



**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 12pm-1:30pm on Teams** (Due to holiday-Approved by LHA Exec)

Rebecca Lippard, Alicia Cox, Brenna Zawacki, Sarah Bashaw, Jaelin Lugers, Heather Devereaux, Ashton Malewitz, Brianne Jurs, Mark Kornelis, Kendra Spanjer, Paula Alvarez, Liam Coussens Community Foundation, Kayla Robinson Family Promise, Autumn Guarnaccia, Patrick Kiely, Francine Kalnins VA Kent, Scott Klingberg, Jessica Pressley, Lydia Dominguez, Nicole Shosten, Kevin Van Den Bosch, Daniel Unekis, Patti Cummings, Barabar Lee Van Horssen, Yadah Ramirez, Zienab Fahs, Jennifer Brozowski, Lesley Coghill, Liz Keegan, Shaina Brink

### Introductions

- a. Approval of agenda
  - i. Minutes – we will review February minutes at the June meeting
  - ii. Membership – Christina is working hard on getting forms back; please follow up with her if your agency is missing; A motion to approve the March 2026 member list was made, supported and passed.
  
- b. Staff Update (Sarah B for Christina)
  - i. Fundraising update  
Christina and Erin (Good Sam) are working hard to build infrastructure and capacity including through increased staffing, web development, and a digital dashboard; financial support has been received from local foundations and businesses with an estimated \$180,000 raised in multi-year grants; LHA was recently awarded a 3 year United Way EC-Impact grant
  - ii. BNL (Brenna)  
The By Name List includes 70 chronic individuals and 16 veterans; the Coordinated Entry list is much longer; they received 10 vouchers and the BNL pulled and are working with 10 households to get them approved so they can start searching for housing or transition from rapid re-housing (RRH) to the voucher.
  - iii. FY25 NOFO update (Sarah B)  
Q1 expiring HUD CoC awards were issued on 31<sup>st</sup>. LHA doesn't have any of those as ours are mostly July 1 starts. Yesterday the National Alliance to End Homelessness sent an email that LHA will share. The 1st Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that HUD can't move forward with it's December 19<sup>th</sup> NOFO; this means that the preliminary injunction remains in place and HUD must renew all awards expiring this year. Sarah will be attending a national advocacy meeting this afternoon to learn more.

iv. PIT Submission due date April 30<sup>th</sup>

No updates but Jayce and Christina are working on the portal; Jayce is reaching out to agencies so please respond if you are hearing from him.

c. CoC Update

i. Member spotlight- **Daniel Unekis** ([City on a Hill](#))

Daniel shared a PowerPoint with the history of City on a Hill and the services offered. It is made up of 48 partner organizations in a shared space. COAH has 4 distinct but collective nonprofits including the Café, Leadership Renewal, Doors of Hope, and the Health Clinic. The Health Clinic will serve those who can get to the clinic beyond Ottawa and Allegan counties with free physical and mental health services (therapy groups and classes offered). Physical health services are provided to those with no insurance only; mental health will serve some with insurance on the mental health side. Therapy is offered in English and Spanish.

ii. Invitation to share success stories

Heather – Bridget's house in Allendale recently served 4 moms and 9 kids for 8-10 months; everyone will graduate in May. They are all moving out of homelessness: 1 will move into pilot master leasing program; 2 moms are rooming together in a townhome; and 1 will become an alumni house parent to next group. Applications are open for next cohort.

Patti – thanks for those who shared and/or completed the recent Habitat for Humanity survey; they got good results that helping shape planning. For example, they have been building 3 bedroom homes as that was and still is the highest need but thanks to the survey they are now hearing that there is also a need for 2 and 4 bedroom builds so they will be doing those in the next couple of years.

Brenna – Good Sam master leasing served 7 families and a mix of single parents and 2 parent households; they added capacity with 3 new in Holland for a total of 9 now instead of 6. They also getting Eviction Prevention funding from Ottawa County so it will continue and serve 8 families/month for at least the next 3 years.

Jaelin - HHI offers supportive housing that connect tenants to local resources; she had a tenant call who was experiencing a mental health emergency. HHI was able to quickly connect her to CMH for in patient care so she is now getting treatment.

d. Updates

i. Executive Committee (Sarah/Brenna)

Executive Committee met recently and discussed priorities for LHA noting that it is very hard to be strategic right now due to financial and policy changes. Executive Committee did identify work groups that will be rolled out in May; Executive Committee also discussed and approved a contract for HMIS administration support.

ii. Allocation and Accountability Committee (AAC)/HPE Funds (Mark)

LHA was notified that we have \$8,120 in LHA Homeless Prevention Endowment funds at the GHACF; this is available for this coming year, HZCF amount will be forthcoming and LHA will host another application round perhaps before February of 2027 so stay tuned. Applications should be a LHA member for at least 1 year. There is some other basic criteria but it is an open process and LHA encourages other organizations to apply. LHA solicits applications and distributes through the AAC; it has been opened up more recently to other strategic initiatives.

The history of the Homeless Prevention Endowment (HPE): years ago the LHA worked to raise funds as part of homeless awareness month through events in Holland and Grand Haven so we now have a substantial amount in the respective community foundations. In the early days, the focus was on homeless prevention as part of statewide effort led by MSHDA so the historical focus has been on true prevention programs in Holland/Zeeland and Grand Haven. There is an annual distribution of earnings from the endowments once a year.

The Allocation and Accountability Committee (AAC) undertook the process in February/March this year, which made \$15,000 available. One application was received from Good Sam and approved so they were awarded a grant from both funds.

iii. HMIS Agency Administrators (Sarah)

The group met reviewed SPMs; Permanent Housing continues to remain strong with 97% retention, street outreach has 42% positive exits; and income growth for stayers was at 65%.

Weaker areas include length of time and returns within 6 months have increased; income growth for leavers was notably lower than stayers at 33%; Christina will work with Exec and contractor Jayce on improvement of SPMs. Reminder that we need to use consistent methodology to have good data flow.

As noted, LHA Exec did approve a contact with Jayce as system administrator, he has 18+ years of experience including with the

Michigan Balance of State CoC. He's been introduced to HIC and PIT count agencies to work with them to provide trainings and on data clean up when he starts next week.

iv. Housing Choice Vouchers (Brenna)  
ESG monitoring was conducted for Ottawa – no findings; MSHDA noted that we collaborate really well from files/case notes.

e. Announcements

-MCAH will host brown bag to support LHA advocacy May 19 in person at Good Sam; more details coming soon.

-April 22<sup>nd</sup> Fair Housing [event](#) – free!

f. Adjournment

**Next Meeting: LHA Bimonthly Meeting Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 12-1:30pm**