

RECOVERY HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE



Kimberly L. Murphy
County Administrator

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MEMBERS

Claudia Annoni, Nancy Jenkins-Arno, Francine Zysk, Gary Clift,
Jackie Bradley, Jacqueline Wyse, Troy Bevier, John Glaser

MEETING LOCATION

Chambers
301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221

Minutes: Wednesday, April 24, 2024

I. Call to Order- Reading of Mission Statement

With the Community Needs Assessment results of using the Opioid Settlement Funds, the data guided a need for Recovery Housing for Lenawee County. The sub-committee will explore the best options for creating Recovery Housing to offer stable, safe, and substance-free housing alternatives for those in recovery in Lenawee County.

Present: Commissioner Nancy Jenkins-Arno

Also Present: Community Development Coordinator Francine Zysk, Garry Clift, Sheriff Troy Bevier, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Allison Arnold, Community Outreach / Compliance Director for Lenawee Community Mental Health Jackie Bradley, Administrator Kim Murphy, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott, Marketing & Communications: Jen Ambrose, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Emily White for Public Defender office

Absent: -

Meeting was called to order by Comm. Jenkins-Arno at 1:30pm

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: March 27, 2024

Motion by Sheriff Bevier, seconded by Jackie Bradley, to approve the minutes of March 27, 2024. Motion carried.

Community Coordinator Zysk provided a Recovery House Evaluation form to the subcommittee. All committee members are encouraged to provide feedback on the presentations given at the subcommittee.

Comm. Jenkins-Arno opened discussion regarding the Recovery Housing subcommittee Mission Statement. Jenkins-Arno would like the subcommittee to look at the idea of Recovery Housing but also, what other gap areas can we include? For example, if transportation is an issue, how could that be improved and assist those in recovery?

Jenkins-Arno called Administrator Murphy to speak further about this. The Administrator reviewed the mission statement and purpose of the Subcommittee. She stated after listening to several more presenters, the subcommittee will then review what they feel are pros and cons to each presentation. The Subcommittee will then formulate its recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. If they feel there is a need for some form of recovery housing, they will need to create a "blueprint" of what they feel would best suit the needs of Lenawee

County. Administrator Murphy indicated that a decision on how all of the opioid funds will be allocated over the next 18 years has not yet been determined. Currently, the Subcommittee's purpose is to explore ideas and the direction for Recovery Housing in Lenawee County.

III. Presentation- Neighbors of Hope- Steven Palmer, Executive Director

A. Presentation

Mr. Palmer has been part of Neighbors of Hope for over 18 years. In 2005, they were registered as a non-profit, religious organization: Lenawee County Mission, founded by Rev. James Watson. In 2006, the shelter was open for un-housed males and/or males in recovery. In 2010, they started a Fishes & Loaves food pantry. In 2013, the Blessings & More Resale store opened. The Day Farm gardening program was opened to provide hands-on learning on healthy eating. In 2019, the Tecumseh female organization was opened but closed shortly after due to the pandemic. Palmer is hopeful that program will come back. Residents are employed through some of their various programs.

Neighbors of Hope has two primary programs: Fresh Start and Life Change.

Fresh Start is for men who are experiencing homelessness. It provides six months of basic needs services, which can include housing, food, and/or personal care. Fresh Start addresses the root causes of homelessness and assists individuals in finding employment and housing. They have a goal to empower men, so they can take personal responsibility for becoming effective members of the community.

Life Change is their program to overcome addiction. It is a one to two year long program, allowing residents to learn leadership, accountability, and integrity through biblical counseling and spiritual formation. Neighbors of Hope staff members serve as coaches and counselors. The Life Change program has three phases: Reorientation, Work, and Aftercare. Palmer explained they assist residents through mentoring, classroom instruction and assignments, personal study, and practical experience.

Neighbors of Hope remains as a Sober Living Facility and have a zero tolerance policy. The National Coalition on Homelessness recognizes that 55% of the homeless population are alcohol dependent and 25% other substance use. Neighbors of Hope has found that 60% of men enrolled in Fresh Start program, later will join the Life Change program.

Director Palmer shared they are not a halfway house, which is typically government funding. Traditional sober living homes require residents to pay to reside there, Neighbors of Hope do not require payment, thanks to the donations made from the community. Palmer shared the positives of their program include a higher rate of abstinence (at 18-month f/u), improvements in mental health, increased employment, reduced substance misuse, avoids environmental factors that may lead toward relapse.

A discussion was opened to the committee. Palmer shared they have served over 11,000 men since opened. During recovery, they have found that relapse can be part of the recovery

process. Neighbors of Hope has found approximately 55% of members will walk away, typically around 4-5 months. It was discussed they accept referrals from family, friends, self referral and there is not a requirement to be unhoused. Palmer discussed they are not a court ordered facility however, the organization will get probation officer permission to reside there. Director Palmer informed they accept meal donations from the community and donors are encouraged to join residents for a meal.

IV. Existing Business

No existing business discussed.

V. New Business

A. 2024 Policies

- Code of Ethics
- Conflict of Interest
- Enhanced Public Participation

Administrator Murphy has included the three policies that were passed. Employees would have already received and were requested to sign via LocalGov.U. The Administrator would like the Subcommittee to be aware of the new policies and sign off on each policy.

Coordinator Zysk provided a handout showing an additional breakdown of the Community Needs Assessment. No further discussion was held.

Below is information provided by Coordinator Zysk, that highlights a successful model implemented in Camden, NJ. Zysk explained their model is more of a "community network" and includes various programs. No further discussion held.

B. [Evaluating the Camden County Correctional Facility's Medications for Opioid Use Disorder program- October 2023](#)

VI. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Zysk, seconded by Bradley to adjourn the meeting at 2:24pm. Motion carried.