



Homeless Coalition of Greater Battle Creek & Calhoun County

Tuesday, June 15, 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

- Nicole Snyder, Calhoun Intermediate School District

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

- The May Board meeting was focused on selecting a new HARA for Calhoun County. Neighborhoods Inc. of Battle Creek has been named as the new HARA and is currently completing the transition.
- Board meets on Friday, 6/18.

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
 8. Tenant AND Landlord email addresses are required for the portal.
- Direct Services Update – Ellen Lassiter Collier, Daniel Jones, Olivia Harvey, Robert Elchert
 - Haven – Roof Sit is this weekend (Friday, Saturday) – fundraiser for Inasmuch House. Carwash is back, outside only. Capacity still available at both Haven and Inasmuch House.
 - SAFE Place – no updates.
 - Battle Creek Homeless Shelter – Director of Operations and Administrator hired. Fully staffed now. Completing various trainings with staff. About 34 overnight guests.
 - SHARE Center – resources for families are ramping back up. TRHT racial healing circles have started. Community garden in progress. Translating all materials into Spanish.

- HARA (Neighborhoods Inc.) Update – Whitney Wardell, Kristyn Denison
 - Working to finalize transition
 - Calhoun County Housing Services (CCHS)
 - Focus on HCV Waitlist
 - Hiring – 2 full time positions – Housing Navigator and Housing Resource Specialist
- Other HC Agencies' Updates
 - No updates.

5. Updates on collaborative workgroups:

- **HMIS Data Quality User Group** – Ashley Andrews
 - Meetings have resumed every other Wednesday at 3:00PM
 - Working to update Coordinated Entry System, maintain data quality
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- **Veteran by Name List** – Hannah Patton, Cindy Carrier
 - Thursdays at 12:00PM weekly virtually
 - 13 currently on the list
- **Interagency Services Team** – Ashley Andrews, Cindy Carrier
 - Every 4th Wednesday, virtually
 - Working to find a time for all case managers to meet
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- **Rental Housing Roundtable** – Alisa Parker or Anna Moss
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- **Income Increase / Employment** – Robert Elchert
 - Limited face-to-face contact
 - Available by appointment, 269-964-8133
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- **Hunger Free Calhoun – Homeless** – Laurel Clark
 - Meeting on the 4th Monday of the month.
 - Email Laurel Clark at lclark@uwbckr.org if interested in participating
 - Meal Kits paired with meal distributions for school districts
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- **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 model
 - Blanket Drive ongoing. Contact Day One Health (Glen) for flyers.
- **Street Outreach – PATH and Haven** – Ron Leigh, Christina Morgese, Todd Artis, Mitch Misiasz
 - Meetings ongoing each week.
 - Looking for contacts in Albion
- **Coordinated Entry System** – Maggie Honaker
 - Truth Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) has recently come onboard with the CERA team to help lead community outreach and education across the county.
 - (5) Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) have been awarded to our county through MSHDA in addition to the EHV's being awarded to the BCHC. The Haven will be managing these vouchers.
 - MSHDA Emergency Solutions Grant and HUD Continuum of Care Grant will be coming in July. More news will be communicated once the applications are live.
 - The Calhoun County strategic plan is coming up for review this summer with the Housing Solutions Board. If you would like to be part of that endeavor, please contact Maggie Honaker at maggie@solveitforward.com.

- 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

- July 20, 2021 @ 12:00PM via Zoom