

Michigan Interagency Council on Homelessness

May 2, 2019 ICH Meeting Notes

Attendees: Kelly Rose, Kris Brady, Denny Sturtevant, Kristina Leonardi, Chris Trudell, Dawn Carmody (MDE), Phil Cavanagh, Krissa Blankenburg

1. Approval of agenda: with additions, Kristina Leonardi moved to approve, Kris Brady seconded
2. Approval of February 7, 2019 minutes: tabled until next meeting for the larger group.
3. Public Comment: none
4. Legislative/Policy Update:

There has been good movement within the budget for DHHS, there are birth certificate fee waivers allocated in the proposed budget as it is still moving through the legislature. SB 404 for state ID's is in place, effective April 1, 2019. The birth certificate waiver, if passed, will be in 2020.

If/when the birth certificate waiver passes, there will be similar trainings to the State ID trainings/webinars. A team will meet with the vital records folks to create these trainings/materials.
5. Continuation of discussion on Barriers to Affordable for those with felony records
 - a. What is being seen for the population the work with the HCV: They continue to push as they would like to elevate to the committee to see how concerns can be addressed such as issues landlords have renting to those with felony convictions. Question whether they are landlords that would otherwise rent to a voucher holder? In some cases yes. In some cases, there is a lack of responses, looking to find out the reason why. What is the next step to have those conversations? Would like to share the data that could counteract the myth that they serve as a threat. In a statewide survey of resource specialists, those placed in a year, there was not one incident where a parolee threatened a tenant, landlord, etc. There have been problems but not property damage, threats, etc.
 - b. Is there anything in compliance where they check to make sure rules are current? Fair housing law? We are confident that those professionally managed know the fair housing laws and must give the same answer to all who have the same circumstances. Should tenant selection criteria be changed, not go through waiver process with folks with that background? Denny Sturtevant has monthly meetings to review appeals for denials, barred list, etc., Kristina suggested reviewing the study done by a Group called Prison Policy Initiative, who did a study with formerly imprisoned.
 - c. Kelly Rose mentioned the possibility of doing a session on this at the Asset Management conference
 - d. Kelly also made the suggestion of getting a TA contract to review screening criteria to simplify it. Could advocate with MSHDA's budget to have management companies submit their information to the TA folks, making it more than checking the box, but about reviewing case by case whether they are sufficiently equipped.

- e. Next steps: Look at Prison Policy Initiative, look at Seattle, Kelly will look into session at Asset Management conference, perhaps create a 1 pager on the topic.
6. 2020-2022 Action Plan process was discussed within MHPC:
- a. MHPC is planning local focus group meetings, conducting 4-5 around the state, and would like this group to participate, connecting this group with those in the field. This would also help the field understand what this group is doing and connect them with us. Goal: to get input/feedback on the current action plan, what to keep, generate input from staff in the field on what new activities we need to include in the next plan, what metrics are important to them, etc.
 - b. Current plan status report shows great progress in some areas, these will be shown at the regional meetings. Leadership working on the new state plan will reach out to Chris Trudell to see if he would like to be involved. Kristina Leonardi can share with VCAT (Veteran Community Action Team).
Discussed whether the groups could be focused on specific topics, i.e., economic security, being specific with times each topic will be covered. Denny Sturtevant mentioned he had skimmed the current plan and sees no reference to MDOC.
 - c. Kristina Leonardi mentioned that the Lt. Governor is forming a workgroup around criminal justice, asking if MSHDA is engaged? MVA, DOC, DHHS is involved – Kristina will find out official name and Kelly will find out if MSHDA is engaged.
 - d. Continue to think through ways on how to do the focus groups, after initial feedback is received, it will go through the drafting phase, seeking additional feedback at the fall convening, being held the day before the Homeless Summit. The draft 2020-21 plan will be presented to ICH group at November meeting, final draft in February meeting.
7. 2018 ANNUAL REPORT: Look at the overall data, Michigan saw a 3% increase statewide. There were significant increases in Kalamazoo County, where there is a lot going on, i.e., encampment, city council had a member who camped with them, forced herself to get arrested, Kent County showed a 20% increase, partially due to tightest rental market in 30+ years. In areas with large increases, MHPC is exploring reasons why and is working with communities and will continue working with them throughout the coming year so that for the next count/report, they feel more confident in reporting. Chris Trudell asked whether they participate in the count? Response: If they're housed with DOC, they may be "at risk" but not homeless (category 1).
New HUD data standards will create new training needs – these standards will be released in May/June, 2019.
8. MHPC update/Kris Brady: At the last MHPC meeting, the new by-laws were adopted, update on next steps:
- a. an application process is being created for 3-5 new at large members.
 - b. Small team has met twice to create forms and process and will meet at the end of June for final decisions to be made. Information will go on website, to MSHDA distribution lists, MDHHS distribution lists, and MCAH distribution lists.

Kristina Leonardi asked why the state policy is not represented on this board? Kelly Rose responded that the Governor's office takes requests to expand the membership.

Kristina also asked for an update on the legality of this group sending letters to the legislature? Kelly Rose will consult with MSHDA Office of Legal Affairs for input. Kristina's team is working with libraries as a lot of homeless people are hanging out there and figuring out what to do when veterans are in libraries. A 1 pager could be done referring library staff to the correct agencies in their community and a presentation could be done at the library annual conference.

ADJOURN: 11:38 a.m., Kris Brady moved, Chris Trudell seconded