

Macomb County Continuum of Care (CoC)
Membership Meeting Minutes February 8, 2017

Call to order - 9:10AM, Calnen

1. Approval of the Agenda – *Calnen made a motion to move agenda item #7, Presentation from Laura Rios and Madeline Habib to after Round Table Introductions and before the Coordinator's Report by Jaqueline Merchant, Merchant 2nd, AIF.*
2. Approval of the Minutes – *Merchant 1st, Lasher 2nd; AIF.*
3. Round Table Introductions
4. Flowcharts: Accessing Services and Benefits for Veterans- *Presented by Laura Rios and Madeline Habib*

Rios and Habib presented Veteran Benefit and Service Navigation Flowcharts to the membership. The flowcharts can help Veterans and others in the community find the services that they may be eligible for and guide them on what to do to connect with the benefit. The flowcharts that were presented and made available to the Membership are as follows: Prevention of Homelessness for Veterans in Macomb County, Health Insurance and Health Services for Veterans and Their Families, Financial Empowerment for Macomb County Veterans and Their Families, Education and Training Opportunities for Macomb County Veterans and Their Families and What to do Before and After a Veteran Dies and are available at mvac.macombgov.org. The presentation focused on: What to do Before and After a Veteran Dies. Michael Kolb from Harold W. Vick Funeral Home was introduced and invited to speak further on this topic. It was explained to the Membership that when someone passes away only family is legally able to confirm that person's identity. If no family members can be located then it is up to the authorities to authenticate the identity of the individual. This is a lengthy legal process that can take months to sort out. The key to speeding up the process is if the deceased had their thumbprint documented. Kolb advised the membership that people should be made aware of things like this and service providers, specifically shelters, can help. He has the technology at the funeral home to document fingerprints and thumbprints and is willing to work with shelter staff to develop a plan. Kolb also informed the membership that there is new legislation in Michigan that allows a person to appoint a Funeral Representative who can confirm identity even if no family members can be found. Without a Funeral Representative or documented fingerprint, remains can be held for months before identity is confirmed and that person can finally be laid to rest.

5. Coordinator's Report – *Presented by Jacqueline Merchant*

It was reported to the Membership that the score for the Collaborative Application from HUD has been received. Macomb County scored 167.25 out of 200 possible points. The highest score

for any CoC was 187.75, the median score for all CoCs was 154.50 with a weighted median score of 160.70. Two areas that need strengthening involved questions about the Housing Inventory Count and a third area needing attention is the reporting on homeless Veterans. After discussion of the score, Merchant informed the Membership that she will be in attendance for the 2017 National Conference for Ending Family and Youth Homelessness and would like to stay in touch with representatives from other Macomb agencies also attending the conference. Lastly, Merchant made the Membership aware that registration is opening soon for the Building Michigan Communities Conference, May 1st through the 3rd, 2017.

6. Committee Updates

Merchant conveyed to the Membership that she will be meeting with Committee chair individually. Calnen reported that the CoC Board of Directors are planning a retreat to introduce new members to the Charter. Kristen Elliot will also be there to present on the purpose of the Continuum of Care.

- Compliance Committee, Mark Henderson: Henderson advised the committee will be meeting soon to plan an annual review of the HARA.
- Coordinated Assessment Committee, Ellen Palmer: Meeting Friday, February 10th at 1pm to prioritize and assign clients on the PSH Registry for Macomb to available PSH Units.
- Grant Ranking Committee, Sama Harp: Harp and Merchant expressed to the Membership that a lot was learned during the last funding competition and the committee will be more prepared this year.
- HMIS Committee: Palmer reported that she is securing a meeting location for March 1st, 2017.
- Point in Time Committee, Ellen Palmer: Palmer advised the membership that she will present PIT numbers after the data has been reported to and confirmed by HUD.
- Other committees that also meet are Street Outreach/Community Engagement, Educate and Connect and Mainstream Resources.

7. Hearts for Homes: Broad Based Assessment and Planning Options – *Presented by Richard Cannon*

Hearts for Homes was formed in May of 2016 in response to some church leaders who noticed a problem and did not see much significant improvement. They came together and determined that the predicament is a lack of affordable housing in Macomb County. Hearts for Homes is presenting formed solution that is a private rental subsidy program that serves working families with children who are homeless or in unstable housing. Money is raised through donations received from churches and used to subsidize rent. The organization is working with the MISD and receiving referrals of possible program participants. Families will be matched up with landlords and they will be responsible for 30% of the rent, the program will pay the rest. Hearts for Homes

has another goal which is to help the CoC facilitate a strategic planning process that will get people who are homeless into permanent housing. In Macomb, the employment rate is good but homelessness has increased 11% from 2013 to 2015 as it seems that most families are paying out more than half of their monthly income to their housing costs. Hearts for Homes is proposing that the CoC set up a strategic planning committee that will include service providers, developers, philanthropists and government to take a look at the continuum of care and assess ways to pull in more funding, not just federal or state funding, to help create affordable permanent housing. Calnen responded that the Charter requires a strategic housing plan and she would support a motion to create a committee. Sama Harp made a motion to approve the development of a strategic planning committee that may include service providers, developers, philanthropists and government to design a comprehensive plan to improve services and create affordable permanent housing within the Continuum. Lasher 2nd, AIF.

8. Community Announcements

- DHHS sending out RFP for Emergency Shelter Program funding.
- Macomb Community Action has ESG funds for Rapid Rehousing. Clients must be residents of Macomb and Category 1 homeless.
- Office of Senior Services is trying to recruit 200 volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program. Volunteers deliver twice a month and one route takes an hour or hour and a half to deliver meals. Agencies may adopt a route and employees can take turns delivering meals. Contact Marie Bristow at Senior Serves to sign up. More information on Meals on Wheels can be found at americaletsdolunch.org.
- HSBC Tours are scheduled for May 15th and 16th. Once the program is finalized registration will open on the MISD website.
- CARE is hosting their annual Parenting Conference on March 4th at the MISD. The cost to attend is \$40 but scholarships are available for those who cannot afford that fee. Register online at CARE's website or by calling their office.
- Disability Network is moving on March 1st. Their new address will be 1709 John R Road in Troy, MI 48063. The phone and fax number will not change.
- Oakland University's Social Worker program has Continuing Education Credit opportunities available on their website and also the Commonwealth website.
- The Walk for Warmth fundraiser for Macomb Community Action will take place on February 18, 2017 at 8am. The event is being held at Macomb Mall, participants can partake in the 5K run or walk. Funds are used to help Macomb residents who do are outside of the standard program eligibility requirements.
- Free Tax Preparation for Veterans 02/15/2017 at the Shelby Township VFW, no income requirements. Macomb Community

Action providing free tax preparation for those who made less than \$54,000.00 last year, appointment only contact

11. Adjournment – 10:26am, Calnen– *Cannon 1st, Lasher 2nd; AIF.*

Next Meeting – March 8th, 9:00am, MCA Conference & Training Center