (MDHHS), Nicole Shalow (MSHDA), Emily O'Brien (Salvation Army), Brandi Sones (MDOC), Jameela Maun (Salvation Army)</p>		
Time Convened:	9:34am	Time Adjourned:	11:00am

<b>Approval of Minutes</b>		<b>December 14, 2017</b>	
Motion by:	Tom	Support from:	Kwan
Discussion			
Amendments	Change Fair Housing sentence to: The Fair Housing Center of West Michigan FaceBook Page will recommend books, and commissioned artwork.		
Conclusion	Approved with Amendments		
<b>New Leadership Introduction</b>		<b>Jesica</b>	
Discussion			
<p>Our newly elected Executive Officers are:          Chairperson: Lisa Cruden, Family Promise          Vice Chair: Jeffrey King, Community Rebuilders          Secretary: Christina Soulard, TSA          Treasurer: Erin Banchoff, The City of GR          Member at Large: Kenya Brown, ICCF.          Also, welcome new HMIS Administrator: Angela Gillisse.</p>			
<b>Homelessness and Housing History</b>		<b>Jesica</b>	
Discussion			
<p>In 1982 Kent County leadership came together and noticed a need for certain basic needs to be met in the community. This led to the formation of the Emergency Needs Task Force (ENTF). The ENTF is comprised of the Energy Efficiency, Food &amp; Nutrition, Economic &amp; Workforce Development,</p>			



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Transportation, and Housing subcommittees. The Housing subcommittee eventually became the CoC and the 'E' in ENTF was changed from emergency to essential. This indicated a shift in thinking from responding to emergencies to providing for basic needs and therefore preventing future emergencies. There is a need to create stabilities in our community.

The McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act of 1987 authorized federal money for homeless programs across the country. In 1994, reauthorization required communities receiving funds to work together to submit one comprehensive application. Programs/Organizations receive separate funding but must apply for federal funds as a community that works together. CoCs also had to create ten-year plans to end homelessness. In the local plan, a change of philosophy was spelled out, shifting from only having an emergency response to focusing on ending homelessness. The ten-year plan adopted the Housing First philosophy which states:

- That homelessness is a housing crisis that can be addressed with safe and affordable housing as a first step.
- All people experiencing homelessness, regardless of their housing history and duration of homelessness, can achieve housing stability in permanent housing.
- Everyone is "ready" for housing. Making individuals meet conditions like sobriety, compliance in treatment, or a clear criminal history are not necessary to succeed in housing.
- Once they are housed, people experience improvements in quality in life.
- People experiencing homelessness have a right to self-determination.

Dr. Tsemberis is the founder of this philosophy and more information on Housing First can be found here: <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/housing/housing-first>.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is the first Housing First tool and from that Rapid Rehousing (RRH) was developed. RRH helps with rent until an individual can take over the rent themselves. PSH is reserved for individuals who are not expected to increase their income enough to pay the full rent themselves, and often live with disabilities.

A useful tool at our disposal is Coordinated Entry. Previous to Coordinated Entry, individuals needing services would show up at doors of different organizations and would be bounced between services. With Coordinated Entry there is one entry point with a cache of services available, therefore individuals only have to go to one place to find resources. 211 provides the front door to Coordinated Entry while the Salvation Army provides the CE services for the Kent County area.

The ENTF connection is important. The essential basic needs need to be interconnected in order to keep homelessness brief and one time. To sustain a living, individuals and families need transportation, energy, work/employment, and nutrition. Data maps through ENTF are extremely useful and show relationships between the population and access to these basic needs.

In 2017, 62% of individuals who contacted the system were African American. That shows a disparity in our community that needs to be addressed at multiple levels.

A short video was played: Housing Segregation in America (a history) by Center for Social Innovation (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKkteYKrR5E>).

This video led into a discussion amongst the CoC regarding the history of housing segregation in Kent



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County specifically. It is important to ask questions such as “What are ways we can address this legacy within our agencies? Within the CoC? In the larger systems?”

One comment was that public policy is very important because it has decades of impact. There is a history in Grand Rapids of neighborhoods being graded from best to worst or A through D respectively in which demographic information is involved. Eventually Grand Rapids was broken up in the areas you see today, A and B neighborhoods remain the wealthiest areas even 80 years later. Redlining maps match up with today’s census map. Landlords may become frustrated with today’s policies, but they are important to achieve fair housing.

At 10:15 each table took 10 minutes for group discussion regarding this topic with sheets provided to enable leaving feedback.

### Updates

#### Discussion

##### A. Coordinated Entry Evaluation

A CE Evaluation will provide an evaluation of our CE system and show where improvements need to be made. There were three proposals that were sent in and reviewed by a group of about seven people using a scoring rubric. Cloudburst was the chosen proposal to carry out the evaluation and contracts are currently being drawn up. Members here today will be able to put in input on CE through the evaluation.

##### B. Committee Overhaul Work

There are a lot of committees that exist in the CoC. Those committees are currently being reviewed by a Committee Overhaul Workgroup. About 7 years ago the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness Governance Charter was drafted and brought into use. Over time there have been adjustments made to the charter. The group that meets talks about restructuring committees to better cover the work that is needed in Grand Rapids and be better reflected in the Governance Charter. If you want to be a part of this work, please contact Jesica Vail. This group has found that there was nothing structured around subpopulations but have goals pertaining to those groups. They are working on transitioning to implementing the same successful work done with Veterans and applying it to the chronically homeless population and others and make it part of the structure.

##### C. Population Specific Groups

Regarding population specific groups, the Youth Homeless group is applying for the YHDP grant this year. In 2016 it was awarded to 10 communities, including Grand Traverse County. A request for qualifications (RFQ) has been released calling for applications for a lead agency. If you would like any information regarding this or want to join, contact Jesica immediately. The CoC website has last year’s application, this year’s RFQ and more. Steering has sanctioned the ad hoc Youth Committee to continue on until the RFQ is filled and committee restructure is completed.

##### D. Provider Updates

Fair Housing Center of West MI: Annual workshop and luncheon occurring on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Registration is currently open. Challenging Bias is one workshop, another is Fighting for the Future of Fair Housing, and also one focused on seniors and their housing choices. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is this year.

ESG: Two 3-hour webinars on SPDAT and possibly a homelessness summit training. Spring convening is March 21 in Mt Pleasant, MI and registration is currently open. Working on bringing



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in more employment agencies to Continuums of Care. CSH is putting on a webinar on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. The Fall summit will be October 18 & 19 in Ypsilanti.

Arbor Circle: The Bridge (youth shelter) was undergoing a restoration project which is now finished! A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:00 to 6:00pm at The Bridge, 1115 Ball Ave NE Building B. During the time renovations were occurring, youth were still served but at a reduced number. They are now back to full capacity.

ICCF: Two Open Houses next for new developments. One is at 4:00 pm on Tuesday and another on Wednesday. One is at eastern elementary, which will be developed for housing. Division and Wealthy will be a development for seniors and has 104 units.

DHHS: Tracking housing removals (removals for condemnation, etc.) and found they happen more frequently in certain zip codes which leads to a higher impact of loss of stable housing on children of color. 40% of the removals are housing related.

President Trump's 2019 proposed budget shows elimination of CDBG and HOME funds. If we lose those funds, the Grand Rapids CoC will serve 200 less households a year and it would hurt CoC infrastructure.

**Adjourn**

Next Meeting Thursday, April 26, 2018