



Homeless Coalition of Greater Battle Creek & Calhoun County

Tuesday, February 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?
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- Additions to the Agenda?

2. Training & Presentations

- HOME ARPA Funds - City of Battle Creek, Chris Lussier
 - This particular program is City of Battle Creek limits only (Maggie to follow up with MSHDA on options to apply for funds for other Calhoun County locations)
 - Late February/Early March – Request for Proposals
 - Public Hearing targeted for April
 - Allocation plan must be approved by the City Commission

3. Grants

- COVID-19 Grant Funding
 - CERA (Covid Emergency Rental Assistance) program has officially started, and will continue through at least September 2021. Neighborhoods, Inc. has assumed responsibility for the program. 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. Must have rental arrears prior to December 20, 2021
 4. Up to 80% of Area Median Income
 5. Up to 150% of Fair Market Rate
 6. Up to 16-18 months of rental assistance, based on eligibility
 7. Up to \$1500-2500 of utility assistance, based on eligibility
 8. Up to 6 months of internet stipend, based on eligibility

4. Housing Solutions Board Update

- Most recent meeting was January 28, 2022
 - MSHDA Budget Review by Fiduciary, BCCF
 - Update on HOME-ARPA funds
 - EFSP applications are due Friday, February 18
 - Legal Services of South Central Michigan remains open throughout office renovations
 - Discussion on vacant rental properties in Battle Creek
- Next HSB board meeting is February 18, 2022 at 10:00AM

5. New Business

- Direct Services Update – Ellen Lassiter Collier, Daniel Jones, Olivia Harvey, Robert Elchert
 - Haven – Chris Bitgood is working with regional partners for VIP case management. Currently have 12 Veteran participants in VIP program. Women’s Life Recovery Program is now being led by Brenda Eppinger. InAsMuch House is now being led by Lisa Foley.
 - Battle Creek Shelter – Both men and women’s shelter is filled to capacity. Working with Haven for overflow.
 - SAFE Place – needs are changing daily relative to capacity at the shelter and overflow to hotels for high lethality and covid positive survivors. COVID tests being provided every Thursday to staff and guests seeking services with SAFE Place. SAFE Place is offering support in Albion at City Hall on Mondays from 9:30AM – 12:30PM.
 - SHARE Center – running at capacity. Recovery Coach is working at the SHARE Center on Tuesdays at 3:00PM. Pantry is now open in addition to Resource Room. Grant from Carewell Services is providing ADA door openers. Currently hiring underway for a receptionist (either 1 full-time or 2 part-time).
- HARA (Neighborhoods Inc.) Update – Whitney Wardell, Kristyn Denison
 - Currently managing ESG-CV grant for county, CDBG/TBRA for city of Battle Creek, HCV waitlist, and EHV’s with Battle Creek Housing Commission. HARA is beginning a process to provide services to the Albion community, working with Rod Auton. Next Rental Housing Roundtable is March 10 at 3:00PM.
- HC Agencies’ Updates
 - MCAH (Allison Green) – several training opportunities upcoming. Check MCAH website at <https://mihomeless.org/>

6. Updates on collaborative workgroups:

- **HMIS Data Quality User Group** – Whitney Wardell, Nancy Doyal
 - Meetings have resumed every other Wednesday at 3:00PM
 - Nancy is the HMIS Administrator for Calhoun County and the primary contact
 - All data from the PIT Count has been received and is being entered into HMIS
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- **Veteran by Name List** – Hannah Patton, Cindy Carrier
 - Thursdays at 12:00PM weekly virtually
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- **Interagency Services Team** – Maggie Honaker, Cindy Carrier
 - Need emails of case managers ASAP to Maggie Honaker
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- **Rental Housing Roundtable** – Whitney Wardell
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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
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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
 - February meeting went well. Looking at returning to an in-person event

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- **Street Outreach – PATH and Haven** –Ron Leigh, Christina Morgese, Todd Artis, Mitch Misiasz
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- **Coordinated Entry System** – Maggie Honaker
 - PIT Count was very successful. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with street outreach and meals at BC Shelter, Salvation Army, and SHARE Center.
 - Congratulations to Battle Creek Housing Commission and Calhoun County Housing Services for their success on Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV), second highest leasing rate in the state.
 - HOME ARPA funding opportunities upcoming.
 - 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>

7. Next Meeting

- March 15, 2022 @ 12:00PM via Zoom