

CENTRAL MI LPB MINUTES – March 21, 2024

Balance of State Continuum of Care Local Planning Body

Third Thursday Every Month @ 10:00 AM

Covering Gratiot, Isabella, Montcalm, and Ionia counties

Welcome and Introductions: Brittany Stoneman, Rhonda Pagel, Rachel Pung, Alisha Pennington, Ashley Brouillette, Becky Most, Brandy Bunting, Dee Obrecht, Emma Trevino, Holly Baker, Jake Gregory, James Moore, Jason Parks, Jennifer Butler, Jody Snyder, Kaylan Rauch, Kendra Milton, Kim Cain, Kym Jenkins, Lori Johnson, Lori Teal, Melissa McKellip, Nicholas Perry, Samantha Mitchell, Tammy Partridge, Tracy Mulvany

Agenda: Attached; no updates

Minutes: Attached; no changes, accepted as is

LPB Committee Reports:

- Access Improvement - Meets Quarterly: **Sally Andreatta**
 - Coordinated entry process
 - Discussed youth services, determined need to learn more about youth services in our counties
 - Spoke with someone from Arbor Circle who has new grant available for street outreach for homeless youth
 - Discussed diversion framework – discussed entering in what services are provided so that all can see what services are being provided
 - Next meeting: June
- By Name List: **Rhonda Pagel**
 - No meeting in February
 - Drew 4 names from list (2 Gratiot-Isabella, 2 Montcalm-Ionia)
 - Reviewed additional names for Veterans program
 - Housing specialists do have full case loads and anticipate spending current funding with current caseloads, so drawing limited names
 - List pulling from is very long
 - How many people are on the list total? End of February: 272 (from all 4 counties)
 - Is this accounting for just those with current pre-screen in last 6-months? Yes, though may be some duplicates
 - Reporting to balance of state, remove after 90-days if no contact or have a housing update; if in shelter, remain on
 - Discussed difficulty with no new vouchers released from state, landlords who will work with clients, relying on 8CAP grant funding
 - Shelters designed to be 90-day programs, but realistically this looks like 120-160 days
 - Where do we stand with PIT count?
 - Rachel and Rhonda reported that both feel numbers went up
 - Participation this year was huge in helping to collect data
- Housing and Support Intervention – **Holly Baker**
 - Reviewed current availabilities – not much changing month to month
 - Issues: new Empower that all are using and learning to navigate
 - 1 bedrooms are the biggest challenge currently

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- Still working to execute a landlord breakfast
- Lori Johnson shared that she feels that zoning changes are happening; encouraged all to talk about the need for working class rental units with community leaders and policy makers to help fight the stigma of affordable housing options
- Communications/Marketing/Partnerships - TBD
- ESG Committee (only Jan-funding deadline)

Community Housing Initiatives Reports:

- Housing Resources/Solutions - TBD
- County Human Resources Collaborative Bodies:
 - Gratiot – **Annie Sanders & Jake Gregory**
 - Speaker was Lyle McCoon, Jr., director of the Office of Human Services in St. Louis. OHS is a food pantry and low-cost thrift store. [View OHS Facebook page.](#)
 - Live Well Gratiot is partnering with MyMichigan Health to expand their annual health & safety fair to provide additional services to families, such as free backpacks, socks & underwear, and haircuts. New event title: “Project Connect: A health & safety fair for back to school.” August 14, 2-4PM @ Gratiot County Fairgrounds. A registration link for vendors will be sent once available.
 - Isabella – **Dee Obrecht, Annie Sanders, & Amanda Brake**
 - Speaker was Sherrif – discussing millage vote taking place (which was defeated); discussed new jail system and why this is being built, dispelled myths regarding jailing in Isabella County facilities
 - Montcalm – **Lori Johnson & Kim Cain**
 - Working on community collaborative survey and talking through internal communication processes for referrals between agencies
 - Ionia – **Kim Cain** (meets quarterly)
 - No meeting

BOS Reports (Calendar with links on <http://www.miboscoc.com/>):

- Governance Council: **Rhonda Pagel, Sally Andreatta, Kim Cain, Rachel Pung** – no meeting (quarterly)
- **Sub-Committees:** 4th Wed./month @ 10 am
 - Coordinated Entry – Meets March, June, Sept, Dec
 - Will meet next week to work on compliance / update the DV on the BOS priority policy
 - Next step is approval of update by CE
 - HARA: **Rhonda Pagel, Sally Andreatta, Lori Johnson** – Meets Feb, May, Aug, Nov
 - Working to update BOS priority policy for domestic violence cases
 - Shelter: **Kim Cain, Rachel Pung, Dee Obrecht** – Meets Jan, April, July, Oct

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- **Other Sub-Committees: Calendar with links on <http://www.miboscoc.com/>**
 - Performance and Outcomes – **Nick Perry, Donna Duncan**
 - Met last Tuesday, will meet today on HMIS project
 - Next meeting: March 26th – will dive into scorecards and how they are scored, how to improve; scores are tied to BOS funding applications
 - Dee – what are the things that our shelters need to be focusing on to help improve scorecard outcomes?
 - To improve: when clients exit, where are they going? HMIS is looking for positive outcomes reported, as well as positive income (income increasing)
 - Funding (HUD and ESG funding and processes)
 - Domestic Violence Sub-committee: **Jennifer Butler**
 - Working to update BOS priority policy for domestic violence cases
 - Veteran Sub-committee: **Tammy Partridge**
 - Currently 41,000 homeless veterans nationally; VA is working to address this, anticipate changes coming to address this number
 - Our veterans are sustaining
 - Nationally, veterans compose 6% of population
 - Boost in available funding for SSVF programs, which will roll out June 1
 - James Moore – since 9/11 30,800 active duty or veterans completed suicide. SSVF and Hopewell Ranch are suicide prevention programs for our veterans locally.
 - Youth Sub-committee: **Samuel Anglin**
 - Dee Obrecht – Listening Ear in Isabella County is involved and has funding for youth
 - Lori Johnson – BOS has YDHP grant – working on process to distribute amongst local planning bodies (youth services in rural communities)
 - We should be discussing what youth services we can provide as a community
 - Recommend this discussion take place during the Access Improvement meetings, which may mean returning to monthly meetings for near future
 - Finance: (Planning Grant-BOS staffing/operations)

Data/Program Reports:

- If any agency has reports on clients served that they would like to share, send to Rachel Pung () and she will share with LPB
- LPB Data/HARA Report/HCV Report: Reports are provided in the packet
- Funding Quarterly Reports: March, June, Sept, Dec

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New Business:

Rachel Pung – is this the right time during the month / day for this meeting to occur?

- Some agencies are missing – how can we reach?
- Recommendation to send a survey out on what days/times work best for people?

Agency Updates:

- Lori Johnson shared that 8CAP submitted a request for additional \$80,000 through MSHDA for ESG
- Kim Cain – nearing end of construction on housing project, added a floor for substance abuse recovery (15 beds for men in substance abuse recovery). When able to move men into that building from open shelter, there will be 10 beds open for women. Received preliminary award from MSHDA for Ionia family shelter, working through process before construction begins.
- Dee Obrecht – working with clients on emergency basis only; 3 weeks left in current season. Open for summer services on Monday April 22nd through end of September. Party for a Purpose fundraiser will be Saturday, April 20th. Tickets available at www.icrhouse.org/party-for-a-purpose.
- Brittany Stoneman – United Way of Gratiot & Isabella Counties has opened their intent to apply for sustaining (www.uwgic.org/sustaining-grant-apply) and innovation grants (www.uwgic.org/innovation-grant-apply). Applications are due April 15th. UWGIC will host Golf United on July 11th. [Registration is open](#) and proceeds support our Stuff the Bus program.

Next Meeting Date: April 18th @ 10:00AM via Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcu2urTwtEtTNNydf-vqJFYluph8X2-JA>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Minutes submitted by:

Brittany Stoneman

United Way of Gratiot & Isabella Counties