

**Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC)**  
**Members Meeting**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**July 20<sup>th</sup> 2020**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome and Introductions**

At 2:06pm Marcie Bragg, Chair of the HCCSC Board and Executive Director of the Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHNI), called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Due to utilizing a virtual platform to hold the meeting, Marcie requested that Members mute themselves after speaking and enter any questions in the chat box.

**I. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Marcie requested a motion to approve the July and November 2019 Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County Member’s meeting minutes. Jennifer Keaton motioned to approve. Bob Fay seconded the motion and it was carried by all members present.

**II. Conflict of Interest**

Marcie reminded everyone of the conflict of interest policy.

**III. FY2020 Point in Time (PIT) Update *(See Attachment 1)***

Marcie updated the Members that the Homeless Navigation Supervisor position was filled by Amanda Burdette and welcomed her to the HCCSC Members meeting. Marcie stated that the number of calls Homeless Navigation has received since the start of the pandemic have been less than usual for this time of year.

Jennifer Keaton, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Administrator, provided the HCCSC Members with an update on the FY2020 PIT Count preliminary data. The Point-In-Time (PIT) count is an annual requirement of The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD requires that Continuums of Care complete the PIT count during the last ten days of January when the weather is typically colder and the unsheltered seek assistance for shelter allowing for a more accurate a homeless count. Jennifer thanked ICAN Housing for being the led agency, taking on the responsibility of the PIT count process and volunteers, since 2009. Jennifer provided an overview of the PIT Count processes stating that each year since 2013 Stark County has seen a decrease in the total PIT count numbers. Please see the attachment to review the FY2020 PIT Count Update.

Jennifer provided an update on the how the Homeless Navigation staff has operated since the beginning of the pandemic. There are currently six staff members, all but one person is working from home. The person in the office triages calls coming from those seeking assistance and connects the caller to a Homeless Navigation Specialist. The operations seem to be working well and there has been no disruption in services. StarkMHAR Partner Solutions created polices for vacation time and days off based on current operations. There is a daily meeting held with staff to ensure the continuation of operations without any disruptions. Jennifer reported that the calls into Homeless Navigation are down by half, but that staff are continuing outgoing calls at a higher rate than normal. The Homeless Navigation Supervisor position has been filled by Amanda Burdette. Amanda was the Carol County Domestic Violence Shelter manager and has previously worked as a Homeless Navigation Specialist. Amanda addressed the Members stating that she is excited to be a part of the system.

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**IV. COVID19 Homeless Task Force Response Review** *(See Attachment 2)*

The COVID19 Homeless Task Force Response summary document was displayed for Members' review. Marcie discussed how existing and new homeless system community partners came together to implement daily conference call to help with responding to and preparing for the pandemic. Community partners on the calls included representatives from shelter, housing, behavioral health, health department, federally qualified health clinic, local foundation, and homeless school liaison. The calls began as daily calls but are now taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays with the option to meet other days as needed. Marcie reviewed the funding that is available for Stark County's response to the pandemic. Marcie pointed out that with the new funding coming into the community through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) and other funders, that the HCCSC is creating standalone policies for the new, one time funding. The standalone policies for homeless prevention and rental assistance will not utilize the full Service Prioritization Decision Assessment Tool (SPDAT). This policy change was made to expedite assistance for those in need. Please see the attachment to review the COVID19 Homeless Task Force Response funding allocations, activities and outcomes.

**Discussion:** There was discussion around the funding coming into the community and if this amount of funding is enough to make a substantial impact on homelessness within Stark County. Marcie indicated that the HCCSC can utilize a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) tool to input funding allocations, and other data elements, to determine the impact of those seeking assistance. The goal is to connect all persons with high risk factors to projects administering the assistance; with the standalone policies and HUD tool, the HCCSC will work to reduce homelessness for as many people as possible.

**V. Coordinated Entry System Committee (CES) Update**

Natalie McCleskey, of ICAN Housing, led the discussion of the CES committee updates. Natalie co-chairs the CES committee with Scott Schnyders of the Refuge of Hope. The CES committee considered guidance set forth by the Governor's office in regards to the travel ban and implemented a process to utilize alternative shelter for households traveling into Ohio. The CES committee also created a system level waiver that allowed Rapid Rehousing (RRH) participants an increased amount of rental assistance for the months of April and May. The CES committee approved an Out of State Travel motion based on the Governor's travel ban that would require travelers to Ohio to self-quarantine for 14-days when reporting to Homeless Navigation (the Hotline) that they have just arrived in Stark County from out of state; there was an exception for those who meet criteria could be served by a veteran or domestic violence organization. The Out of State Travel motion expired on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The RRH providers discussed participant stabilization during the pandemic and for the months of April and May and determined that providers would pay the full amount of rent for participants that had a loss of income due to COVID. With the new funding sources that have been allocated to Stark County, the CES Committee has focused on different standalone policies for eligibility and prioritization. Each funding source has a set of guidelines and priorities attached to the funding. A smaller group including providers, Homeless Navigation, the Stark Housing Network, Inc. (SHNI), and Shannon McMahon Williams, have been meeting to review guidance and create policies that comply with the requirements and prioritizes established by the funders. The CES committee and HCCSC Board recently approved the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) homeless prevention and emergency rental assistance standalone policies for eligibility and prioritization and standards for sub-recipient record keeping requirement policies. Although HUD has not released the final program guidelines for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) CARES Act funding, CoC's are encouraged to

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begin to create eligibility and prioritization policies for the activities funded by ESG. The small group will meet next week to begin the ESG CARES Act policy discussion.

**VI. FY2020 Local Continuum of Care Competition**

Marcie informed Members' on the process for this year's (FY2020) HUD CoC Program competition; she has participated in HUD office hours every Friday seeking additional guidance. The guidance provided by HUD representatives is that CoC's should focus on responding to the pandemic and should not be as focused on monitoring, performance measures and/or governance. Currently CoC's are waiting for additional HUD guidance that will outline this year's competition and any competition nuances due to the pandemic. The SHNI and RAEC chair have been working through processes based on knowledge of past HUD competitions. For the FY2020 CoC Program competition, the SHNI will hold an application workshop when HUD releases the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and will provide guidance on how to complete the HUD eSNAPS application. The SHNI and RAEC have discussed providers increased efforts in response to the pandemic and determined that providers should only complete one application for this year's competition; providers will be required to complete the HUD eSNAPS application and not required to complete the HCCSC's Local Application. Applicants that complete the HUD eSNAPS application will still undergo the scoring and ranking process as completed in the past; the source of information for the scoring and ranking process will be extracted from the HUD eSNAPS application in areas where the RAEC would have normally pulled the information from the HCCSC's Local Application. The SHNI and RAEC chair have created a Scoring Criteria and Score Sheet – Appendix to solicit responses, in order to complete the entire scoring process.

Marcie also informed Members that the Ohio Development Service Agency (ODSA) will accept applications for 2021-2022 Supportive Housing Projects (SHP) and Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) projects. ODSA is not requiring CoC endorsement and the applications are not competitive.

**VII. Equity 15-Day Challenge**

Cathy Jennings, HCCSC Board Member, discussed the 15 Day Unity Challenge that is meant to inspire residents to take action against racism and other forms of discrimination. The YWCA of Canton has worked with the United Way of Greater Stark County to model a challenge after Cleveland's 21 day challenge. The 15 Day Unity Challenge is specific to Stark County. There are various community partners including, but not limited to the Urban League and StarkMHAR, that have committed to providing educational materials for one of the days of the challenge. Persons who register for the challenge will receive an email with activities. The YWCA of Canton encourages people to participate in and endorse the challenge; the goal is to keep the conversation going by offering additional activities once the challenge ends. An example activity would be a session on how to talk to your kids about racism. If interested, participants can sign up by going to the YWCA of Canton's website / Facebook page or United Way of Greater Stark County's website.

**VIII. Questions/Old Business/New Business**

N/A

**IX. Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

## 2020 Point-in-Time Count OH-508 Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

### Persons in Households with at least one Adult and one Child

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total Number of Households	32	6	0	38
Total Number of persons (Adults & Children)	93	22	0	115
Number of Persons (under age 18)	57	16	0	73
Number of Persons (18 - 24)	3	2	0	5
Number of Persons (over age 24)	33	4	0	37

Gender (adults and children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Female	64	13	0	77
Male	29	9	0	38
Transgender	0	0	0	0
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity (adults and children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	91	21	0	112
Hispanic/Latino	2	1	0	3

## 2020 Point-in-Time Count OH-508 Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC

Race (adults and children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
White	35	8	0	43
Black or African-American	36	12	0	48
Asian	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	22	2	0	24

Chronically Homeless (adults and children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total number of households	0		0	0
Total number of persons	0		0	0

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

**Persons in Households with only Children**

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of children (under age 18)	0	0	0	0	0

Gender (adults and children)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Female	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity (adults and children)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0	0	0	0

Race (adults and children)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional			
White	0	0	0	0	0
Black or African-American	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	0	0	0	0	0

Chronically Homeless (adults and children)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total number of persons	0		0	0	0

## 2020 Point-in-Time Count OH-508 Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

### Persons in Households without Children

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	114	1	0	16	131
Total Number of persons (Adults)	118	1	0	16	135
Number of Persons (18 - 24)	7	0	0	1	8
Number of Persons (over age 24)	111	1	0	15	127

Gender (adults and children)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Female	50	1	0	3	54
Male	68	0	0	13	81
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity (adults and children)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	115	1	0	16	132
Hispanic/Latino	3	0	0	0	3



## 2020 Point-in-Time Count OH-508 Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC

Race (adults and children)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
White	78	1	0	10	<b>89</b>
Black or African-American	27	0	0	6	<b>33</b>
Asian	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Multiple Races	10	0	0	0	<b>10</b>

Chronically Homeless (adults and children)	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total number of persons	2		0	1	<b>3</b>

Date of PIT Count: 1/28/2020

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

### Total Households and Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	146	7	0	16	<b>169</b>
Total Number of Persons	211	23	0	16	<b>250</b>
Number of Children (under age 18)	57	16	0	0	<b>73</b>
Number of Persons (18 to 24)	10	2	0	1	<b>13</b>
Number of Persons (over age 24)	144	5	0	15	<b>164</b>

### Gender

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Female	114	14	0	3	<b>131</b>
Male	97	9	0	13	<b>119</b>
Transgender	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

### Ethnicity

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	206	22	0	16	<b>244</b>
Hispanic/Latino	5	1	0	0	<b>6</b>

### Race

Point In Time Summary for OH-508 - Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
White	113	9	0	10	<b>132</b>
Black or African-American	63	12	0	6	<b>81</b>
Asian	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Multiple Races	32	2	0	0	<b>34</b>

<b>Chronically Homeless</b>	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total number of persons	2		0	1	<b>3</b>



**STARK COUNTY HOMELESS SYSTEM COVID-19 RESPONSE**

<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>AMT. DISBURSED</b>	<b>AMT. REMAINING</b>
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton	Shelter Operations/Street Outreach	\$5,000.00	\$3,290.71	\$1,709.29
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton	Shelter Operations – Cleaning Services	\$16,500.00	\$4,577.40	\$11,922.60
Stark Community Foundation	Shelter Operations – Cleaning Services	\$28,500.00	\$8,137.60	\$20,362.40
Faith Family Church	Shelter Operations	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio	Shelter Operations/Alternative Sites	\$10,000.00	\$5,455.00	\$4,545.00
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio	Alternative Sites	\$60,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$15,000.00
Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA)	Homeless Prevention/Rapid Rehousing/Rental Assistance/Hotel	\$208,711.24	\$0.00	\$208,711.24
Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act Round 1– <i>City of Canton (SHNI/HCCSC prioritized agencies for the City of Canton to award funding)</i>	Shelter Operations/Street Outreach/Homeless Prevention/ Rapid Rehousing	\$705,459.00	\$0.00	\$705,459.00
Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act Round 2 – City of Canton	Shelter Operations/Street Outreach/Homeless Prevention/ Rapid Rehousing	\$738,045.90	\$0.00	\$738,045.90
Ohio Development Services Agency – Homeless Crisis Response Program	Rapid Rehousing	\$86,700.00	\$0.00	\$86,700.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,863,916.14</b>	<b>\$66,460.71</b>	<b>\$1,797,455.43</b>

**COVID-19 HOMELESS TASK FORCE OUTCOMES**

- Implemented weekday 8 am calls with representatives from shelter, housing, behavioral health, health department, federally qualified health clinic, and homeless school liaison (*calls have been reduced to twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays*)
- Secured two locations for alternative shelter sites totaling 15 units
- Established relationships with three hotels for alternative site locations
- Equipped shelter rooms with a mini refrigerator and microwave to allow for the closure of shared kitchen spaces
- Awarded \$105,000 for system-wide grant applications to fund alternative shelter sites and cleaning services for shelters
- Partnered with Alliance Family Health Center to develop Stark County CoC COVID-Triage Sheet, Telehealth Services, and Mobile Health Clinic for Shelter Residents including COVID-19 testing
- Established medical transportation for service shelter and permanent housing residents
- Created peer support group for shelter and housing providers
- Created HCCSC Committee Workgroups to create and amend current HCCSC Coordinated Entry Policies for COVID-19 related OHFA and ESG funding