

**Missouri Interagency Council to End Homelessness
Meeting Minutes 5/1/23**

Attendance

<i>Adam Bodendieck, CPO</i>	<i>Josiah Melzer, DSS</i>
<i>Aidan Rich, MHDC</i>	<i>Kaitlyn Poepsel, ICA</i>
<i>Amanda Stadler, DMH</i>	<i>Kathryn Stefanowycz, Leavenworth VA</i>
<i>Angela Webb, CCSOMO</i>	<i>Kathy Henderson, Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service</i>
<i>Ann Benson</i>	<i>Laura Miller, DSS</i>
<i>Anthony Smith, FCC</i>	<i>Laurie Phillips, House Everyone STL</i>
<i>Carolyn Stemmons, MO Head Start State Collaboration Office</i>	<i>Mark Aufdenberg, MODOT</i>
<i>Cindy VanBuskirk, CCSOMO</i>	<i>Misty Dothage, DESE</i>
<i>Conrad Hake, MHDC</i>	<i>Nathaniel Meece, CPSEMO</i>
<i>Diana Kilguss, CCSOMO</i>	<i>Sandy Wilson, ICA</i>
<i>Dottie Kastigar, Community Council</i>	<i>Sarah Wilson, MO Hospital Association</i>
<i>Drew Geer, MHDC</i>	<i>Sarah Owlsey, Empower MO</i>
<i>Elyssa Luebbering, DHSS</i>	<i>Sarah Canada, Legal Aid of WMO</i>
<i>Emily Fessler, CPO</i>	<i>Sonia Campbell, Catholic Charities of KC/SJ</i>
<i>Janelle Williams – MOCADSV</i>	<i>Tamara Wright, USICH</i>
<i>Jessica Macy, Flourish Teen Shelter/ Boone County Coalition to End Homelessness</i>	<i>Tammy Walker, Economic Security</i>
	<i>Wes Dent, Hillcrest TH</i>

Old Business

- February 2023 MICH Meeting Minutes - Approved as presented.

Legislative Update – Sarah Owsley, Empower Missouri

Empower Missouri focuses on legislative policy change. The legislative session for this year ends in May, so below updates are subject to change.

- SB 222- Likely that this bill on an eviction moratorium will pass. This would prohibit municipalities, political subdivisions, and cities from enforcing their own eviction moratorium unless a moratorium is established by state law. The Governor could issue a state of emergency that could include an eviction moratorium, but a local unit of government couldn't institute its own.
- Unlikely that changes/increases to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund will take place this session. Empower Missouri will continue to focus on this for next year and feels this is important because of how HB 1606 could prevent the development of new permanent supportive housing beds.
- Changes are likely to the Initiative Petition process, which would limit the power for communities to utilize Initiative Petition as an avenue to promote voter priorities.

- 3 bills related to housing are likely to pass- SB 47 (free IDs - driver/nondriver- for homeless youth); HB 587 (land bank bill that would allow communities to establish land banks; currently each community needs its own legislation to pass to establish land bank); HB1134 (increase circuit breaker tax credit for elderly/disabled homeowners and renters)
- HB1606 –The first lawsuit against this, based on the fact that legislation was added on to the bill that didn't fit the title of the bill, did not pass. Going into appeal round currently. Empower Missouri has a general form where the public can submit stories of the impact of HB 1606 at <https://forms.gle/aTvuAB8FnhALPMaW8> . For more information contact Sarah@empowermissouri.org

New Business

Legal Aid Update- Sarah Canada, Legal Services of Western Mo

- Expanded Services - Legal Aid received a HUD grant to add a housing attorney and housing social worker to their staff; assuming the grants will be renewed. The case manager has been able to help clients apply for SAFHR funds and advocate to clients don't fall through the cracks. Legal Aid has also added two DV attorneys as well.
- Fair Housing Updates
 - HUD is in process of updating the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule, which would provide more accountability around fair housing and structure with HUD technical assistance.
 - Protected classes were also clarified to include gender identity and sexual orientation.
 - There is a new proposal that hasn't passed yet to prohibit discrimination based on source of income, Veteran status, and military status.
 - While Missouri has legalized Marijuana, HUD has released guidance that an individual cannot request a reasonable accommodation for marijuana because it isn't legalized federally.
- Fair Housing Trends- majority of fair housing complaints in their office are related to reasonable accommodations based on disability (for example tenant requesting a grab bar in the shower or to pay rent on the 5th of the months because SSI/SSDI benefits are paid on the 1st of the month).

Future Training/Discussion Topics for MICH Meetings – Group Discussion

- Updates on state level initiatives/ discussion with state departments on trends they are seeing and how we can better collaborate across systems
- Housing best practices from around the country
- General discussions on housing trends across the state (evictions, housing availability, rental availability, impact of Air BnBs, etc)

- Conversation on how to support families with young children that are experiencing homelessness

Committee/Workgroup Updates

Committee Updates – Targeted work groups were created in 2022 strategic planning session for 2023-2025 plan.

Missouri Continuum of Care- Dottie Kastigar

- Discussion on preliminary PIT numbers- anecdotally, numbers were increased or the same as last year. Many CoCs indicated cold weather impacted numbers.
- There is a lack of affordable housing across the state, which impacts CoC outcomes.
- Some CoCs seeing an increase chronic homelessness and people cycling through system – people who are housed, loose housing, rehoused multiple times- how do we keep people housed?
- Discussion on ARPA funding allocations- some communities received funding for homeless initiatives but not all.
- There is a SOAR Leadership Academy in August in Kansas City; all costs are covered by SAMHSA.
- BOS was awarded Unsheltered NOFO funds and YHDP funds.

Affordable Housing- Amanda Stadler

Group has not met due to lack of leadership. Executive Committee recommends combining this focus with Empower Missouri's Affordable Housing Development Work Group to avoid duplication. Empower Missouri's Affordable Housing group meets monthly to preserve and expand affordable housing development across the state. Their policy priorities are to improve Low Income Housing Tax Credit process at MHDC, increase funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and support expansion of Land Trusts/Land Banks. There are 15 individuals engaged at some level that represent Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, and SE MO. Wayne Crawford chairs the group. MICH membership agreed to combine efforts; Executive Committee will reach out to Empower Missouri to discuss this partnership.

Capacity Building- Sandy Wilson

Group has not been able to coordinate schedules for a meeting yet; there is HUD TA support for this group through the St. Charles CoC.

Critical Partnerships- Nathaniel Meece

Group is focused on how housing providers and system level partners outside of housing can work together to address housing needs. Housing providers have a goal to house individuals and housing is often a barrier to the goals of other partners (healthcare, legal aid, etc). An overview is available at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pqkFJcRIQn3pklYhZ84FGBs5AQQPpsig/view>. Focus areas include:

- Interconnecting resources to understand needs of clients across the board and work to address them
- Transportation gaps
- Discharges into homelessness from other systems (healthcare, criminal justice)

Sandy mentioned that several CoCs scored low on the last NOFO regarding healthcare/housing partnerships and that MICH as a whole should review our discharge policy.

Legislative Education

See previous notes from Sarah Owsley. Group is still seeking co-chair.

Executive Committee – Sandy Wilson

- Executive Committee will be reviewing past by-laws, which were based on structure from when group was under Executive Order from Governor's Office, and presenting back to the full MICH for approval.
- 2023 Meeting Schedule – Next Meetings- August 7 and November 6. Tentative date for in-person meeting is September in Jefferson City, pending NOFO.
 - Tentative Agenda – PIT/HIC data, Work Group updates

Funding Updates

MHDC – Aidan Rich

- Going forward Drew Geer, ESG Administrator, will provide updates (drew.geer@mhdc.com).
- HUD Programs
 - ESG - 50% pending deadline was 4/30; MDHC will work with agencies on spending plans but won't recapture funds. Virtual office hours 5/11 at 10:00 a.m. for ESG 2023. Will do these quarterly. Intend to have 2024 NOFO approved by commission in June, release will be shortly after that.
 - HERO - hope have 2023 NOFO approval from commission in June.
 - HOME ARP - allocation plan submitted to HUD and waiting on approval.
 - Section 811 Project Rental Assistance - NOFO/allocation plan posted to website. NOFO targeted to existing properties that were awarded LIHTC through MHDC qualified application plan 2023 or later. Purpose is to supply housing/community integration for disabled individuals who are experiencing homelessness/institutionalized.
- Community Programs
 - 2024 draft allocation plan /NOFO released on 4/14; open for public comment until May 8.
 - Disaster Relief- no funding right now. Tornado in Bollinger County wasn't declared disaster but community has planning committee in place to respond. Governor has program in place to provide low-income loans to community.

- Housing stability/eviction diversion program open on rolling basis until Tuesday 8/1. Agencies can apply for funding for eviction relief and case management assistance to keep low-moderate income residents impacted by COVID housed.
- New Shelter Operations Support (SoS) pilot program - application will open May 1 and open until 6/16. Agencies can apply for operation/admin to support ES. Priority given to programs that serve Veterans.

HUD CoC Programs- Sandy Wilson

- CoC NOFO/SNOFO –Competition debriefing has occurred. HUD anticipates this year’s NOFO to be release in May-June and due in September. Sandy acknowledged the hard work CoCs put in last year to complete submissions under the normal and supplemental NOFO. BOS was awarded \$1.3 million to expand CES.
- YHDP NOFO –Dropped recently, hope that CoCs are considering applying. BOS was awarded YHPD last year.

Member Updates/Announcements

- No announcements.