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**MICHIGAN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

**Meeting Notes**

**December 10, 2024**

**12:30 pm – 3:30 pm, in person and Teams**

Attendees: Paula Kaiser VanDam, Mariam DeLand, Sarah Goad, Ryan Hertz, Erica Patton, , Cassie Smith (online) and Michelle Williams

Absent: Craig Brunet, Kayla Rossen

Invited Guests: Monique Price, Lisa Bahadosingh, Catherine Distelrath, Lynn Hendges, Gerry Leslie, Daija Butler

Staff: Lisa Kemmis, Christina Soulard, Janice Harvey

Members of the public: Lindsey Bishop-Gilmore, Taura Brown, Donna Price, Susan Williams

1. Welcome and explanation of meeting format -Paula Kaiser Van Dam
2. Approval of Agenda – Paula Kaiser Van Dam
   1. Motion: Ryan Hertz; Second: Michelle Williams; Pass unanimously
3. Approval of September 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Paula Kaiser Van Dam
   1. Motion: Michelle Williams; Second: Erica Patton; Passed unanimously
4. Approval of September 30, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes - Paula Kaiser VanDam
   1. Motion: Michelle Williams; Second: Lisa Kemmis; Passed unanimously
5. ARC 4 Justice – ARC 4 Justice (Monique Price and Lisa Bahadosingh)
   1. Objective: working with five core teams representing 5 CoCs to begin the process of developing, testing, and implementing new assessment and prioritization processes in Michigan. Milestones to accomplish: Core Team Development; Establish Baseline & Monitor Progress; Identify Inequities, Strategy Development, plan for implementation and evaluation. Progress and Impact:
      1. MI BoS/EightCAP progress and impact includes work to ensure their core team is diverse and inclusive; created a written policy to support the onboarding of new members; addressing the needed cultural changes – giving space in meetings so everyone has time to respond; completed power mapping activity; reviewing qualitive data from Montcalm Human Services Coalition; and working on scheduling listening sessions.
      2. Detroit – created a template to pull VI-SPDAT data in a disaggregated way using Report Writer; tool has become a model for the pilot; created written guidance with screenshots on how to pull the data; created a sustainable funding stream for partners with lived experience to join meetings to share their funding strategies; reviewing assessment questions through a qualitive lens; considering moving the work under one of the CoC subcommittees to ensure sustainability.
      3. Flint/Genesee – had some local CoC changes that delayed the work; made significant progress with Core Team development; focused on qualitative data collection; aligning the work of this pilot with the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformative Initiative.
      4. Muskegon – Core Team development is moving along due to funding through pilot to compensate partners with lived experience; thinking through ways to sustain funding; completed the quantitate data pull for VI-SPDAT analysis for youth, families, and singles; working to make meaning of the data.
      5. Out Wayne – Survey went out via text to people engaged with Coordinated Entry over the phone in the last 6 months; useful data about where people are being referred from and feedback form CE process; expanding data collection to address data gaps; examining and shifting the way the CoC has been compensating partners with lived experience; rolling the work of the pilot into the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subcommittee of the CoC; created a flyer to recruit PWLE who are interested in system level CoC work; working on quantitative data.
   2. Leading with Equity Academy – intent is to build capacity and expand the network of leaders that are doing the work. They had 17 applicants apply. The academy offers five sessions and had 10-12 attend the sessions. Monique explained what each session covered. The impact of the academy included shifting and sharing power and interrogating/knocking down norms.
   3. Next Steps – How can ICH, MHPC, Data Learning Collaborative, and CoC Leadership team support this work?
      1. Data – advocate for funds from CoCs that would support the build of a report in Business Objects to analyze specific inequities in VI-SPDAT.
      2. Engagement – we are creating a new team structure (REAAC) to implement and monitor progress on the Racial Equity Action Plan and invite at least one ICH member and other cross-sector partners to join the REACC.
      3. Compensation – incentivize CoCs to pay partners with lived experience to participate on the REAAC and in other statewide and local system level work.
      4. Comments: maybe create a team in ICH to look for resources to continue to support the work.
6. [MCTEH Action Plan 2023-25](https://www.michigan.gov/mcteh/-/media/Project/Websites/mcteh/2023-25-MCTEH-Action-Plan-and-related-items/MCTEH-Action-Plan-2023-25.pdf?rev=9b99ec4a2e0e4dcbab652a586246829a&hash=A9052485C0CF323900BB6333508C3C52) – Catherine Distelrath - CSH has been supporting and implementation of the Action Plan. It is time to start thinking about the next Action Plan (current plan expires end of 2025) which will start January 2026. She shared the timeline for planning for the Action Plan that will launch in 2026. She also shared Action Plan progress highlights, goals/strategies that have had no progress or have made progress but have stalled. Some overarching commitments could use some attention.
   1. What are things that should be done differently in the next plan based on lessons learned from implementation of the existing plan?
      1. Agreed that strategies are more specific and measurable; be clear how strategies will be measured
      2. Looking at the Federal Action Plan
      3. Other state plans (states that are similar to MI)
      4. Think about situations that may affect homelessness (lack of housing, lack of reasonable wages, etc.)
      5. Looking at strategy 3 closer to see what hasn’t been accomplished
      6. What are the barriers that we have after we have gotten the work to progress but not completed
      7. Develop a policy agenda and share with legislators through advocacy/partners
   2. Who is the plan for? Whose work should it be driving? ICH? CoCs? Both?
      1. Plan should be driving the work of state departments (agency)
      2. Needs to be coordination between local and state. We (the State) cannot move this work without the support of the local CoCs.
      3. Rework the plan: What’s the outcome we want? What power do ICH members have to affect this change? How do we know if we made progress?
7. Update on Annual Report – Lynn Hendges / Gerry Leslie
   1. The 2023 Annual Report has been an evolving process starting with a survey about what people would like to see in the report, what audiences for the report, etc. and then starting the process for reimagining the report. We have an extraordinary amount of data and trying to hone that down. We have prioritized the information in a different way this year. 1. Giving a summary picture of what homeless looks like in Michigan. 2. System performance measures / how does the annual report reflect items from Action Plan. 3. Talking more about origins and impacts of homelessness on our communities. 4. Incorporated our successes.
      1. We saw a 2% increase in 2023 in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Michigan.
      2. Regional numbers show the numbers of people experiencing homelessness and increase or decrease. Gerry explained the Region 3 numbers and the reason it was showing incorrect data. It was suggested that the percentage numbers be taken off the map and just show the statewide percentage number.
      3. They shared the yearly trends from 2020 to 2023.
      4. We made good progress in Veterans and Seniors 55 (decrease in population).
      5. Race and gender – OMB revised the way it is reported so have seen a change in some of the racial areas (both increase and decrease).
8. Follow Up on US ICH recommendations – Paula Kaiser VanDam gave an update on recommendations for ICH make-up. We are looking at what our current Executive Order outlines who is on the ICH and how it should be updated. We looked at a couple other states (IL and NJ) to compare their make-up and purpose. We are hoping to have recommendations for consideration in March and then will decide how to proceed (updated Executive Order or Legislative).
9. MHPC Updates – Daija Butler gave an update from the past three months. The majority of the work has been forecasting what 2025 looks like for the council. We have added a component to the end of the meetings with a roundtable to discuss how the work is going and what they would like to see in the future. We will release a survey to MHPC members to get feedback on what topics should be covered in future meetings. In early 2025 we will facilitate a conversation on how housing and homelessness will be affected by the new administration. We will also be discussing and formalizing ways to strengthen our roles on the council; engagement by council members and updating bylaws. We will have ICH approve once they are ready/final.
10. Roundtable
    1. Mariam DeLand – most prisoners released in the last couple years have been high need. We measured those that went into department housing compared to permanent housing. The Council of State Governments released a grant for their program (Zero Return to Homelessness). Michigan was accepted as a cohort. Paula and Mariam will go to the Conference for Second Choice next week as part of this cohort.
    2. Erica Patton - city of Kalamazoo/Portage has purchased a hotel for either transitional housing or shelter.
    3. Lisa Kemmis – expanding Housing Choice Program; webinar on Friday to share when they will be able to release vouchers in 2025.
    4. Sarah Goad – Children’s Services has a contracted position that will work on transitional housing for youth and assist with the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers (52) that Michigan received.
    5. Michelle Williams – Homeless funding has closed and wrapping up final reports. She will share at March meeting.
    6. Ryan Hertz – rolled out a Lighting the Way campaign to raise $40 million.
    7. Paula Kaiser VanDam – MDHHS has application out for $20 million for PSH supportive services. In the FY25 budget, we got additional funding to expand family sheltering. We have a health endowment grant to work with Poverty Solutions to work with Child Welfare on housing/homeless issues.
11. Public Comment
    1. Catherine Distelrath – look at funding for position to assist Campaign activities when looking at revising ICH make-up.
12. Adjourn
    1. Motion: Sarah Hughes; Second Erica Patton; Passed unanimously

**NEXT ICH meeting: 2025 Meeting Schedule: March 17, June 16, September 15, December 15 Extending meetings to 12:30-3:30 pm**