

Meeting Minutes
Ottawa County Human Services Coordinating Council
June 28, 2006
9:30 a.m.

Attending: Andrea Mulder, OCHSCC Administrative Coordinator
Pat VerDuin, Family Court
Lisa Stefanovsky, Ottawa County Health Department
Janet DeYoung, Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland Area
Gail Ringelberg, North Ottawa County Council on Aging
Ann Tabor, Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
Bud Ferguson, OAISD
Loren Snippe, Department of Human Services (DHS)
Bruce Bos, City of Holland
Steve Eckert, Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance
Joan Mack, Greater Ottawa County United Way & VC
Erin Kauth, MI Works! & Community Action Agency
Michael Vandenberg, Good Samaritan Center
Bill Raymond, Michigan Works!/Community Action Agency

Absent: Mary Westrate, JCI; Erika Rosebrook Dibble, Assistant County Administrator

Introductions around the table, welcome to the newest member: Bill Raymond from Michigan Works/Community Action Agency. Thanks to Erin Kauth for filling in during the interim.

- I. 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness – *Andrea Mulder*
- The plan was developed by community leaders in an effort to eliminate homelessness, rather than to simply “manage” it.
 - Premise: Every person in Ottawa County should have safe and affordable housing.
 - MSHDA and the Department of Human Services have allied to encourage counties to address this issue in Michigan counties.
 - Significant Findings:
 - Homelessness is expensive: cost of emergency services, loss of opportunity (employment, etc.), and high cost of emotional and mental health, especially for children.
 - Point in Time survey was last done in 2005 in Ottawa County and the issue does exist in Ottawa County, both by the rather “rigid” Federal standards definition and by broader definition, such as transient housing statistics.
 - Components of a 10 year plan to end homelessness:
 - CLOSING THE FRONT DOOR:
 - 1) Making it more difficult to become homeless with Emergency prevention assistance (rent, utilities, mortgages);
 - 2) Mainstream services;
 - 3) Discharge planning (with institutions, hospitals...);
 - 4) Outreach: seeking individuals & families who may not know where

- to go for help but are in or near crisis.
 - OPENING THE BACK DOOR:
 - 1) Housing first (studies show the greatest recovering success is when a person is kept in permanent housing);
 - 2) Rapid re-housing;
 - 3) Intensive case management (wrap around services)
 - Addressing the infrastructure of Homelessness: 1) affordable housing, 2) income (household income is too low to afford adequate housing) 3) access (assisting that there is access to adequate housing – meets handicap accessible needs, etc.)
- Next step: analysis of gathered information, drafting plan components, review of tentative document, grant application is due October 10, 2006. If awarded, this grant will allow Ottawa County to look at more effective ways to address this matter, and design a community plan...such as: use the Mission more effectively, address those that are homeless that have mental illness or other prohibitive matters –the Mission is a great program but other programs are needed. Explore Continuum of Care bodies in order to implement a more effective use of money and create partnerships.
- Recommended web site with models: www.endhomelssness.org
- Accepted as information, with thanks by the Collaborative Council.

REMINDER: Please complete the “10 Year Plan to End Homelessness” survey distributed with the handouts and return it to Andrea at the July OCHSCC meeting.

II. Business:

A. Endorsement Policy:

- i. Review of Proposed Documents:
Review by Bruce Bos, seeking input, discussion ensued specifically around endorsement/encourage vs. lead, support, sustain language and how those levels link to the Coordinating Council. It was determined that another level, or piece needs to be added to the process. Andrea and the Executive Committee will continue to work on the process.
- ii. Expedited process – Pat requested that the minutes reflect the mutual understanding that the Executive Committee has the authority in “tight” time turn-around matters to approve grants or sign letters of endorsement on behalf of the entire OCHSCC body. Agreement by consensus from Council members.
- iii. County endorsement: Lisa Stefanovsky provided the following update: groups and/or agencies seeking the endorsement of the Board of Commissioners will be encouraged to first seek the endorsement of the OCHSCC, and then present to the Board of

Commissioners. Erika will assist with facilitating this process in her role as the Assistant County Administrator.

- B. 2-1-1 Letter of Endorsement: the merger between Ottawa County 2-1-1 and Call 2-1-1 of Muskegon has been approved by both their Boards. Andrea, Lisa & Pat have been asked to write another level of endorsement letter on behalf of the OCHSCC. Approval by consensus.
- C. Statewide Technical Assistance Meeting Report – *Andrea Mulder, Administrative Coordinator*
- Andrea recently attended a statewide convention in Gaylord, MI
 - Discussion topics included roles, responsibilities and expectations of the Collaborative Council Administrative Coordinator.
 - Many other counties have a slightly different format than we do in Ottawa County – one common format is executive committee/steering committee/actual body.
 - Break-out sessions centered on funding and grant management.
 - Speakers encouraged Administrative Coordinators and members of County Collaboratives to keep dialog open with State legislators.
 - There are Coordinators meetings on a state-wide basis twice per year. Regional coordinators generally meet four (4) times per year.

III. Miscellaneous Items

- A. Open Positions on the Collaborative Council: Lisa Stefanovsky explained the County process regarding filling vacancies on County committees. A position remains open until there is more than one application filed with the County Clerk's Office for that position, and then official action is taken to officially name an applicant to an open position.
- B. West Michigan Strategic Alliance is looking at identifying measurable indicators for West Michigan. Janet DeYoung is on the Advisory Committee and welcomes input, particularly about environmental issues.
- C. Gail Ringleberg reported on a pilot project she is working on with the MSU Extension Services: Communities for a Lifetime. The basis premise of this project is that if you make a community elder friendly, then it is truly friendly for all, and this project is working on developing such a prototype.

Next meeting date: **July 26, 2006**, Conference Room D at the Fillmore Administrative Complex.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail VanVels, Administrative Secretary