

Meeting Minutes
Ottawa County Human Services Coordinating Council
December 6, 2006
9:30 a.m.

Attending: Andrea Mulder, OCHSCC Administrative Coordinator
Pat VerDuin, Family Court
Lisa Stefanovsky, Ottawa County Health Department
Steve Eckert, Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance
Bruce Bos, City of Holland
Bud Ferguson, OAISD
Michael VandenBerg, Good Samaritan Center
Janet DeYoung, Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland Area
Ann Tabor, Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
Patrick Moran, Greater Holland United Way & Volunteer Center
Loren Snippe, Department of Human Services (DHS)
Gerry Cyranowski, Community Mental Health
Susan Cervantes (for Bill Raymond), Michigan Works & Community Action Agency
Jinnifer Gibbs, MSU Extension Services
Ron Frantz, Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney

Absent: Mary Westrate, JCI; Gail Ringelberg, North Ottawa County Council on Aging

Guests: Mark Kornelis, Ottawa Area Housing Coalition; Bill Robb, ANR Agent Dairy
AOE/MSU Extension Services; Lisa Bottomley, 4-H Youth Mentoring Extension
Educator

- I. Ottawa Area Housing Coalition – *Mark Kornelis*
- Review of the 10 Year Plan to Eliminate Homelessness (two handouts provided).
 - The entire state of Michigan is under a plan to end homelessness in 10 years. This is a national initiative and Michigan is currently the only state with such a plan fully in place.
 - Ottawa County will be conducting a “Point in Time” survey on the 4th Thursday in January, 2007.
 - Some of our local data does not exactly mirror the national data, but in many instances we do mirror the national data – i.e., children are drastically impacted by homelessness.
 - Discussion revolved around the “web of factors” that generally impact the cycle of homelessness: domestic violence; substance abuse; mental illness.
 - Mr. Kornelis reviewed the vision of the local plan: [paraphrased] everybody in Ottawa County will have a safe, affordable dwelling to call home. For those that are homeless, the plan is to assist in helping people manage their lives while assisting them to get out of their homeless situation.

- Review of goals: update infrastructure; change the mindset, research best practice, educate landlords (so they work with the homeless coalition efforts). Increase capacity for prevention, the funding stream is following the “Housing First” initiative (to provide stable housing first which will help the other pieces fall into place)

(Clarification note: the Ottawa County program formerly called “Section 8” is now called the Ottawa County Housing Choice Voucher Program).

The Ottawa Area Homeless Coalition is looking for support from key organizations in an effort to bring in more stakeholders to the coalition. The OCHSCC is already part of this initiative/process because they endorsed the original proposal when the grant application was made.

II. Membership

A. Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Services representation has traditionally been “at the table” as membership of the Ottawa County Human Services Coordinating {Collaborative} group. Welcome to MSU Extension Services as part of the Ottawa County Human Services Coordinating Council membership!

B. MSU Extension Services Presentation(s)

i. Lisa Bottomley provided an overview of the Ottawa County 4-H youth mentoring program, its connection with the County Court system and link with the juvenile justice system. This collaborative mentoring system has been very successful and is considered to be the top one in the state. Other counties have requested to use this as a model for their youth mentoring collaborative.

ii. Jinnifer Gibbs provided an overview of her role as a Human Services Educator. She is heavily involved in agency/organization partnerships and collaborative connections and efforts. Jinnifer expressed the thanks of MSU Extension Services in being welcomed to the OCHSCC membership.

III. Business

A. Financial Report: review of handout provided by Bud Ferguson. The new fiscal year began on July 1 on the report distributed. Financial reports will be presented on a quarterly basis.

B. Focus Area Next Steps: handout from Andrea. Narrowed down from three to two focus areas; financial sustainability has been tabled. Access to Health Services focus area discussion: the OCHSCC will create a workgroup that includes entities that can address this issue, such as the Health Department and Community Mental Health (see desired outcomes listing on handout). Strong

Families Services Focus Area discussion: four workgroups are suggested (as listed on handout).

- i. Organizational Chart review by Andrea. New format eliminates age group divisions, now focus areas spread across all the different ages. Includes the two identified focus areas and associated workgroups.

C. Great Start Collaborative Update: presentation at January 2007 meeting.

D. Review of OCHSCC calendar. Monthly membership meetings will continue to be held on the 4th Wednesday of every month at Fillmore unless other notification is given.

There was no further business.

Next meeting date: January 24, 2007 at the Fillmore Administrative Complex, 9:30 a.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail VanVels, Administrative Secretary