

RECOVERY HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE

Kimberly L. Murphy
County Administrator

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MEMBERS

Nancy Jenkins-Arno, Francine Zysk, Gary Clift, Jackie Bradley, Jacqueline Wyse, Troy Bevier, John Glaser
301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221

MEETING LOCATION

Wyse, Troy Bevier,
Chambers

Minutes: Wednesday, July 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, Commissioner James Van Doren, Commissioner Terry Collins

Also Present: Community Development Coordinator Francine Zysk, Garry Clift, Chief Prosecuting Attorney Jacqueline Wyse, Administrator Kim Murphy, Marketing & Communications Jen Ambrose, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Emily White for Chief Public Defender John Glaser

Absent: Sheriff Troy Bevier, Community Outreach / Compliance Director for Lenawee Community Mental Health Jackie Bradley, Chief Public Defender John Glaser

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: May 22, 2024 & June 26, 2024

Motion by Zysk, seconded by White to approve the minutes of May 22, 2024 and June 26, 2024. Motion carried.

III. Presentation

A. Life Challenge Ministries - Pastor Jeff Bonzelaar

Comm. Jenkins Arno introduced Pastor Jeff Bonzelaar with Life Challenge Ministries.

Bonzelaar shared he has served at Life Challenge Ministries for 36 years now. The organization began in 1958 and since then, 200 campuses have opened in the United States. There is one in west Detroit which will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in October 2024 and their Flint location opened 35 years ago.

Life Challenge Ministries is a non-profit, faith-based, long-term solution that offers residential care for up to 1 year, to those struggling with substance-use disorders. The organization is a structured program, rising early and participating in activities throughout the day for recovery. Bonzelaar states the structure, regimen, and faith-based services are the primary

functions within the program and assist those with recovery. Individual and group therapy are available on-site, in addition to on-site physician visits. Residents also participate in group activities such as softball and other team-oriented hobbies. Counseling and therapy groups are attended twice a week. Qualifications for the organization include having a need, the willingness to participate, and being 18 years or older. A fee of \$1,200 from residents is requested. However, this can be negotiated if the work towards recovery is done. Life Challenge has been fortunate to receive numerous donations from churches, businesses, and other local organizations.

Ken Keene is the program director at Life Challenge Ministries. Director Keene informed the committee they were licensed 4 years ago for outpatient counseling through the State of MI and recently a resident in-house physician. Keene explains they have adult and teen ministries, in addition to outpatient clinical care that includes therapy groups and individual counseling. The entire year of being in the program, residents go through the four phases of the program, during their recovery.

Ryan Krise discussed his personal experience with Life Challenge Ministries. He states the structure, therapy, and faith-based organization have had life-changing effects on him, providing hope and direction.

Pastor Bonzelaar informed the committee that those enrolled at Life Challenge Ministries reside there 24/7. During the transition of phases in the program, residents have periodic scheduled time outside the home, including scheduled family visits, and offer family counseling. Those enrolled are not employed during their stay.

Discussion was held regarding their annual budget, which Bonzelaar states is currently \$1.2 million that covers the two campuses. Approximately 47% come from donations and 20% from churches.

Referrals are accepted from the courts; a phone interview is done before placement to discuss the commitment to the program.

The current housing does not accommodate children; in the past, women were eligible for the program. However, currently, there are only male residents. Currently, the Detroit campus houses about 23 men and Flint currently has 15 men; Bonzelaar states the ideal number is about 30-35 at the Detroit campus and 20 at the Flint campus. He states community and relationship building is a primary component of healing.

The subcommittee asked what has been the most challenging thing; Bonzelaar stated finding adequate staffing can be the most difficult. Also, donations at times can be challenging, but they have found success in holding fundraising events like golf scrambles, birthday party events, and walk-a-thons. They have a development team that coordinates these events.

After residents complete the year program, Life Challenge Ministries collaborates with community organizations and mentors during the transition. After graduation from the program, some residents have returned to work at the organization during an "internship" and at times it has resulted in them becoming full-time staff members.

IV. Existing Business

No discussion.

V. New Business

Coordinator Zysk shared a link to an article from Johns Hopkins school of Public Health; How stable housing supports recovery from substance-use disorders. This study was done after the distribution of federal funding; Zysk encourages the subcommittee to read.

A. [Stable Housing Supports Recovery](#)

B. MSDA - Recovery Housing Investment Program

Information from MSHDA was provided by Coordinator Zysk; who also forwarded it to other local agencies. Zysk shared that when the states receive opioid funding, other program funding may be available. If an organization is certified by the State, additional grant funding may be available.

VI. Public Comment

Public comment was made, and Community Development Coordinator Zysk provided a recap of what this subcommittee is for.

Administrator Murphy further explained the goals for this subcommittee. Murphy stated there are eight different options for the use of the opioid funding; one being Recovery Housing. The subcommittee has heard from various organizations in the past six months; the next step will be to discuss the feasible options for Lenawee County and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. That may or may not be Recovery Housing; that decision has not been made yet. Once/if the Board of Commissioners makes an approval, bids will be placed for the project(s).

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Clift, seconded by Wyse to adjourn the meeting at 2:03 pm. Motion carried.