



Homeless Coalition of Greater Battle Creek & Calhoun County

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12pm – 1pm
Location: Zoom Call

1. Welcome and Introductions – Maggie Honaker

- Please subscribe to the Homeless Coalition Listserv for the most updated information from this coalition: <http://eepurl.com/cwoyDP>
- New team members?
- Additions to the Agenda?

2. Training & Presentations

- Lee Talmage, Battle Creek Housing Commission

3. Housing Solutions Board Update to General Membership – Maggie Honaker

- Board meets on Friday, 5/21. Primary topic will be the Calhoun County HARA process.

4. New Business

- COVID-19 Grant Funding
 - United Way Disaster Relief Fund program is OPEN. UW reviews applications weekly. For additional information on categories and a copy of the application, please visit: <https://changethestory.org/disaster-relief/>
 - CERA (Covid Emergency Rental Assistance) program has officially started, and will continue through at least September 2021. Partners include Summit Pointe, Community Action, and Neighborhoods, Inc. **Call 269-966-1538 for assistance** or visit <https://ceraapp.michigan.gov>
 1. Covid hardship (unemployment, lost income, increased expenses)
 2. Risk of homelessness or housing instability (past due notices, notice to quit, conditional dismissal, etc.)
 3. Up to 80% of Area Median Income
 4. Up to 150% of Fair Market Rate
 5. Up to 13-15 months of rental assistance, based on eligibility
 6. Up to \$1500-2500 of utility assistance, based on eligibility
 7. Up to 6 months of internet stipend, based on eligibility
- Direct Services Update, incl coronavirus action plans – Ellen Lassiter Collier, Daniel Jones, Robert Elchert
 - Haven – at full capacity now. Kitchen/dining room opening in June. New MLRP session starting in June. WLRP is ongoing.
 - SAFE Place – N/A.
 - Battle Creek Homeless Shelter – New supervisor hired for day to day operations. Housing navigator through Albion Health Alliance – 2 days/week.
 - SHARE Center – Full capacity for services, good response with vaccination program. Life Skills class on Tuesdays at 1:00PM. Men’s and women’s groups have restarted. Cafeteria is open again (40), take-out also available. Trauma training complete for staff. All materials now translated into Spanish. Street outreach has been growing, including meeting with PD and other service providers.

- HARA (Summit Pointe Housing) Update – Whitney Wardell
 - N/A.
- Other HC Agencies' Updates
 - MiWorks SW (Patrick) – May 30, work search requirement is being reinstated for unemployment benefits. 1 work search event per week. Virtual workshops 3 days/week. <https://Michiganworkssouthwest.org>. Virtual hiring fairs also available.
 - United Way (Laurel) – Disaster Relief Fund, balance at \$17K with \$8K pending.

5. Updates on collaborative workgroups:

- **HMIS Data Quality User Group** – Whitney Wardell, Ashley Andrews
 - Meetings have resumed every other Wednesday at 3:00PM
 - Implementing coordinated entry through HMIS across the county
 - Looking as process to complete referrals online
 - New data standards from HUD
- **Veteran by Name List** – Hannah Patton, Cindy Carrier
 - Thursdays at 12:00PM weekly virtually
 - 12 vets on the list currently
 - No Vets Left Unhoused – waiting on review from Tiyanna Payne (VA) for certification
- **Interagency Services Team** – Ashley Andrews, Cindy Carrier
 - Every 4th Wednesday, virtually
 - Reevaluating meeting times
- **Rental Housing Roundtable** – Alisa Parker or Anna Moss
 - N/A
- **Income Increase / Employment** – Robert Elchert
 - Limited face-to-face contact
 - Available by appointment, 269-964-8133
 - Employment/Benefits Coaches on staff, including certified peer support
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- **Hunger Free Calhoun – Homeless** – Laurel Clark
 - Meeting on the 4th Monday of the month at 3:00PM.
 - Email Laurel Clark at lclark@uwbckr.org if interested in participating
 - Meal kits for school and non-school options
 - Fall project – mobile pantries
- **Calhoun County Connect & VA Stand Down 2020** – Laurel Clark/Ellen Lassiter Collier/Ian Pegg
 - Email Laurel Clark at lclark@uwbckr.org if interested in participating
 - First Wednesday of the month at 1:30PM
 - Tote distribution this year, adding services to distribution.
 - Blanket drive coming this summer
- **Street Outreach – PATH and Haven** – Ron Leigh, Christina Morgese, Todd Artis, Mitch Misiasz
 - Meeting at the SHARE Center monthly
 - Christina seeking referrals for service needs outside of Battle Creek
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- **Coordinated Entry System** – Maggie Honaker
 - HARA Application process is continuing forward.
 - Board presentations and Board Vote – May 21 meeting
 - Reminder: HUD Exchange has some great resources located under their COVID-19 Community Planning & Preparedness Page. <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-community-planning-and-preparedness>

6. Next Meeting

- June 15, 2021 @ 12:00PM via Zoom