

MINUTES OF THE
Housing and Services Committee
April 27, 2022

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Housing and Services Committee was called to order by Kim Ulbrich at 2:35 pm on April 27, 2022 via GoToMeeting.

Present: Kim Ulbrich - MCHA
 Gina Zink - Pioneer PADS
 Megan Bennett - MCHA
 Brandon Kyker - McHenry County (Faith & Eric)
 Lindsay Kellner - HOS

1) Minutes: Gina Zink moved to approve the minutes of January 26, 2022. Megan Bennett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2) Public Comment: N/A

3) Old Business:

3.1 MC-EURAP Update:

Kim Ulbrich gave an update on MC-EURAP. It has been identified that the practice of requiring bank statements for all applicants increases the time it takes to process applications and is cumbersome. The practice has been updated to require the most recent tax return from the applicant(s) in place of the bank statements. This updated practice will increase efficiency in the application process and allow for more applications to be processed while still providing the required income documentation.

Please note: if it is determined that more financial information is needed the MC-EURAP staff can request the bank statement as well on an as needed basis.

At this time applications for evictions are the priority.

There are approximately 160 applications waiting for processing. These will be handled as follows:
30% AMI and under – If approved MC-EURAP will pay the past due rent amount owed and three months going forward.

50% - 80% AMI – After current recertification is complete program is ended.

Applicants must have a current COVID reason and provide specific details that confirm the loss they have experienced from COVID is current and has directly caused them to be unable to pay their rent payment(s).

3.2 Open Waiting lists:

Kim Ulbrich stated there are no new updates for waiting lists at MCHA at this time.

Kim discussed the importance of ensuring clients are on all open MCHA waiting lists as well as the

Statewide Referral Network (SRN), and that all of the contact information for the client is current and accurate. Current and accurate contact information is imperative to the client being informed when their name comes to the top of the waiting list. All contact information can be easily accessed and updated through the MCHA website at www.mchenrycountyhousing.org.

Additionally, the open waiting list pre applications have been enhanced to fillable forms on the MCHA website to ensure easy access for clients.

Kim discussed the current Section 8 status and indicated that MCHA is pulling names from the Section 8 list one hundred at a time. She noted that only about five on average within the one hundred names pulled qualify for Section 8.

There were no further waiting list updates from other agencies at this time.

3.3 PADS and Homeless update:

Gina Zink reported that staffing shortages are being filled and she is optimistic that PADS will have an assistant chef, bus driver, and case managers needed to staff the shelter. Currently there are 29 clients at the PADS shelter. There is a waiting list for women at the shelter at this time due to being at capacity. Gina reported that the current hotel program serves as an overflow for times when the shelter is at max capacity in either of the men's or women's sections. Gina reported that the current COVID max capacity at PADS is approximately 38.

Lindsay Kellner reported that the Home of the Sparrow shelter is full at this time due to limited COVID capacity at 62%.

Gina and Lindsay noted the uptick in percentage of women in the shelters. There is no clear indication as to why at this time.

Gina discussed the need for more Single Room Occupancy rooms (SRO's) in McHenry County and everyone agreed. The committee discussed the benefits of SRO's for clients that may not be ready for an apartment or unable to stay in a congregate setting.

3.4 CSBG Past Due Mortgage Assistance Program:

Megan Bennett provided general information and program guidelines to the committee and emailed the program flyer and FAQ's for more detailed program information to the Housing and Services Committee.

Illinois Low income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP):

Kim Ulbrich provided general information and program requirements to the committee and emailed the program flyer for more detailed program information to the Housing and Services Committee.

4) New Business:

4.1 & 4.3 Hotel Program:

Gina Zink provided updated information on the current hotel program and the 2022-2023 Winter Homeless Motel Program. Gina reported that the current motel program has served 76 men, women, and children for a total of 254 nights from December 2021 through current. The total cost for this was \$17,635.00. Gina reported that PADS has a CDBG grant in the amount of \$22,000.00 as well as an ARPA grant of \$15,000.00 for this program. Gina mentioned the great work and collaboration on the motel program with St. Vincent dePaul has been very beneficial. Gina stated that the motel program is needed year-round. Gina stated that the motel program is always being reviewed and enhanced to meet the current need in McHenry County. One improvement that is being worked on for the 2022-2023 Winter Homeless Motel Program is having non-perishable food boxes available at the motel for individuals and families that do not have access to food while they are staying at the motels through this program. Many people that have used the motel program recently have not had access to food. The food boxes will assist in filling this need. Collaboration with the local police departments has been beneficial and allows for people in crisis during the evening hours an opportunity to have a safe place to sleep for the night and to be referred to services they may need. The Empower Shower event assists in accounting for the unsheltered homeless.

4.2 Refuge for Women:

No update

4.4 Strategic Plan Goals:

Moved to next meeting due to time restraints.

5) Member comments/announcements:

N/A

Meeting Adjourned at 3:35pm