



**Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness  
Legislative Action Committee**

Monday, January 23, 2017  
12:00-1:00 p.m.

**Meeting Attendance:**

Ryan Hannon	Goodwill Street Outreach
Debrah Hayes	My Brothers Keeper
Sarah Sporny	Community Housing Network
Doug Russell	Room at the Inn, Marquette
Roxanne Morin	NEMCSA
Robert Elchert	United Way of the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek Region
Shelley Jipson-Lomax	Michigan County Social Services Association
Mark Criss	City Rescue Mission of Lansing
Marylynn G. Hewitt	Community Housing Network
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 12:04

**Introductions**

**Policy Priority Setting 2017-2018:** Laurel Burchfield reviewed the 5 policy priorities and discussed the model for participation. Two of the priorities—Medicaid/Medicare/Mental Health and Funding—will be covered through engagement in existing campaigns and led by MCAH. The remaining three priorities—Affordable Housing, Criminalization of Homelessness and State IDs—will be shaped and led by LAC participants. Subcommittees will be set up with the goal of narrowing down the focus and creating materials for legislative engagement.

Jason Weller gave an overview of the State ID subcommittee which has already formed. Agencies were already engaged on the issue, including two groups on the call, and MCAH plugged into the work the group is already doing it. When the legislative issue of voter IDs came out last year we started organizing advocacy. We reached out to other advocacy groups and started to bring together stakeholders. In order to collect better data, we put together survey for data collection. The group meets semi-regularly and is planning specific advocacy work.

Burchfield: We're looking for you to help guide and inform on issues. Expected subcommittee obligations are about 4-7 hours over next 6 weeks. We will make efforts to bring in new LAC members beyond just those on the call. We'll also be reaching out to additional stakeholders.

Question: What is the March 2 kickoff event?

Hufnagel: March 2, Homelessness 101 for new legislators in the morning and coordinated legislative visits in the afternoon. We'll discuss more later in the agenda.

Focusing on our priorities:

- Affordable Housing—Hufnagel: There are a lot of issues here. Affordable housing means different things to different people. Hoping for input on what key component we should be addressing with affordable housing.
  - Marylynn Hewitt: cost analysis of the cost of housing vs cost to community to care for homeless
    - Doug Russell: info gathering from hospital and jail-costs estimates from each
    - Ryan Hannon: how did you get that information.
      - Russel: just asked for total, not for identifiable information, limit to 12 month period
      - Hewitt: overnight state prison \$130, jail \$65. Sec 8 housing with utilities \$649-\$723
  - ? United Way ALICE data-April report shows real cost of living in each county. We should focus on veteran population
  - Mark Criss: Get landlords involved
    - Hufnagel: Another issue is the development of affordable housing and what community's approach is. Conversation should include agency and developers.
  - **Committee volunteers:** Debra Hayes, Doug Russel, Ryan Hannon
- Criminalization of Homelessness—Hufnagel: There are opportunities here. We often react to local issues/legislations, but we can be ahead of the issue with this. Example: an ordinance that would prohibit people from sleeping on a bus
  - Shelley Jipson-Lomax: can we change title to DEcriminalization of homelessness?
  - Robert Elchert: another example is the aggressive panhandling ordinance in Battle Creek. The City commission and homeless coalition of Battle Creek are meeting to discuss MDOT bridge/overpass cleanings so that things aren't thrown away.
    - Hannon: similar experience with MDOT cleaning. Previously asked MDOT to contact him in advance of cleaning
    - Hufnagel: Kent county, greater GR COC has some info on MDOT cleaning practies.
  - Hannon: anti-sleeping ordinance, in TC that was part of bus system policy, not law. Worked with bus agency directly
  - Burchfield: what are some more pro-active issues that we can take on in the committee?
  - Sarah Sporny: substance abuse/mental health: helping police understand and train how to react to psychiatric crisis. Oakland County Mental Health authority has program and 16 officers have gone through training
    - Jipson-Lomax: there's an Arizona program where city goes to homeless areas and ask if they'd like to work for the day.
    - Hufnagel: beyond just mental health, educate on access to services so police can connect domestic violence victims to services, etc. Increases level of education for law enforcement
  - **Committee Volunteers: Sarah Sporny, Robert Elkert,**
- State IDs: Committee has already formed, but is open to new participants
  - **Committee Volunteers: Mark Criss, Robert Elkert**

**Field Updates:**

- Incoming Administration updates—Hufnagel: Observations - Ben Carson has made statements on entitlement and dependency through public housing. Our goal is to educate on programming and HUD funding. He has had positive comments on health. Concerns – Proposed Department of Justice cuts, specifically on funding through the victims against women act, could impact MI funding for domestic violence programs/MDHHS. If these fed dollars go away will have to cut budget or find general fund dollars from the state. Comes from Administration, not sure how House/Congress will react
- MSHDA change in leadership—Hufnagel: there is a pending change in MSHDA. The current director will be appointed to Circuit Judge in NW MI. Don't yet know who will step in.

**Introducing Homelessness to New 2017 Michigan Legislature**

- Priority Kick Off event March 2, 2017—Hufnagel: Homelessness 101 event will focus on new legislators but will be open to all. Short session in the morning with highlights on service system, funding, policy issues, etc. An advocacy day will follow with visit to elected officials. Burchfield: we need LAC to get involved. Get your legislator there and attend yourself.

**Webinar / Training Calendar**

- February 7: Advocacy 101
- Additional webinar ideas?
  - Hewitt: how to tell your story / power of story telling
  - Weller: MCAH is hosting monthly training webinars, not all will be on advocacy but some will. Let us know your ideas.

**Calls to Action:** Hufnagel: These were included in our most recent Public Policy Newsletter

- Medicaid: NAEH and CSH
- Predatory Lenders
- United for Homes

**Additional Notices from the Group**

**Next meeting: February 27**