

Lakeshore Housing Alliance
Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2025 at 12:00 – 1:30 PM
Zoom

I. Introductions

a. Attendees:

- i. Sarah Bashaw – Community Mental Health of Ottawa County
- ii. Liz Keegan – Fair Housing Center of West Michigan (FHCWM)
- iii. Amy Dalman – Children’s Advocacy Center
- iv. Jessica Pressley – Community Action House
- v. Brad Dorland – Essential Patriot Transitional Housing for Veteran(s)
- vi. Patti Cummings – Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
- vii. Barb Koning – Ottawa County Community Action Agency
- viii. Daniel Bechtel-Unekis – City on a Hill
- ix. Brianne Jurs - Heart of West Michigan United Way
- x. Maria Williams – VA Medical Center Battle Creek
- xi. Dominique Lamber - Disability Network on the Lakeshore
- xii. Emilie VanderBerg – Love Your Neighbor
- xiii. Mark Kornelis – City of Holland
- xiv. Jeanna Raterink – Love Your Neighbor
- xv. Brenna Zawacki – Good Samaritan Ministries
- xvi. Liz DeLaLuz – Heart of West Michigan United Way
- xvii. Kendra Spanjer – MDHHS Ottawa County
- xviii. Sara Burri – MDHHS CPS Ottawa County
- xix. Cindy Garcia – Children’s Advocacy Center
- xx. Kristy Smith – Family Promise of the Lakeshore
- xxi. Taylor Zenobia – Volunteers of America
- xxii. Jaelin Lugers – HHI Management
- xxiii. Barbara Lee Van Horssen – Momentum Center
- xxiv. Brian De Vos – Good Samaritan Ministries
- xxv. Yadah Ramirez – Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland
- xxvi. Scott Klingberg – Gateway Mission
- xxvii. Marife Vander Schuur - Lifeline Ministries
- xxviii. Paula Welsh - Lifeline Ministries
- xxix. Nicole Shosten – Resilience
- xxx. Megan Hennessey – Resilience

- b. New members joining gave brief description of their role and agency overview. Will start member spotlights in June.

II. Approval of agenda and minutes

- a. Quorum not met – carryover item to next meeting.

III. Staff Update

- a. PIT Count - PIT Count Webinar held March 20th (one month later than normal- Good Sam staff assisting in deduplication of data and data entry (CF)
- b. Collaborative Effort – Project Home - The Facilitation Team (Christina, Travis Williams from ODC, Har Ye Kan) have identified and empowered five (5) working groups (sub committees) from the March 4th Planning Session at Dragonflies Learning Lab with the planning group (including leaders from the LLC and LHA.) The five focus groups include: Education/Advocacy, Enforcement, Persistent Engagement, Coordinated Street Outreach/ Downtown Ambassadors & Day Hub (longer term). Each group is working on ideal coordinated efforts to enhance efforts around short term solutions in the downtown area subsequent to Tulip Time. Groups are tasked with providing metrics and resources needed. Longer term solutions will be sought following Tulip Time. (CF)
- c. Other - Good Sam has been updating LHA information on their website.

CoC Update

- d. Presentation – Mandatory Reporting
 - i. Children’s Advocacy Center presented on Mandatory Reporting. Session not recorded, but slides will be shared with group after the presentation. Always available to answer questions outside this training. Services cover clinical (multiple disciplinary approach) and prevention. All are free. Children meet in 1:1 setting, appropriate interviewing. Parents can call directly if inappropriate behaviors occurring. Free medical exams are also available. It’s good for kids to understand their bodies are okay. Have educated 1,900+ children. Can also provide pregnancy, STD testing. Free counseling provided. Teams meet twice a month to discuss families and services needed. Mandated reports include:
 1. Medical and health care providers
 2. Social workers and counselors
 3. School administrators and teachers
 4. Childcare providers
 5. Law enforcements
 6. Clergy

Do **not** need to be a mandated reporter to create a report. Must report within 24 hours if a mandated reporter. Complete form DHHS 3200 as best as possible. Will receive Log #. Have 72 hours to fax or email in. Online reporting available through MI Bridges, Partnerships. Need to create a log-in. Not speaking to a person when submitting online form. If there is an urgent need, best to call agency instead of use

online form. Note, if filing on Friday, provide personal contact number and not work number to allow follow up access. Mandated reporter must file even incident occurs outside job.

Direct contact information: Sara Burri, CPS Investigator Ottawa County, Burris2@michigan.gov 616-215-9671.

e. Advocacy Work Group/Ad Hoc

i. Update from Brian Devos of Good Samaritan Ministries.

1. Drafting letter addressing the 5 core concerns regarding potential funding cuts. Template could be shared with local and state representatives for advocacy.
2. Looking at developing a piece to identify housing challenges encountered in Ottawa County. Where are the gaps in affordable housing? Look at Ottawa specific, and gathering feedback from agencies. Potentially hosting a town hall focusing on funding challenges. Hard as it's a moving target and still a lot of unknowns. Maybe host when have more information to educate the community (ex: Medicaid, supportive services, housing). Want to accurately prepare folks.
3. Discussed reaching out to Holland Sentinel to describe current situation. Most likely shared highlight from direct housing service providers. Will discuss with LHA Exec Committee if move forward.

f. Invitation to share success stories

- i. Mark shared the collaboration of Project Home and positive momentum.

IV. Updates

a. Executive Committee

- i. Approved second revised Governance Charter. Minor adjustments to detail our processes (such as By Name List utilization). Discussed how new LHA members are joining, which is exciting. Appreciate the partnerships. Will start doing membership spotlights. Approved additional staff for HMIS support. LHA has strategic conversations for sustainability. Looking to review Project Home needs or outcomes.

b. Allocation and Accountability

- i. Expect to possibly hear something in May. Critical part of LHA. Every time there is an open grant opportunity, they play an integral role in the process. Non-competing agencies review applications and assign dollar amounts. Important to partake. Look out for notifications.

c. HMIS Agency Administrators

- i. Group met on March 11th. Since the re-launch of this group, we have really been looking at shared processes and deeper understanding of

how each agency uses HMIS. Discussions included best practices, including cleaning up of essential data fields such as exit destinations. Group discusses streamlining items such as assessment, HMIS ROI completion, and ensuring annual HMIS staff recertification. Looking at potential training topics, such as report generation and referral utilization.

- d. Housing Choice Vouchers
 - i. No updates at this time. Hopefully next quarter.

V. Announcements

- a. Patti Cummings, Grand Haven Area Community Foundation: Preliminary application for community impact grant program due May 7. If approved for fully application would be due June 25. Looking at upstream projects, root-cause issues, how you're enhancing or expanding projects, etc. Grants are region-specific. If you have ideas that you want to talk through project or review draft before pursuing, reach out to Pattie: pcummings@ghacf.org.
- b. Barbara Lee Van Horssen, Momentum Center: May 1st, 6pm at Grand Haven Momentum Center. Panel discussion will highlight the impact of housing instability on mental health. RSVP not required but encouraged. <https://www.momentumcentergh.org/townhall-housing>
- c. Mark Kornelis, City of Holland: Receive CBGD funding which plan's is re-assessed every 5 years. Working draft is nearly complete. Mark will put it out for public comment in the next week or so. Be on the lookout for email.
- d. Liz Keegan, FHCWM: Online conference on April 24. Full scholarships are available, contact Liz directly. First workshop looking at legal cases. Middle workshop for new source of income protections and impact. Last workshop will look at utilization of Fannie Mae settlement funds for inspirational project in Grand Rapids.

VI. Adjournment

Save the date – next meeting – Friday, June 6, 2025 – 12 to 1:30 pm