



McHenry County CoC Housing and Services Committee Minutes

Date: Wed, January 26, 2022 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (CST)

Attendees: *This meeting was conducted via GoToMeeting. Kim Ulbrich, Megan Bennett, Gina Zinck, Brandon Kyker, Lindsay Kellner*

Summary of Discussion: *The group discussed the homeless gap in services during the cold weather. Brandon shared information about partnering with the Sheriff's Department and working with Gina at Pioneer for coordinated entry. Gina stated that it wasn't ideal, but they would help with this cold front.*

Welcome and introduction:

- 1) **Review and Approval Minutes:** *NA A few members were late, and the present members were not in attendance at the last meeting.*
- 2) **Public Comment:** *None*
- 3) **Old Business:**
 - 3.1 **MC-EURAP Update-** *Kim discussed the changes to the grant and how many new applications are estimated left to fund.*
 - 3.2 **Berkshire Johnsbury Update –** *The project is leasing up, and most MCHA section 8 vouchers holders have moved in.*
- 4) **New Business:**
 - 4.1 **PADs and Homeless Update-** *Pads is at capacity and working through a small COVID outbreak. However, some clients have secured an SRN voucher and will be moving on to permanent housing, which will open up some spots. PADs is running a cold weather program with Hope Takes Action. It has successfully had some clients double up and save some funding for future cold spells.*
 - 4.2 **Habitat, CCCS, and MCHA Homeownership program partnership-** *MCHA - Partnering with Habitat for Humanity and CCCS to assist in transitioning current Section 8 recipient high earners to homeownership through collaboration with Habitat and CCCS.*
Challenges include- Current section 8 recipients' willingness to forgo the protection that comes with a section 8 voucher, for example, loss of job or illness. With the section 8

voucher, they would still be able to afford their rent, and it would be a different scenario as a homeowner.

4.3 Open Waiting Lists - *No response from agencies on current open waiting lists. MCHA's current open waiting lists: Public Housing, Renaissance Apartments, Greetrees, Silvertrees, and others are listed with detailed information on the MCHA website. Kim said that the waiting lists are purged annually except for section 8 waiting list clients. Kim highlighted the importance of ensuring that agencies with clients on the MCHA waiting lists must make sure their address and contact information are up to date. This can be done on our website to ensure that the client does not miss the mailing when their name comes to the top of the list.*

MCHA-Megan – When working with your clients, check our website to see if they are on any waiting lists and if so, please check the contact information and confirm the address and contact information are current and accurate.

MCHA-Kim- We are pulling names on the section 8 waiting list- please check with clients whose names may be coming up soon. One hundred names are drawn at a time, and typically there are five who will hold.

Pioneer-Gina- stated that if PADS has 50 people on the waiting list for the shelter, maybe 25 will hold. HOS- Lindsay- Lindsay updated that two clients were housed in central Illinois from the State-Wide Referral Network (SRN). Discussion among the group about the SRN. How did the clients end up moving to Central IL from the SRN? Lindsay- explained that when clients are being placed on the SRN by an agency that assists with that process, the client is asked for preference or if they would be willing to go anywhere in the state. Kim asked how are the SRN client tied to services after move in? Lindsay- stated for the example above they would provide services for a bit and then refer them to a local agency for continued services

5) Member comments/announcements:

Kim - one list could be problematic because each agency cultivates relationships with different landlords, and there are challenges in obtaining and retaining landlords. Gina suggested a collaborative landlord list that could help agencies when they are looking to place a client. Kim mentioned the GO Section 8 section on the MCHA website as an example of a way that MCHA is reaching potential landlords.

Gina- suggested a slush fund for damages done to units by tenants who are on housing programs to encourage landlords to take the programs. Kim- Mentioned that there used to be a landlord association(not sure if it still exists, Megan-will check into for the next meeting), and there is a realtor association that may be an excellent resource to find landlords willing to learn about our housing programs and become informed of the

benefits of accepting housing programs. Everyone in the meeting thought that this could be an avenue to look into, and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

6) Adjourn: 3:30 pm

Next meeting Wednesday, April 27 at 2:30 pm