MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order .............................................................. Lydia C. Pickett, Executive Director, MACH

Approval of Minutes – August 27, 2020 ........................................... Call for the Motion
(Only MACH members are allowed to vote.)

MACH Advisory Committee Reports ........................................... Chair, Lydia Pickett, MACH

  Continuum of Care
  Coordination of Services
    Blanket Drive (November 7, 14, & 21, 2020, 9am-12pm)
  HMIS/Data Collection
    Point-in-Time Count (Tuesday, January 26, 2021)
  Mainstream Resources
  Membership
    2020-2021 Membership Renewals

Update ............................................................................. Chair, Ghandi Daniels, The Wellness Coalition

  The Status of Evictions

Information ................................................................................. Chair, Tasha Cooper, HandsOn River Region

  Housing Offered by Montgomery Area Mental
  Health Authority (MAMHA)

Announcements & Information .................................................. Chair, Tara Davis, Friendship Mission

  Board of Directors (interest/suggestions)

Others .................................................................................. Chair, Debbie Richardson, MACH

Adjournment ........................................................................ Stephanie Blackburn, Managing Attorney

Next Meeting 3:00 pm, Thursday, December 10, 2020

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!
Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless (MACH)  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 27, 2020, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
(Conducted via Zoom Conference)

The Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless (MACH) convened the general membership in a meeting at the above date, time, and methodology. The following members and visitors participated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Nicholson</td>
<td>Alabama Arise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liletta Jenkins</td>
<td>Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (CPC)</td>
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<td>Stephen Jaye</td>
<td>Alabama Department of Public Health</td>
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<td>Amy Stratton</td>
<td>Alabama Department of Public Health</td>
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<td>Charlene Roberson</td>
<td>Alabama Nurses Association</td>
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<td>Kristen Dial</td>
<td>Alabama State Department of Education</td>
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<td>Bill Benson</td>
<td>Alabama State Department of Human Resources</td>
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<td>Cynthia Bisbee</td>
<td>Bisbee &amp; Associates</td>
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<td>Kimberly Hobbs</td>
<td>Central Alabama Fair Housing Center</td>
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<td>Michelle Wood</td>
<td>Elmore County Department of Human Resources</td>
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<td>Laura Reid</td>
<td>Family Sunshine Center</td>
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<td>Catherine Watts</td>
<td>Family Sunshine Center</td>
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<td>Brittany Smith</td>
<td>Family Sunshine Center</td>
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<td>Daron Mayes</td>
<td>HandsOn River Region</td>
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<td>Tasha Cooper</td>
<td>HandsOn River Region</td>
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<td>Sarian Ross</td>
<td>Health Services Inc</td>
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<td>Jarrett White</td>
<td>Hope Inspired Ministries</td>
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<td>Violet Henderson</td>
<td>Independent Rights and Resources</td>
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<td>Lydia C. Pickett</td>
<td>MACH</td>
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<td>Debbie Richardson</td>
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<td>Patrick Aitken</td>
<td>MACH</td>
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<td>Beverly Toodle</td>
<td>MACH</td>
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<td>Karen Turner</td>
<td>Medical Advocacy &amp; Outreach</td>
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<td>Sharonda Bonner</td>
<td>Medical Advocacy &amp; Outreach</td>
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<td>Glynis Tanner</td>
<td>Montgomery Housing Authority</td>
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<td>Tracy Artis</td>
<td>No affiliation</td>
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<td>James Lovejoy</td>
<td>Omega Psi Phi Fraternity</td>
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<td>Tommy Woodard</td>
<td>Priority Veteran</td>
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<td>Susan Hunt</td>
<td>Renascence Inc</td>
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<td>Ghandi Daniels</td>
<td>The Wellness Coalition</td>
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<td>William Scott</td>
<td>US Census Bureau - Atlanta</td>
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<td>Stephen Jaye</td>
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<td>Yolanda Allen</td>
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Call to Order – Lydia C. Pickett, Executive Director, MACH, called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. (Meeting agenda, minutes [June 25, 2020], and MACH Advisory Committee descriptions provided.)
Approval of Minutes
Ghandi Daniels motioned for approval of June 25, 2020 minutes, Patrick Aitken seconded, motion carried.

MACH Membership – Debbie Richardson, Chair
Thank you to all who have renewed and/or joined MACH. Since our last newsletter publication in July, we have had a few individuals, and three (3) organizations joined (Mary Ellen’s Hearth, Vision of Grace Transition Home and Legal Services Alabama). As you may know, MACH meetings are open to the public. Membership is encouraged as dues help support our mission to end homelessness. Membership dues for individuals are $10.00 per year and for organizations $50.00 per year. Organization membership benefits include access to funding sources, news and information sharing in MACH’s bi-monthly newsletter, publication of events, fundraisers and job announcements on the MACH website, and your agency’s website link on the MACH website. Persons and/or organizations who are not members, please consider joining today. You can visit our website at www.midalhomeless.org (see Membership) and obtain an application or apply online.

MACH Advisory Committees – Lydia Pickett

Continuum of Care, Chair, Lydia C. Pickett, MACH
Contact Information: lydia@midalhomeless.org; 334.261.6182
Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Coordination of Services, Chair, Ghandi Daniels, The Wellness Coalition
Contact Information: gdaniels@thewellnesscoalition.org; 334.293.6489
Meeting Date & Time: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 1:00 pm

HMIS/Data Collection, Chair, Tasha Cooper, HandsOn River Region
Contact Information: tcooper@handsonriverregion.org; 334.264.3335
Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 10:00 am

Mainstream Resources, Chair, Tara Davis, Friendship Mission
Contact Information: tdavis@friendshipmission.org; 334.281.2395
Meeting Date & Time: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 10:00 am

Membership, Chair, Debbie Richardson, MACH
Contact Information: debbie@midalhomeless.org; 334.261.6182
Meeting Date & Time: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Lydia stated the MACH Advisory Committees have been formed, committee chairs selected, participation solicited, and meeting dates/time scheduled. Lydia introduced the committee chairs and upcoming dates for committee meetings (see above). Committee descriptions are included in the meeting packet. Lydia stated each committee will work to establish committee goals, share ideas, and gather input from others to better serve our region’s homeless. Lydia asked those interested in serving on a MACH Advisory Committee to email debbie@midalhomeless.org.

HUD Equal Access Rule – Kim Hobbs, Executive Director, Central Alabama Fair Housing Center
(Contact Information: khobbs@cafhc.org; 334.263.4663)

Ms. Hobbs provided an overview of the role of the Central Alabama Fair Housing Center. Ms. Hobbs stated the Center serves 29 counties and is a civil rights organization. The organization is celebrating its 25th year. The Center works to fight housing discrimination and housing inequality. The agency has an enforcement division comprised of fair housing investigators. Additionally, the Center provides fair housing training to ensure housing providers and housing-related services, both public and private, are informed.

Ms. Hobbs shared information about the Fair Housing Act (FHA) [Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968], which protects individuals and families from discrimination in the sale, rental, financing, or advertising of housing. The Fair Housing Act, as amended in 1988, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, family
status, and national origin. The FHA was expanded in 1974 to include gender, and was expanded again in 1988 to protect people with disabilities and families with children. Sexual orientation is not covered under the Fair Housing Act. Ms. Hobbs stated shelters and transitional housing facilities may or may not be under the rules of the FHA. Determination of whether shelters and/or transitional housing facilities quality is whether the facility is a dwelling vs. temporary housing.

**Inserted for informational purposes:** The 2016 Equal Access rule (Equal Access in Accordance with an Individual’s Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs) requires all HUD funded housing services to be provided without discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. HUD Updates Equal Access Rule, Returns Decision Making to Local Shelter Providers; Visit [https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_099](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_099) for more information.

In preparing to discuss the Equal Access Rule, Ms. Hobbs provided definitions of gender identity (how a person self identifies), gender expression (how a person presents to the World), and sexual orientation (who you are attracted to; which is different than gender identity). Ms. Hobbs stated the best way to find out a person’s gender identity is to ask, “how do you identify” in a respectful manner.

Ms. Hobbs provided statistics (The Williams Institute, April 2020, LGBT People and Housing Affordability, Discrimination, and Homelessness) on the LGBTQ community and homelessness, i.e. between 20% and 45% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ, at least 2 to 4 times more than the estimated percentage of all youth who identify as LGBTQ, among young adults aged 18-25, LGBT people have a 2.2 times greater risk of homelessness than non-LGBT people, etc.

The study reported family rejection of LGBTQ youth as a major factor contributing to their high levels of homelessness, and that rejection diminishes not only the possibility of reunification but also family ties for LGBT people into adulthood and elder years.

Equal Access Gender Identity Rule – The rule requires placement based on a person’s Gender Identity. The 2016 rule requires shelters to adopt policies and procedures that reflect the ruling. Ms. Hobbs stated you cannot ask, you cannot request an ID, medical documentation and/or physical observation to determine gender. If a client asks about privacy, it must be addressed in a confidential manner. The current rule is gender identity (how the person self identifies).

**Announcements & Information**

**2020 Blanket Drive** – Lydia Pickett, MACH
Tentatively scheduled for November 7, 14 and 21, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Locations TBD
Lydia stated the MACH Blanket Drive is held in conjunction with the National Homelessness and Hunger Week (November 15-22, 2020) annually. Lydia shared MACH places PODS storage units at various locations, secures volunteers to assist in the collection, sorting and counting of items (blankets and winterwear) for distribution to area shelters and distribution to unsheltered homeless persons during the Point-in-Time Count in January. Lydia stated MACH will be recruiting volunteers to assist and additional information will be forthcoming.

**Priority Veteran** – Tommy Woodard
Mr. Woodard stated Priority Veteran has funding to assist qualifying homeless veterans with hotel lodging while awaiting shelter placement and/or housing. Additional information can be found on the Priority Veteran website at [www.priorityveterans.org](http://www.priorityveterans.org). Referrals and/or inquiries can be made by calling the Priority Veteran office in Montgomery at 334.440.8162.

**Crisis Center** (City of Montgomery) – Lydia Pickett, MACH
Lydia shared the City of Montgomery, as part of COVID19 funding from HUD, will be opening a Crisis Center on Augusta Street in the former Floyd Middle Magnet School. The Crisis Center will be a place where people can quarantine or self-isolate pending entering shelter. Lydia stated, the City plans to maintain the Crisis Center for other natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. to provide persons a place to obtain temporary shelter. It is estimated no person will remain in the Crisis Center longer than fifteen days. The goal is to have the facility functioning by Fall 2020. The City of Montgomery has been awarded funds from HUD, but funding has not arrived. Additional information will be forthcoming.
**Housing Assistance Program** – Beverly Toodle, MACH

Beverly stated MACH has funding to assist individuals and families with rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention (eviction prevention). The prevention program has funds available for payment of past due rents and late fees to assist in preventing an individual and/or family from becoming homeless. No funds are available for court costs associated with an eviction order.

The Rapid Rehousing Program works with persons who are homeless, both sheltered and unsheltered. All referrals should be made through the 2-1-1 system. Either the homeless person can call 2-1-1 or an agency can make a referral to 2-1-1. The 2-1-1 operator conducts an intake assessment. After assessment, a qualifying individual will be referred to MACH for housing assistance. Once referral is obtained, MACH will contact the consumer/client within one to two days. MACH works with unsheltered persons to get them into shelter, and then works to help find permanent supportive housing. MACH assists with rent deposits, utility deposits and additional rent assistance.

The Rapid Rehousing Program has no income limit for qualification. The prevention program does have an income limit and the person’s current rental rate must not exceed fair market rent for the area.

**2-1-1 Connect** - Tasha Cooper, Executive Director, HandsOn River Region

Tasha shared general information regarding HandsOn River Region, the services provided, i.e. 2-1-1 Connects, disaster agency coordination/assistance, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) management/coordination, Christmas Clearing House, the agencies formation, and its relationship with United Way.

Tasha stated HandsOn River Region’s 2-1-1 system (24/7, 365 resource center) was the first in Alabama. The 2-1-1 system links consumers to resources (food, housing, medical, mental health, substance abuse, veteran’s assistance, back-to-school resources, and more) in their geographic area. Persons dial 2-1-1, enter their zip code, and speak with a trained operator with access to an extensive database of agencies and resources in the caller’s geographic area. Operators assess the caller’s needs and share information about where to receive services for callers immediate and/or long-term needs. Tasha stated, 2-1-1 navigates the systems and services for the caller to help more directly connect the caller to solutions for needs inquiries. Tasha stated HandsOn River Region’s 2-1-1 system answered approximately 20,000 calls in 2019.

Additionally, Tasha asked if an agency is unsure whether their information/services are included in the 2-1-1 database and/or they wish to update their information to please contact HandsOn (334.264.3335).

In response to an inquiry about Christmas Clearing House, Tasha shared HandsOn’s Christmas Clearinghouse helps provide Christmas gifts to eligible families. HandsOn partners with social service and faith-based organizations to ensure the area’s most needy families are screened for eligibility, checked for duplication, and registered for assistance.

**2020 Homeless Census** – William C. Scott, US Census Bureau-Atlanta

Mr. Scott stated the US Census Bureau is currently conducting their door-to-door campaign as a follow-up to non-response. The unsheltered homeless account will occur September 20-24, 2020. The Census Bureau ground teams will use GPS devices to capture an individual’s location, and a specialized census survey to capture limited information provided by a homeless person. William stated a person can complete their census by calling 844.330.2020 or by visiting [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov). William stated Census workers need help from the coalition, and its members, to obtain guidance on where unsheltered homeless person can be found in the region.

**Announcements – Other**

Lydia asked attendees to share their ideas for future meeting topics and/or presenters. Also, if your organization has information to share in the MACH newsletter or on the MACH website to please submit them to debbie@midalhomeless.org.

Beverly Toodle, MACH Program Coordinator, asked if attendees knew of any landlords who may be willing to work with the MACH Rapid Rehousing/Prevention program to please refer them.

**Adjournment**

All business being concluded, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.
MACH is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting of the MACH General Membership (open to the public).

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86316857250?pwd=YnNHRDBxZfp0NE1INDZYNldGd3NHUT09

Meeting ID: 863 1685 7250
Passcode: 860859
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,86316857250#,,,0,,860859# US (Germantown)
+13126266799,,86316857250#,,,0,,860859# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 863 1685 7250
Passcode: 860859
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kskC2K2pX