

CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) BOARD

MARCH 17, 2021 | 3:00-5:00PM

ZOOM MEETING (LINK WILL BE SHARED VIA EMAIL)

Board Members present: J. Little, K. Girty, R. Weathers, R. Kraut, J. Mogensen, J. Epps, J. Hieftje, D. Heidt, J. Monahan, M. Conkin, S. Dowling, N. Adelman, J. Rosen, A. Patino, T. Lee, A. Carlisle, K. Montgomery, R. Smith, A. Seipelt, T. Gillotti, M. Tasker, K. Wyatt, D. Kelly, Z. Fosler, T. DeGiusti, J. Hall

Staff: M. Boydston, A. O'Toole, A. Kraemer, L. Grant

Members of the public: M. Brown, A. Asberry Payne, A. Scanlon, A. Lieto, B. Niess-May, H. Brown, M. Creekmore, M. Hammond, S. Collins

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
3:00pm	1. Call to Order J. Hieftje called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.
3:01pm	2. Welcome/Introductions
3:05pm	3. Public Comment No public comment.
3:10pm	4. Approval of Agenda (ACTION) M. Conkin moved to approve the agenda. D. Heidt seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.
3:12pm	5. Approval of Minutes (ACTION) J. Monahan moved to approve the minutes. D. Heidt seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.
3:15pm	6. Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) Technical Assistance & Workplan for Washtenaw County – Mercedes Brown, CSH CSH is a national nonprofit headquartered in New York, intended to provide housing supports, technical assistance, and advocacy for high quality supportive housing and services. CSH has been engaged with Washtenaw County for many years, working with Avalon Housing and the Continuum of Care, especially recently in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. CSH has been contracted with Washtenaw County for the explicit purpose of assisting with the pandemic response. CSH kicked off their work with Washtenaw County in Fall of 2020 to identify the most strategic opportunities where CSH could support the CoC. Initially, CSH spent a significant amount of time in 2020 assisting with the Eviction Diversion Program (EDP). CSH supported with standing that program up and ensuring it was implemented as effectively as possible under the timeline provided by the state.

Our focus beyond EDP was to do a few things: build out a strategy for deeper CoC Board engagement around long-term community priorities, especially as it relates to other sectors (health, justice, etc.). CSH has experience assisting with Board engagement, including in Detroit. CSH's intent is to figure out how to get the most out of the stakeholders on the CoC Board, All-Membership, and Committees.

CSH is in the process of planning with OCED on what Board engagement efforts will involve. It won't be focused on CoC strategic planning but instead focus on Board strategies and priorities. This will be an interactive process and will rely on the Board for feedback and will include both group engagement and one-on-one engagement. Lindsey Bishop-Gilmore of CSH will assist with this work as well.

T. Gillotti: our intent with this work is to make space for Board members to voice their opinions and thoughts and provide continuous feedback on the CoC's work and priorities.

A. Carlisle: Washtenaw CoC Board is large in comparison to other Boards, so having smaller breakout conversations would allow for more discussion than might happen in larger, traditional CoC Board meetings.

J. Mogensen: It would be helpful to provide learning opportunities as well for those who are not fully immersed in the work.

3:35pm

7. Homelessness System Modeling Report – *Amanda Carlisle, Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA)*

The report is not quite ready to share, but it is coming soon. The report came as a result of funding from MDHHS under the State Innovation Model program. That program allowed the CoC to partner with CSH to undertake a study of our community-wide data and meetings with stakeholders for input and feedback. Currently, WHA and CSH are working on finishing up the report as soon as possible.

The report includes a Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis of the homelessness system of care. The needs assessment reflects who has previously accessed our system and what kinds of support they need. In addition, the report outlines the types of resources are available in our community, what is needed, and how much it would cost to fill the gaps. The report includes a look at several of our housing programs and various subpopulations.

In general, the report finds deficits in nearly every program area for our system of care. The report will get into the details about the number of units that are needed for each program type.

Report will be finalized soon and will include both system and policy recommendations. The report will go to the CoC Board and other stakeholders and will likely also involve a broader rollout, including a community event and engagement with elected officials.

3:55pm

8. Systems Mapping for Aging and Older Adults – *Jillian Rosen, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation*

AAACF had the opportunity a few years ago to deeply engage with work related to Aging and Older Adults and partnered with Root Cause out of Boston, MA. This issue is critical currently given the heavy impact the pandemic has had on older adults.

Healthy aging includes promoting health, maintaining physical and mental functioning, and civic and social engagement. Study included an approach of tracing seniors lives to see what systems promoted healthy aging and which hindered them. The project used community researchers, focus groups, and virtual meetings. The project engaged a total of 70 older adults.

The aging period can last 20 to 40 years, often understood as beginning at age 55, though we are all constantly aging. This period includes momentum building and changes and shifts in how people connect with community.

The study developed a new definition of healthy and fulfilling aging in recognition of these facts and emphasizes aging justice that ensures healthy and fulfilling aging.

Aging involves many transitions for all older adults; however, geography, race, gender, and income exacerbates the impact of these transitions for some populations. Aging justice seeks to close those gaps.

AAACF's study identified key investment goals: solidifying more robust fields around healthy and fulfilling aging and aging justice; championing older adult capacity to influence systems change; shifting mindsets to prioritize aging, older adults, and systems change; advancing targeted solutions in priority aging areas.

For the fourth goal, CoC has an opportunity to assist with current gaps in the community, including transportation, community and connection spaces, affordable housing, and equitable access.

A Patino: the homeless population is aging exponentially fast and models for 2030 are startling, so this work is directly applicable to the CoC.

D. Kelly: Recuperative Care program has seen an increase of 40% of people 50 and up seeking shelter. Homelessness exacerbates medical issues as

well. There are many opportunities for our system and the shelter to be involved in this work.

J. Mogensen: as the pandemic comes to a close and society goes back to normal, seniors are still isolated. Transportation is a huge issue.

A Carlisle: Chicago did a report on the aging homeless population, many of whom were becoming homeless for the first time. The report found a gap in the 50-64 age range where there are not a ton of resources available.

4:10pm

9. COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Program Updates – *Morghan Williams Boydston (OCED), Marla Conkin (Salvation Army), and Rhonda Weathers (SOS Community Services)*

M. Williams: OCED received notice of the funding in January. On March 3, the Board of Commissioners approved the funding. There were some hold ups on the state level with appropriations. We have received the contract for the funding from the state. OCED is partnering with HAWC and SOS to implement the program.

MSHDA's program requirements outline a four-step process. This will include an online application that should streamline the process – landlords and tenants will have access to the application. The online application will hopefully be launched by the end of the month, and currently we have hard copies of the applications that can be used. We are working with Man Power to assist with staffing up the program (21 new staff are required). The application process is four steps, defined by MSHDA and executed through the online application. Rental assistance, utility assistance, and internet assistance is available. CERA can provide up to 15 months of assistance but is dependent on income.

M. Conkin: there are some staff currently onboard that will also assist with CERA. There are some open prevention cases that will be switched to CERA, which will be processed once funds are in hand. HAWC Court Liaison is present in all three County courts assisting with eviction prevention.

M. Boydston: once the program is live, we will share the link to the application and promotional materials.

T. Lee: if landlord is not responsive or cooperative, financial assistance can go directly to the tenant.

J. Hall: AAHC will also be administering two programs for vouchers that will result in similar problems with staffing. Vouchers can be in place through 2023. CoC and stakeholders should be strategic with how these programs can/should work together.

4:25pm

10. Winter Shelter Response Update – Dan Kelly (Shelter Association of Washtenaw County), Marla Conkin (Salvation Army), and Krista Girty (Ozone House)

D. Kelly: winter shelter still in place and SAWC has been working closely with community partners for ongoing shelter. Currently averaging 135 people per night across all sites, which is an 8% decrease from last year. Current sites include the LRC, SAWC, rotational shelter, and a hotel. In addition, currently operating a day shelter sight that averages about 65 people per day.

Successes throughout the winter include housing many individuals and families as quickly as possible. COVID-19 case counts remain fairly low. The Health Department has been critical in that effort. Vaccinations started as of last week. Moving forward, Packard will have a vaccination clinic every Monday and Wednesday.

We applied for hotel funding that will allow hotel operations to be extended through September. Current funding available will allow hotel to continue through April 30. Shelter will continue to operate a day shelter at the LRC; capacity at Delonis Center will increase by 18 beds.

M. Conkin: ESG-CV funds allowed for 15 COVID At-Risk families to be housed in the hotel. To date, 14 families have been served in the hotel and 10 have been referred to rapid re-housing with SOS Community Services. HAWC is working to create a plan for those who do not have housing lined up for when the hotel closes at the end of April.

D. Heidt: the community effort behind the shelter response was critical; thank you to the SAWC team, Health Department, OCED, community advocates, and all who have been involved.

D. Kelly: we are not able to tap into the FEMA money due to the initial process of attempting to access the money. It was a convoluted process that we were unable to tap into after months of effort.

A Carlisle: there have been issues with other communities with FEMA money as well.

T. Gillotti: we are still working to identify other funding sources that can be used to extend the hotel.

4:35pm

11. Recent Letters of Support Approved by the Executive Committee – Anna O’Toole, OCED

Between the January and March Board Meeting, the CoC Executive Committee approved three letters of support on behalf of the CoC Board. Those included two letters of support for applicants to the Michigan

	<p>Homeless Policy Council. One of those was for Morghan Williams Boydston, whose application was successful. The third letter was a public comment on MSHDA’s FY21-22 Public Housing Administrative Plan, which outlines the policies and procedures MSHDA follows for their voucher programs. Our community has struggled with the barriers posed by the state’s voucher policies in the past, and many community partners submitted letters regarding MSHDA’s voucher screening policies.</p>
4:40pm	<p>12. Washtenaw Housing Alliance Update – <i>Amanda Carlisle, WHA</i> WHA has been working over the past year or so to launch a Landlord Guarantee Fund with a few different funding sources. This funding is now available for housing providers to tap into.</p> <p>In addition, the Sister Yvonne Geliese fund now has approximately \$5.9 million dollars in it. The fund is used to assist with supportive housing services.</p> <p>WHA has an Advocacy and Communications Committee that anyone can join. Please let Amanda know if you would like to attend. Currently the Committee is closely following the City of AA’s budgeting process, accessory dwelling unit ordinance proposals, and the Ann Arbor Planning Commissions efforts to increase density along high-transit corridors. In the City of Ypsilanti, the Committee is following the report recently provided to the City Council. At the state level, there is a survey opportunity related to the state’s housing plan.</p>
4:50pm	<p>13. Board Member Updates/Issues J. Mogensen: congregations are getting inquiries from people on accessing resources and there may need to be some follow up and meetings as things continue to move forward to keep congregations in the loop of programs and resources available. Comment period for AAATA plan ends in April – some routes are changing, and it might have an impact on system clients.</p>
4:55pm	<p>14. Public Comment No public comment.</p>
5:00pm	<p>15. Adjournment J. Hieftje adjourned the meeting at 4:33pm.</p>