



MICHIGAN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS AGENDA
December 20, 2021
2:00 p.m., Zoom Webinar
Registration Link: <https://michigan-host.zoom.us/j/84519418891>

Attendees: Kelly Rose, Erika Hoover, Lynn Hedges, Kelly Wilcox, Ryan Hertz, Phil Cavanaugh, Kris Brady

Members of the general public: Lisa Chapman, Christina Soulard, Jason Weller, Lisa Kemmis, Eric Hufnagel, David LaLone, Erica Munchbach, Lindsey Bishop Gilmore,

Regrets: Paula Kaiser Van Dam, Michelle Williams, Cylenthia LaToye Miller

1. Approval of Agenda – Kelly
Phil moved to approve. Ryan seconded.
2. Approval of September Minutes – Kelly
Phil moved to approve. Erika seconded.
3. Public Comment
Erica Munchbach shared that she is working with a new non-profit, Jubilee, focused on permanent supportive housing in the Lansing area. Kelly offered that Jason could reach out to them to get their contact information and to ensure they are connected with the Lansing network as well as the work of the MCTEH.
4. Status of membership renewals – Kelly (5 mins)
 - a. Any general public members who won't be renewing their membership?
Kelly shared that a number of members have terms expiring at the end of January in 2022. She shared that Phil has decided to resign from the ICH and will not be seeking to renew his membership. She added that she appreciated all the work that Phil has contributed to the ICH since its formation. She added that we haven't heard from anybody else, so we are assuming that other members will be seeking to renew. She added that we expect that folks who are current members would continue to serve until we receive confirmation from the Governor's office.
5. Update on C4 Innovations contract – Jason (5 mins)
 - a. Contract runs from January 1, 2022-June 30th, 2023
 - b. C4 has proposed a joint meeting with the ICH and MHPC for January 24th (time TBD)
Kelly shared that MSHDA is in the process of finalizing the contract with C4 for an amount of \$550,000 to conduct Racial Equity Strategic Planning work to transform the MCTEH through a racial equity lens. Jason shared that the term of the contract will be January 1st 2022 through June 30th, 2023. And C4 is hoping to schedule a joint meeting between the ICH and the MHPC on January 24th in the early afternoon. He asked if anybody knew of any standing conflicts at that time. Kelly added that it will be helpful to have that joint meeting and if needed we could ask C4 to give an update at the March ICH meeting.
6. Review and approval of the 2022-2023 Policy Priorities – Lisa (15-20 mins)
 - \$26 million in funding for supportive services
 - \$3 million in funding for Runaway and Homeless Youth programs

- \$1 million in funding for match
- \$1 million in funding for shelter diversion
- \$5.25 million in funding for the Michigan Rental Housing Partnership Trust Fund (RHPTF)
- Source of income protections

Kelly shared that these policies are the slate of proposals that have been moved forward by the MHPC. Lisa shared that the policy workgroup started with 8 policy and 8 budget proposals. (See the full draft of the letter below in Appendix A). Kelly shared that the plan is to share the letter with the policy staff from the Governor's office, as well as the Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARP) dollars via the legislature. She added that it's important that the ICH let the Governor's office know about additional things that could be done to impact homelessness.

7. Priorities that weren't included in the letter but could be further explored in 2022 –Kelly (10-15 mins)

- Legal Aid Support continued funding past CERA/expansion and continuation of eviction diversion programs
- Waive State ID Fees for Homeless Online Applications
- Allow Homeless Specialty Court Programs to Waive Driver's License Clearance Fees
- Right to Counsel for Tenants
- Pilot mental health ride-alongs
- Flexible funding and Microloan accounts for people experiencing homelessness

Kelly said that as Lisa mentioned there were a number of policies that weren't moved forward for the letter. She added that it's become clear that \$1 billion for CERA won't be enough. She added that she is hopeful we can continue the relationships with our partners in the field, as well as Legal Aid. If MSHDA is given community and housing development fund dollars there is the possibility of using some of them towards this program, which is supported by the Poverty Taskforce as well. The second item is the waiver for online State ID applications. A few years ago we were able to pass legislation for folks who applied for State IDs in person. And while the MISOS is now allowing people to come into the offices in person, this change would increase accessibility. She added that the next item is something that Cylenphia has brought to the ICH in the past. She added that this is something that would involve finding funding that would allow folks to keep their license. Kelly said that next on the list is Right to Counsel which is an idea that will likely be costly, however it is something that we know would have a huge impact. Approximately, 10% of tenants have representation while 95% landlords have representation. Kelly asked if Lisa had any insight about the Mental Health Ride-Alongs. Lisa said that she didn't have the details, but it's something that is being piloted in Detroit. Kelly added that her understanding of the program is having social workers doing outreach work with law enforcement, and this approach can lead to some better outcomes. Lindsey added that the discussion was focused around program models in Houston and some other communities nationally. Kelly said that she wasn't familiar with the final item on the list, flexible funding and microloans for people experiencing homelessness. Jason responded that it was something Sarah brought up within the group, and that we could get more clarity about the program from her in the future. Kelly added, that the point of going over these priorities is so that the ICH doesn't lose track of them. Lisa added that during a webinar MCAH hosted last week there was discussion of sealing and expunging evictions. Kelly said that would be another great topic to add to the list. Kelly asked if there were any other additions to the list or had any responses to these ideas. She added that we will keep the group updated about how things progress with the Governor's office.

8. Review of the 2020-2022 Action Plan Dashboard – Jason (15-20 mins)

Kelly said that a workgroup has been creating a public facing dashboard tool to track how things are progressing with the Action Plan. She added that ideally we would like to make the dashboard public facing soon so that we have a more transparent process. She added some of the items within the Action Plan had to move around because of the additional funding we received via the ARP program. Jason shared that the Action Plan Implementation workgroup had been meeting for several months and were attempting to capitalize on the success of the MCTEH Action Plan Blueprint that was created in the

summer of this year. He shared that the color coding is currently as follows within the document: Green=work that is underway, yellow=work we expect to commence within 6 months, and red=work that hasn't started yet.

a. What is missing?

Erika asked if there was a color code beyond what was shared. In particular to denote things that are ongoing versus things that are completed. Ryan added that it would be helpful to distinguish between things that haven't started vs things that are off the timeline (something like a red for hasn't started and an orange for hasn't started and is way overdue). Lisa asked if there was a way to track the outcomes in more detail for things that we've accomplished for example listing the number of housing units created under the LITHC program. Kelly added that it would be helpful to report the related outcomes. Lindsey asked what is the best case scenario we are trying to get to with the dashboard? Jason responded that this something which would be updated regularly, and we would review the dashboard at the ICH meetings. Erika, asked if there was a way to distinguish between the things that were ongoing vs the items that are completed. Kelly added that there are some items that we can clarify the things that are done and add the corresponding data. Erika said that a state legislator, or somebody, who is outside of the work sees this they may have more detailed questions about how we are doing, and would like to know between the things which we haven't started yet. Kelly Wilcox asked if this was based on calendar years and not fiscal year. Kelly Rose responded that it's based on the calendar year.

b. Should we make this a regular agenda item for 2022 ICH meetings?

Jason said that the plan is to incorporate updates on a quarterly basis so that this can become a regular agenda item for 2022.

c. Replicability going beyond 2022?

9. ARPA funding updates – all (5-10 mins)

Kelly shared a link to the HUD EHV dashboard:

<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiyU4MzlkNzEtM2MxZi00ZjhjLTkyNTYjI2OWUzZjA0YTlwlwiwidCI6ljYxNTUyNGM1LTlyZTktNGJjZC1hODkzLTExODBhNTNmYzdiMij9>

She added that to date Michigan is farther ahead than many of states with using the EHV program. Kelly shared that on a recent HUD call there was a question about how Michigan is getting so far ahead, and she shared that Michigan utilizes the EHV model all the time. Kelly added that 1/3 of the ERA 2 funds have been secured. She said that there was additional language that was added to the boilerplate that will make administering the program more difficult. The main item is the removal of self attestation for income. MSHDA is offering a webinar Wednesday morning to walk program participants through the changes. The ERA 2 funding will be used starting in January. She added that there will be coordination in place between ERA 1 and ERA 2 funding to ensure that households who can't be served by ERA 2 are able to access ERA 1. She added that for the HOME ARP program MSHDA is moving forward with hosting a series of focus groups to identify the best uses for this funding. MSHDA will eventually release a NOFA for the different uses of the HOME ARP program. She added that there will be a focus on geographic dispersal for the funding to ensure that there are projects in Northern Michigan and the UP. Lindsey asked if we have a sense of the other ARP resources that touch on homelessness are being utilized. Kelly responded that Michelle from MDE has given some updates in the past, but that is something we can circle back with her for updates.

10. Roundtable – all (10 mins)

Kelly asked if anybody had additional updates to the share with the group.

Erika shared that she has been working with Carly Huffman and others around the initiative about ending Veterans homelessness. She said that the Governor's work around ending Veterans suicide has been engaging more with homeless service providers, and there is some exploration around what additional resources are needed. She said that the team is hoping to be able to provide an update in the near future about the work of group. Kelly added that this is good news as there is sustainable funding going through the VA for these resources, and it would be good reenergize that system and get more people connected to it is helpful.

Phil shared that he is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the ICH, and he thanked Kelly for her leadership. Kelly responded that she is thankful for his initial support in getting the ICH created and his continued support over the years that he was part of the group.

11. Adjourn

Ryan moved to adjourn. Erika seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:14.

Appendix A (text from MCTEH priorities letter)

Permanent Supportive Housing Services (\$26 million). Supportive Housing has been proven to end the cycles of homelessness and involvement with the justice system by connecting the most marginalized households, people experiencing long term homelessness with a disability to affordable housing with tenant-centered, flexible services. With the influx of federal housing resources, such as Emergency Housing Vouchers and HOME American Rescue Plan funding, there is an opportunity to reduce homelessness in MI, ensuring that households that are the most marginalized in our communities stay stably housed and avoid re-entry to homelessness. To accomplish this, an investment in flexible supportive services for PSH tenants is necessary. Currently, funding for PSH supportive services is limited and often times a braided mix of federal Continuum of Care funding, local government funding such as CDBG, philanthropy resources, and on a very limited scale, Medicaid re-imburement. In 2019, statewide data revealed that 6,625 households experienced chronic homelessness. A \$26 million funding commitment for Supportive Housing services over a three-year period would serve approximately 1,100 households. These households would include families whose children are at-risk of being placed in out-of-home care or are working toward reunification, and for youth aging out of foster care.

Funding for unaccompanied homeless youth and runaway programs (\$3 million). In recent years, contracted agencies have been recognized with a modest budget-line increase for the first time since 2001, which helped enhance workforce retention, facility improvements, youth services, and staff training. While appreciated, we view this as an initial step for re-building a stronger statewide network to help youth and families. Therefore, we are asking to maintain the recent budget increase along with an additional 3 million dollars to continue these efforts and keep pace with the increasing demand for more complex services. This is the first step to ensure that every young person experiencing homelessness can access quality services anywhere in Michigan. This funding increase would be used for 3 purposes. First, it would allow agencies to increase staff retention through payroll incentives and professional development. Offering staff free training on evidence-based interventions enhances staff recruitment efforts, incentivizes current staff, and increases positive outcomes for youth and families. Second, agencies could continue to provide homeless prevention, mental health services and crisis intervention to homeless and runaway youth with complex needs. Lastly, agencies could continue to provide transitional housing and life skills training for homeless youth ages 16-21. Over the past 18 months, runaway and homeless youth shelters across our State have continued to provide safe shelter and crisis intervention for homeless and vulnerable youth, despite the significant increase in operational costs due to pandemic guidelines, increased youth needs, and dramatically rising instability of essential staffing.

Help Localities Meet Match Requirements for Federal Grants (\$1 million). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides Continuum of Care grants to local communities for programs serving homeless individuals and families. Many local governments and non-profits are unable to participate in this program due to not being able to meet the 25% matching requirement. Recently, this has resulted in the loss of housing for chronically homeless disabled persons across the state. Our intention is to allow service providers to scale programs based on community need versus budgetary restrictions. We recommend establishing a pot of funding in MDHHS that local governments and non-profits who have successfully administered projects could apply for to meet this need. Due to the difficulties smaller communities have in finding match funding, we recommend not putting a cap on the

amount a community can apply for. The result is that local governments and non-profits are not applying for the full array of grant resources that are needed. Along the same lines, local governments and non-profits could apply for up to the full amount of required match to ensure that they will be able to successfully implement be awarded and the new project. \$1 million in match funding secures \$4 million in HUD funding which equals a total of \$5 million for services. We anticipate that we could serve 4-8 communities with these funds.

Expand Shelter Diversion (\$1 million). Housing instability caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will have a long-term effect on low-income families across Michigan. Shelter diversion is a best practice currently used in some parts of the state to assist individuals and families with finding stable housing situations as an alternative to Emergency shelter placement. This diversion practice results in positive outcomes (especially for families) with minimal investment. We recommend appropriating funding that can be used in Homeless Assistance Resource Agencies (HARAs) and shelters across the state to support diversion education, training and resources for staff and provide funds for barrier resolution. Communities currently have limited access to funding for diversion activities and often have to reallocate scarce resources for emergency housing services to diversion programming. Expanded diversion funding would allow MDHHS to provide statewide training and program development to ensure a broad and consistent implementation of diversion activities based on national best practices. This funding would allow local communities to implement diversion practices with flexible funding that could be used to resolve common barriers to permanent housing for families. This funding would also provide a statewide evaluation of diversion program implementation to determine efficacy.

The Michigan Rental Housing Partnership Trust Fund (RHPTF) (\$5.25 million). The Michigan Rental Housing Partnership Trust Fund will be created in MI law and manage a Statewide Rental Housing Partnership Council which will be composed of stakeholders including tenants, landlords, persons with lived experience (homelessness), property management companies, developers, county and local government, court systems, human service providers and funders (e.g., CoCs, MDHHS, MSHDA, etc.), and subject matter experts. The RHPTF will pursue the creation and implementation of various tools developed to address a range of issues adversely affecting rental households and housing availability, including a Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund. Functions of the RHPTF will be to foster and guide constructive dialog, conduct collaborative problem-solving, provide training, technical assistance and support between and on behalf of, residential housing tenants and landlords. The RHPTF will receive an initial state appropriation for its establishment. Its funding will be perpetuated and sustained by interest income from a restricted trust fund, direct donations, grants, and potentially specialty license plate sales, an income tax check-off and other fundraising.

Source of Income Protections – This is a complementary effort to Landlord Loss Mitigation Fund to encourage Landlords to accept Housing Choice Vouchers, public entitlement benefits and income sources. The national Fair Housing Act provides protections for 7 protected classes – Race, Color, Religion, Sex, Handicap, Familial Status, and National Origin. Source of income is not protected under this act, nor is it protected under the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. In fact, nationally, only one in three voucher holders are protected by non-discrimination laws. In addition to limiting the stock of affordable rental units to HCV holders, source of income discrimination can limit a low-income renters' mobility and ability to live in the community of their choosing, resulting in maintaining or furthering segregation in our communities.