

Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body
Workgroup Charge
Approved: October 2005

Workgroup Name: Homeless Continuum of Care of Livingston County

Lead Agencies: Community Mental Health and OLHSA

Chairperson: Jody Buchholz, Michigan Works!

- Responsibilities:
1. Chair regular meetings
 2. Meet with designated staff
 3. Report activities to the HSCB
 4. Represent workgroup at appropriate meetings

Vice Chairperson: Patti Nowak, ARC

1. Fill in for chair in their absence
2. Serve as chair in next term.

Staff Person: Lindsay Beaudry, Collaborative Community Planner

- Responsibilities:
1. Meet regularly with Chair
 2. Develop agenda and materials for meetings with the Chair
 3. Research specific information as requested by the group
 4. Assist in the development of the Work Plan

Clerical Support (if different from staff): N/A

Issue to be Studied and/or Acted Upon: Livingston County is the fastest growing county in Michigan and there is a lack of affordable housing for low income individuals and families. In Livingston County, an extremely low income household (earning \$23,310, 30% of the Area Median Income of \$77,700) can afford monthly rent of no more than \$583, while the Fair Market Rent for a two bedroom unit is \$840. A minimum wage earner (earning \$5.15 per hour) can afford monthly rent of no more than \$268. An SSI recipient (receiving \$579 monthly) can afford monthly rent of no more than \$173, while the Fair Market Rent for a one-bedroom unit is \$713.

In Livingston County, a worker earning the Minimum Wage (\$5.15 per hour) must work 125 hours per week in order to afford a two-bedroom unit at the area's Fair Market rent. The Housing Wage in Livingston County is \$16.15. This is the amount a full time (40 hours per week) worker must earn per hour in order to afford a two-bedroom unit at the area's Fair Market rent. The Livingston County Association of Realtors report that the average sales price of a home between January-June, 2005 was \$240,609. There are 126 people on the waiting list for Section 8 voucher. The county has 273 vouchers.

Housing has been prioritized as one on the top community needs by members of the Human Services Collaborative Body and as a basic need by consumers. The housing continuum spans from prevention programs to emergency shelter and services to transitional and supportive housing to affordable housing. Supportive services are also essential to ensure the housing is maintained.

Workgroup Goal(s): Develop and coordinate a continuum of housing and services for homeless individuals and families and those at-risk of homelessness in Livingston County.

Workgroup Objective(s): 1. Keep people housed through prevention of eviction and foreclosure

2. Increase the capacity to develop a continuum of housing including emergency, transitional, permanent supportive, and affordable housing
3. Ensure supportive services are available to keep people housed
4. Develop a coordinated discharge assessment and planning process
5. Ensure quality and improve outcomes through needs assessment and data collection, analysis, and evaluation
6. Increase community involvement in addressing the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

Key Data to be Collected/Tracked:

- Number of homeless individuals and families in county
- Number of individuals and families at-risk for homelessness in county
- Number of evictions/foreclosures in county
- Number of transitional and permanent supportive housing units in county
- Other pertinent data related to the 10 year plan recommendations

Sub-Workgroups – The Supportive Housing Consortium and the Homeless Management Information System Users Group

Meeting Schedule and Time line for Completion (if applicable): The group will meet once a month on the second Tuesday from 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm. The work will be ongoing with an annual review of work completed and outcomes achieved.

Reporting Mechanism and Frequency: Sub-workgroups report to the HCC monthly. The HCC will report to the HSCB at least quarterly in writing and present to the HSCB when there are action items, specific needs, or major accomplishments achieved. The group will also report at the HSCB annual meeting.

Membership:

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| ▪ Consumers | ▪ Head Start |
| ▪ Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency | ▪ Livingston Educational Service Agency |
| ▪ LACASA | ▪ Michigan Works! |
| ▪ Livingston Family Center | ▪ Love INC |
| ▪ The Salvation Army | ▪ Faith based organizations |
| ▪ The United Way | ▪ Women’s Resource Center |
| ▪ Great Lakes Nonprofit Housing | ▪ The Arc of Livingston |
| ▪ Community Mental Health | ▪ Law enforcement – jail |
| ▪ Department of Human Services | ▪ USDA Rural Housing Development |

Responsibilities of HSCB: Review Emergency Shelter Grant/Exhibit One, provide oversight of the Homeless Management Information System implementation, and support/approve grant applications as necessary.

Other Relevant Information: The Homeless Continuum of Care is a federally mandated body that is responsible for planning and coordinating services for homeless and those at risk for homelessness. The HCC also oversees the distribution and monitors the use of the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds. The development of the Exhibit I planning document is required when submitting applications for ESG and HUD Supportive Housing Program grant funds.