



**Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness
 Legislative Action Committee**

Monday, December 19, 2016
 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendance:

Amelia Allen	HAND
Lyn Raymond	Lakeshore Housing Alliance
Stephanie Kasprzak	Monroe County Opportunity Program
Danielle Redilla	Oakland Integrated Healthcare Network
Sarah Sporny	Community Housing Network
Michelle Lajoie	CLM Community Action Agency
Debra Hayes	My Brothers Keeper
Angie Mayeaux	Haven House
Mark Criss	City Rescue Mission of Lansing
Angela Gougherty	CHN Inc
Doug Russel	Room at the Inn, Inc
Linda Pierce	New Day Center
Roxanne Morin	NEMCSA
Eric Hufnagel	Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness
Laurel Burchfield	Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness
Jason Weller	Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness

Call to Order: Eric Hufnagel called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

Introductions:

Policy Priority Setting 2017-2018: Hufnagel thanked those who participated in the priority setting survey sent out earlier in the month. Potential policy priorities were identified during the first LAC meeting on Nov 17 and were voted on by the group. The topics with the highest votes were:

1. Expand access and opportunity of affordable housing
2. Support efforts to retain Medicare/Medicaid/mental health
3. Protect Federal and State funding
4. Establish process and funding for state IDs
5. Fight against criminalization of homelessness

The next steps include MCAH going through a formal process of recommending priorities to the MCAH Public Policy Committee and MCAH Board of Directors. Capacity and available resources will be considered during

approval process. Some items will fall to a second tier issues to monitor and support rather than actively lead due to existing campaigns and/or LAC and MCAH capacity. As an ongoing process, additional priorities may arise based on legislative schedule and issues.

Field Updates:

- Continuing Resolution funding through spring 2017: Congress has authorized a short term funding fix that continues the budget for HUD at existing levels through spring 2017. The new administration may have some new priorities or dynamics that will impact funding at that time. As MCAH learns more they will share with LAC.
- HBs 6066-6068 / Voter ID Bills: During lame duck, Rep Lyons sponsored legislation requiring an ID to vote in Michigan. This passed out of committee and the House primarily on party lines, but stalled in the Senate. MCAH opposed, submitted testimony and met with Senators. This action can be a model for future LAC alerts and action with emails going out to LAC members asking for engagement including calling, emailing and meeting with legislators. Debra Hayes, My Brothers Keeper, commented on her involvement in the process which allowed her to expand the conversation beyond bill language to include the broader concern of state identification and efforts to make it easier and more affordable for individuals to access IDs and other vital documents.

Introducing Homelessness to New 2017 Michigan Legislature: LAC will be active with the 40 new Representatives to the Michigan House. MCAH dropped off literature during Homeless Awareness Week event, and will continue to engage with all legislators in the new session with a focus on relationship building.

- Homelessness 101: Jason Weller, MCAH, outlined event for March that would bring in constituents from in-district to meet with their legislators during an educational presentation. Target timeline is early March so that legislators should have their hearings a bit more while still being early enough for us to educate. Focus on new legislators, but also extend offer to existing Reps and Senators. Angie Mayeaux, Haven House, commented that the similar event hosted by the Campaign to End Homelessness several years ago was successful and would like to see this happen regularly. Stephanie Kasprzak, Monroe County Opportunity Program, reminded group of the Community Action advocacy day in May.
- Meet and Greets: Weller outlined a timeline for meeting with legislators that takes into account the early pressure on new Reps to meet with advocacy groups. We can have a bigger impact if we set up meetings after Homelessness 101 in May and June. MCAH can help coordinate through providing tools to assist during meetings such as agendas, talking points, data points, materials, etc.

Webinar / Training Calendar: MCAH will be hosting regular webinars on advocacy training that will be open to LAC and all others. Goal is to provide content expertise to make advocates more comfortable in their role. Hufnagel encouraged everyone to share with their networks to make sure there is a broad reach.

- February 7: Advocacy 101: The first webinar will be in mid-February and will feature introductory information about advocacy including best practices and limitations of a 501(c)(3)

Calls To Action:

- National Low Income Housing Coalition: Call for affordable housing success stories for national report. Deadline extended to Jan 6. <https://nlihc.wufoo.com/forms/chcdf-success-story-survey/>

Additional Notices from the Group:

- Mayeaux asked if MCAH would provide training for how to advocate with state agencies, including regarding the allocation of federal money through the state and different ways for agencies to keeping funding as open as possible.

Meeting Schedule: LAC will meet on the 4th Monday of every month from 12:00-1:00. The next call will be Monday, January 23.