Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network

Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2018

City Rescue Mission

9am

Meeting called to order 906am

**Introductions:**

Sharon Dade, Liza Rios, Katrina Urista, Meaghan Redd, Susan Cancro, Jessica Lamson, Rich Howard, Jeff Cook, MDHHS, Rose Taphouse, Jennifer McMahon, Doris Witherspoon, Cindi Borgman, Jenny Leaf, Toni Young, Mark Criss, Joan Johnson Jackson, Gabriel Biber, Erin Roberts

**Minutes Approval**

Moved to approve the minutes for March and April at the May Board Meeting.

**Additions to the Agenda**

None.

**Chair Report - Sharon**

The Treasurer and Finance Committee have recently become aware of some financial discrepancies. To ensure that we have been transparent in making the board aware we wanted to share a few things. In the last year or year and half we became a 501c3, and are realizing, we need to strengthen policies around finance. We are currently working to finalize a Cash Handling policy and then will work toward more Financial Policies.

**Approval of Amendment to Coordinated Entry**

Coordinated Entry policy was due in January. It was finished, but was a moving target and we need to make an update. This goes to the heart of how we work together and how the public gets services in a coordinated fashion. This should be making the services more accessible and easier to get to the public. Policy was submitted to MSHDA in January. We need to update the policy to get some ESG standards into the CE policy.

We need a motion to add the ESG standards to the CE policy.

Doris so moved. Susan Seconded.

All in favor.

**Strategic Planning Committee Report**

Jessica gave the update instead of Toni due to her involvement in the mission and vision process.

In March we began looking at the vision and mission and decided to take it to the network and then go from there. The Network meeting was then used to get agencies on board and get them involved. Jessica lead through a two hour workshop.

Out of the mission and vision workshop, we had four groups develop four draft mission statements. Everyone wanted to work a bit more on those statements. We will be sending those out today, to the network. They will review them and then hone them and send back with their suggestions. From there we will take final network vote. Another piece of that discussion will be changing the name of the Network and going forward from there.

In the mission statements you will see where the mindset is of the four groups. We will come up with something collaborative out of that meeting.

We talked about creating a rolling three to five year strategic plan to come back to on an annual basis and continue adding to it and honing the strategic plan for the GLHRN.

Reviewing mission and vision statements on a regular basis. It’s a bit harder this time thru since we haven’t done the work in a while.

All of Ingham county is who we serve. We also serve a much larger population. Homelessness is a function of poverty. We are a member organization, and we compared to Power of WE which had lost its way in the community and is trying to reboot. Our cooperation in that reboot is important.

We don’t want to end up the same way that Power of We is. We changed our membership structure last year and have moved things forward and made this a bit more real .

Joan is glad you are operating with open eyes and helping people feel included not excluded. Including East Lansing in who should be at the table and who should be here.

Last strategic plan we had was to end homelessness. This is the first time we have felt that we had our own motivation to create our own plan.

HHS and network have been bridged together at this time and will see how that works.

**CQI Committee Report**

MSHDA CAPERS and outcomes this month. The bonus dollars, pay for performance will be reviewed.

Next month we will look at the outcomes and see where we should really be. The ones we are meeting way above and beyond. Maybe changing those to more accurately reflect our work.

**Finance Committee**

We had the meeting to decide City ESG funding. We decide by consensus. It’s not a strict vote although the ranking and review is a good starting point and how we get to the funding being allocated. There were some new voices and fresh eyes, bringing some good points to consider for the next round of grants.

VOA scored the highest.

Performance should be considered. If the agencies get a lot of their budget what does this look like in terms of what happens if we don’t get this money.

So few sources for funding for shelter, we have to prioritize for actual shelter essentials, and then the additional bonuses are there. If we move toward innovative ideas, this is probably not the best place to introduce them. This grant is more for keeping roofs over the heads and food on the tables.

Move innovative things off the grant process and application next year.

We need to put together a spreadsheet of total monies available to the community and how that works.

Joan shared that at the budget hearing last night, a council person thinks that we are ignoring seniors and too much money is going into homelessness. Joan is working to correct the communication regarding where the monies are going and why. She is working to communicate to the council of how the monies are affecting homelessness.

You can email straight to the Mayor. He needs to hear from you regarding what is important and how things have been done. Homelessness is influenced by many things. Its reach is huge and you need to get to the Mayor and remind him of your hard work.

There is some talk of excluding East Lansing agencies because they don’t bring a lot to the table. Joan is arguing against this but our voices need to be heard.

Without the shelter community, locally, many people would not have been able to make it back. The faith based community rallied together for those at risk.

A motion from the Board

We are approving the percentages.

Motion to accept the Finance Committee recommendation for the following percentages

Prevention 30%

Outreach 3%

HMIS 3%

Admin 7%

VOA 19 %

Eve 6.5%

MMRS 13%

GTWY 5.5%

LF 6.5%  
HH 6.5%

Liza makes the motion with all the percentages

Erin seconds

*Discussion*

Doris asks if there is room to adjust the percentages. Is there other funding in the community for outreach? Denise Dunn is running COC for Clinton and Eaton county. If we don’t value the PATH grant for Ingham county. We need to be looking at the PATH grant. Ingham County gets a portion designated to them.

PATH meetings; Susan is going to represent Ingham county with this

C&F has a federal grant for about $144,000 for specific areas.

Rose – it would be nice to get a broad picture of what everyone is getting. A lot of the money has to be on the street

Doris was wondering about taking some outreach money and moving it to ESG money.

No further discussion.

All in favor.

Motion Passed.

We need to as a group, think about what we are asking for. The first layer to pull out is what the COC is in charge of deciding and how they use that money.

Being transparent. Let’s all share information and then be more trusting in sharing that information.

Just start somewhere and lay it out somewhere.

Who gets FEMA dollars and what does it get used for?

There is a problem with people getting funded and not being transparent. Where it asks in the application where the funding comes from. Agencies are not sharing all of the money they are receiving.

There is something the fiduciary is not seeing. FEMA money, etc.

Keep this discussion on the table. Lets keep moving forward with this…

If we are looking at gaps and services in the community how can we do this if we don’t all share.

**Human services/Network meeting**

Last human services meeting at GATEWAY.

Human services had their last meeting. Gateway community services. Tanisha presented a spectrum for their services. They all got a tour of the building.

Next network meeting will speak to Coordinated Entry.

**Membership Committee**

Really need another one or two board members on the committee. Need to work on recruiting. Working on the website, scratched some stuff out and are making changes to the website and moving forward.

Who is a member? Who has paid? Training that has to happen.

Orientation for Board member

Joan reiterates City of Lansing dollars to pay membership cannot be more than $200 dollars.

Rich volunteered to help with membership committee. They are charged with board orientation.

**Veterans Committee Update**

They are wanting to meet with Beverly regarding the program. They keep coming back and asking for more data. They are able to meet with her next week while she is in town. They are having lunch with her on Monday to work thru that. Tiana, Matt, Toni, Julie to talk with her about the situation and try to reach an agreement on numbers and make her aware that the veterans are coming from 22 counties and that they will always have homeless veterans on this committee.

**Move Up Voucher**

Our community received 50 move up vouchers. They are specific to people who are coming out of PSH community. We feel and agree that they are no longer in need of case management. When people move up with a voucher, they cannot return to the PSH program so they are being very intentional about their choices. So far seven have been approved. Three have been pulled and are approved. All PSH providers are in the room.

This has allowed them to speak collaboratively to use the resources in the community. There are very detailed agreements. This opens places in the PSH program and allows them to be filled with the chronically homeless.

We are tough in reviewing the PSH participants ready to move up and get them ready since they can’t come back. How do we standardize PSH that ensures people get ready to move on. What is the expectation of PSH and what they do while they are in PSH. This will help everyone prepare across the board the same way.

**Veterans Stand Down**.

May 23, 2018 At Riverfront Park. Not a part of Community Connect, this event is in November.

If you want to be an agency that is present at the Stand Down, please call Renee Jones or go on the website and sign up. Volunteers are still needed.

**Coordinated Entry Agency Report**

30 names pulled from the homeless choice voucher report.

**MSHDA Grant**

Current NOFA is out for MSHDA. Please read the new NOFA and look thru what that looks like. The money things are changing. 1% of their income is going to have to be paid to their rent arrearages.

There is some advocating we can do. Still waiting on a report from Region 7. Perhaps next month.

Many have staff that attend. 30 vouchers have been pulled for April. We are having security deposit issues. They have zero income but no way to get the money for deposits.

DHS has no consistency with the messages from the staff.

Ex mission guests Mark could maybe use the benevolent fund to pay for deposits.

VOA has requested a fiduciary change to move some money from RRH to security deposits.

Jeff from DHS wants to know about these things, and he will follow up on these things.

**The National Homelessness Project**

HUD counts a high number of unsheltered homeless. All major cities were counted.

If you let us know where we need to sit and when our voices need to be heard, we can for sure share about what is going on at our levels.

Lansing is the best bargain in the nation for shelter. We need more money for shelter. There is money on the table for $4 a night increase. Take more advantage of homeless month and awareness.

Community Connect is taking place in November. Rose will work with City of Lansing to see and try to add other options to see and make more aware.

What if at each of our agencies we committed to having something in the public including how you can help.

**Website**

What if we could videotape the network meetings. Add a glossary. Add more information

Training and information purposes. We are working on the website to make this update. Matt has generously donated his work on revamping the website. An external portion, service to community portion, and an internal portion.

We have been in conversation to make that website a place to make more information available. Using facebook live if we have to. We are talking about trying to get the information out to more people in more ways.

The website will become critical to the Coordinated entry policies. This is a priority.

Add email addresses to the website.

**Homeless Awareness Week**

Established an ad hoc committee to coordinate homeless awareness week. The Committee will be led by the City of Lansing.

Members who Volunteered:Mark, Joan., Liza, Joan, Susan, Cindi, Jennifer, Gabriel, Rose, Jessica.

Possibly holding it at the Lansing Center.

**City of Lansing Reports**

Please get your reports in on time. We issue checks twice a year.

MSHDA NOFA, HUD NOFA will be out, grants are ending.

HMIS lead, please make sure your HMIS corrections are done timely. The City takes on some of those expenses. We pay an annual fee and a monthly fee for HMIS.

We need the corrections done timely. We don’t want to pay someone to do the work over and over again. Matt will be at the next Board meeting.

**VAWA policy**

Erin has worked on this proposal.

We will need a vote.

Violence Against Woman Act. At the March Meeting, we shared the policy, which we used a template from HUD.

The VAWA committee added a few more things to make sure it was client centered and gave them the ability to make some decisions when they have been a victim. Just some moderate language changes.

It is for the housing providers to adopt. It’s a recommended policy for GLHRN to use to recommend to their agencies to put into place.

Its suggested to use this policy, but the VAWA requirement is mandated.

We could have the plan centralized. It could be done uniformly. Each agency would have to adopt the policy and then go from there.

Adopted at this meeting. Due May 1 to the agencies involved.

EVE is 100% behind supporting the process

This is exactly what you want an advocate to utilize the policy. The advocates are there to represent the rights of the victim.

GLHRN should send a letter out to the housing providers. The notice, the grid, the emergency transfer plan and the form. The letter should indicate that this must be in place by May 1. This also will explain the role of the advocate and EVE role.

Contact Legal services if your right has been denied.

Motion to adopt the policy,

Erin moves adopt the plan. Rose seconds.

Mark This includes our system. We have a couple a year. Theoretically I am in favor, in practice I am against it.

Erin, we have plenty of resources and are able

EVE is open to opening this pandora’s box. This third party is helpful. That’s what EVE does. They work to receive the victim and will assist them.

We also need a motion to accept the process that the GLHRN

Motion and a second to accept the emergency transfer plan for VAWA . All in favor. Yes. None opposed.

Motion for process to inform folks of the responsibility they have. Send a letter from the GLHRN that will have a packet of all the correct forms and information with a cover letter than says this is what you are responsible for doing. This way everyone is informed. It will help in audits.

Sharon will draft, Erin and Liza will help.

Liza seconds motion.

All in favor, none opposed motion passed.

**LGBTQ draft policy**

HUD has all the language and history of what they need in a policy. This will go out to the board, Jennifer is going to put a policy together. How to address these issues and how do we change this and what is the policy?

Jennifer would like case examples or a struggle you’ve had, please get her some feedback.

Small focus group mid May, Jennifer would like your info and case notes by then. She will send email to the board.

**Old Business**

City Rescue Mission - the Clinton Shiawassee School purchase is not moving forward. They are still meeting with the committee to keep talking about the schoo in Ovid. If the developer can’t fund the school redo, they would get the school. It was a good study good effort. If the school opens again we would get back in the race.

**New Business**

Liza – The report on the data collection Eviction program is finished. Data results discussion May 9 at the District Court at city hall. The report is good, the data is good. Liza is excited it shows that the program works and that it should be expanded.

Report we could publish on our website. We could link to our website. The work we’ve been doing, with eviction diversion.

We should be documenting best practices. We should be standing at a summit or something saying, we need to start with our own city council.

Rose found a new supplier Helping Women Period

Jessica – They are looking to loosen confidentiality on substance abuse for patients. Which would allow important advocate for additional privacy rules.

Gabriel, City of East Lansing is cutting all funding for all human services agencies. If you want to speak against that 7pm, Wed, May 9. They are addressing and reviewing the budget at this meeting. Please get in touch with Gabriel and let him know

Joan – Feed the Babies, Keep Them Dry is May 12 at Lansing Catholic. Must register in advance. Pushing cloth diapers.

Erin – Thursday at Capital Survivor and ally day. Hosted by two Senators. Erin will send the email.

She really am leaving. May 31 is last day. Erin is going to work for the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic Violence. Its been an honor and privilege to come to meetings.

Jessica made motion to adjourn.

Adjourned. 11:16