



MICHIGAN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS AGENDA
November 13, 2020
1:00 p.m., Zoom Webinar
Registration Link: <https://michigan-host.zoom.us/j/82101265189>

Attendees: Kelly Rose, Jason Weller, Kris Brady, Patrick Patterson, Rachel Eldridge, Dennis Sturtevant, Christina Soulard, Crissa Blankenburg, Phil Cavanagh, Paula Kaiser Van Dam, Lynn Hendges

Members of the public: Laurel Burchfield, Eric Hufnagel

- 1. Approval of agenda - Patrick moved to approve the agenda and Rachel seconded. The agenda was approved.**
- 2. Approval of September minutes – Patrick moved to approve the minutes and Rachel seconded. The minutes were approved.**
- 3. Public Comment – there were no public comments**
- 4. 2019 Annual Report**
- 5. Next steps/work in progress from action plan – Denny asked a question about criminal history and the impact on housing and work that is happening in Minneapolis and how much focus there will be at criminal history screening, and drivers of why BIPOC folks are more likely to become homeless. Can we take advantage of this opportunity in conjunction with this research to look at this intersection. Kelly-added that this was a component in the Action Plan and MSHDA would love to look at new studies/data and how that can impact the work the MSHDA is doing. Crissa-criminal history makes it extremely difficult for BIPOC folks to get housing. Denny will share the report with the group. Paula asked if the group was looking at eviction rates in the RFP? Jason responded that we intentionally left the data sources vague for vendors to utilize. Patrick asked about who will review the RFP and Kelly responded that it will be reviewed by the racial equity group that has been crafting the RFP. Kelly invited any ICH members who would be interested in reviewing applications to reachout.**
- 6. EDP update – Kelly provided an update on the EDP. She said there is typically a 2 week lag between the data in HMIS and what is happening in the field. She will have end of month data for Oct next week. \$17 million has been distributed to 5200 families so far. About a month ago MSHDA started taking in direct applications from landlords from targeted counties across the state and so far MSHDA has received about 230 applications. Of that amount about 20 have received payments and another 50 that are in the payment process. MSDHA is pushing landlords to submit**

documentations faster to keep things moving as fast as possible. Kelly added that MSHDA has received some additional guidance about CRF funds can be incurred by 12/30 and then grantees have 6 weeks into 2021 to distribute checks. Kelly estimates that over \$58 of the \$60 million allocation will be spent. Detroit has brought on Wayne Metro to help process cases, and it looks like the full allocation of \$6.4 million will be spent out. MSHDA is planning to do a webinar for grantees to insure that grantees understand the program guidelines and what Phase 2 of the EDP program will look like and the need to loop in MDHHS and other local partners. Paula offered that MDHHS would like to co-author some guidance for the county offices so that they understand what is happening. Crissa asked if there will be another round of EDP funding? Kelly said that there will no longer be CRF funds, but there will be MSHDA ESG and CDBG CV funds that communities could use it will be at a smaller scale than is currently available. Denny asked if there was any changes in the paperwork? Kelly said that all of that is still the same, and there is still an option for folks to self-certify. Paula asked if there was any legislation on the federal level? Kelly responded that there 2 possible options include an increase in the ESG funding or a mortgage/rental relief program. Either programs are looking at \$75-100 billion in asks. Paula added that we could see some changes early next year with either of these programs. Rachel asked if there was any news on the CDC eviction ban? Kelly responded that she hasn't heard anything yet, but she is hopeful that would happen given that COVID rates are worse now than earlier this year. Rachel asked if there were any concerns about a looming crisis if the eviction moratorium ended. Kelly said that there is currently a push to drive as many folks as possible to the EDP program.

7. MSHDA ESG update – Next week MSHDA will be sending out notifications about round 2 funds for the ESG program, as well as some parameters for how the funding can be used. Up to 25% of the funds should be used for emergency shelter, at least 25% for prevention, and at least 35% for RRH, and different staffing positions to be established or the number of hours increased for existing staff. In particular for landlord engagement so that the programs can use the additional dollars. MSHDA is going to fund \$2 million for legal assistance as part of the ESG program. Kris asked if Legal Services would be grantees? Kelly confirmed that they would be direct grantees. Kelly said that there would be a \$2 million grant to the state bar association.
8. COVID testing update – Lynn provided an update on COVID. Testing is continuing with Honu and the shelters who are working with Honu are testing one or two week increments. To date there have been about 350 confirmed cases. Honu is also testing shelter staff because hospital systems in some areas are not testing folks who are asymptomatic. Honu is also testing PSH, youth, and DV providers as well. MDHHS is still encouraging more providers to take advantage of the program. There are some challenges with getting Honu teams to the UP to increase capacity. In general testing is going well. Kris asked a question if a guest refused to be tested and are not displaying symptoms if a shelter could turn them away? Lynn responded that shelters are being advised to not turn folks away, and MDHHS has been encouraging providers to continue using the screening protocols. In general testing results is coming back in 3 days. Denny asked if there are dollars available for shelters to expand capacity to

allow for social distancing? Lynn responded that an ESP grantee can bill as much as they need to up front, however that does raise the issue of what happens when the funding expires. MDHHS is looking a mechanism to supply some additional funding for shelters to allow them to increase their capacity. The current per diem is \$18. MDHHS is encouraging shelter providers to explore different models to respond to COVID.

MDHHS has been very focused on providing local governments, shelters, and emergency managers with information around the capacity issues they could be facing because of reduced capacity within the shelter system. MDHHS wants to insure that this doesn't fall off the radar because of the recent increase in COVID cases across the state. Kris asked how we support communities to cover the additional costs they face while maintaining social distancing? Kelly responded that for ESG round 2 MSHDA is willing to discuss with communities their sheltering needs. MSDHA is asking for communities to identify other plans besides hoteling folks. She added that the reason for the emphasis on RRH dollars is to house people as quickly as possible. Lynn added that there is an opportunity to take this crisis and have conversations about braiding funding.

Lynn added that Health Departments have an ample supply of flu vaccines and are encouraging shelters to host flu shot events.

The state is still getting donations of PPE and the hubs are continuing to distribute supplies. And there is a push to build up a stockpile of supplies in case things get tough over the next couple of months.

9. State ID Taskforce update – Laurel said that the State ID Taskforce has reconvened because of issues with obtaining IDs and Social Security cards. Laurel said that the feedback so far from communities across the state is that some communities are getting better access to IDs and others are a work in progress. Similarly, Social Security offices are also responding disparately. Next ID Taskforce meeting is Weds at 2 pm. Jason can share the meeting link. Rachel asked if the Taskforce if there is any interest in getting any changes in the proof documents. Laurel responded that is an ongoing need. She added that the Taskforce is also exploring offering the fee waiver online.
10. Budget/policy priorities – Paula stated that the governor's office is working on the State of the State and policy priorities and this would be a good opportunity for ICH to submit some asks to the Governor's office so that our asks are on the radar. Rachel added that this year the timing is perfect, although in future years we may need to look at October. She added that if there are any asks for less than \$500,000 in the budget this would be a good year to make those asks. Cylenthia asked about the asks we made last year, and that it would be good to have these check-ins more regularly. Paula added that the reason the Birth Certificate program was funded was because of the letter that was sent. Paula mentioned that ICH could also identify redistributing existing funding is also possible- in particular looking at TANF funds. She added that eviction diversion is a high priority to insure that the work can continue into next year. Kelly agreed that this would be great to have this as part of an annual process, and that we could reach out to MHPC to see if members would be interested in

participating. Cylenthia said she would be interested in participating in the conversation. Kelly asked members to reach out to Jason if they are interested in participating in the group. Cylenthia thanked members for sharing information about the CAM. Group members so far: Cylenthia, Paula, Kris, Rachel, Laurel

11. Adjourn – Paula moved to adjourn and Kris seconded. The motion was approved.