General Membership Meeting
3:00 pm, Thursday, April 28, 2022
(Video Conference Call)

Online: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87118953927?pwd=dGVFcjVnOWc4MFNQU2lGODV2YTRLQT09

Meeting ID: 871 1895 3927
Passcode: 6224
Note: Please enter your name and the name of your organization in the chat box.

Dial-in: 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 871 1895 3927
Passcode: 6224
Note: Please email your name and the name of your organization to Eileen@midalhomeless.org.

MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order
Lydia Pickett, MACH

Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2022
(Only MACH members are allowed to vote.)

Introductions

MACH Advisory Committee Reports
- Continuum of Care
  Lydia Pickett, MACH
- Membership
  Eileen Knott, MACH
- Coordination of Services
  Ghandi Daniels, The Wellness Coalition
- HMIS/Data Collection
  Tasha Cooper, HandsOn River Region
- Mainstream Resources
  Tara Davis, Friendship Mission

Presentation: Alabama Department of Education Homeless Liaison Program
Nicey T. Eller
Regional Homeless Education Specialist

Other Announcements/Updates
- ADECA Grant Application (due May 27): ESG Application Manual – ADECA (alabama.gov)
- Mayor Reed’s Task Force on Homelessness
- MACH Virtual Resource Hour: Mental Health, (Wednesday, May 18th, 3 p.m.)
- River Region Connects (Thursday, August 4th, 9 a.m.)

Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 23, 2022, 3:00 PM (location to be announced)
Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless (MACH)
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 2022, 3:00 pm (via ZOOM)

Call to Order - Welcome by Lydia Pickett, Executive Director, MACH

Persons present:

- Charlene Roberson, Alabama State Nurses Association
- Cynthia Bisbee, Bisbee and Associates; MACH Board Member
- Sherri Lusby, City of Montgomery
- Jerome T. McReynolds, Concerned Citizen
- Laura Reid, Family Sunshine Center
- Tara Davis, Friendship Mission
- Tasha Cooper, HandsOn River Region; MACH Board Member
- Sheralyn Belyeu, JustServe
- Debra Moncrief, Ladies of Essence Civic Organization
- Breonna Alexander, MACH
- Patrick Aitken, MACH
- Craig Baab, MACH Board Member
- Donna Davis, MACH
- Eileen Knott, MACH
- Beverly Toodle, MACH
- Lydia Pickett, MACH
- Keenan Winters, MACH
- Lauren Wilder, MAMHA
- Lourdes Fabian, Priority Veteran
- Lula Skowronek, Priority Veteran
- LaDonna Brendle, Reality & Truth Ministries
- Susan Hunt Sims, Renascence Inc.
- Phillip Jones, Vital Title
- Ghandi S. Daniels, The Wellness Coalition

Approval of Minutes, Lydia Pickett, MACH
The October 28, 2021 and the December 16, 2021 membership meeting minutes were approved as printed and shared on the website by membership consensus.

Advisory Committee Reports - Reports were as follows. Persons interested in participating as advisory committee members were asked to contact Eileen Knott at eileen@midalhomeless.org.

Continuum of Care, Lydia Pickett, MACH
The development of a gaps in service and in solutions has been the focus of this committee. This committee has also identified a need to speak with service providers about their views and their current reality due to COVID. This committee will meet on March 17 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss several survey tool options that could be used to analyze next steps for service provision.

Coordination of Services, Ghandi Daniels, The Wellness Coalition
This committee is responsible for the Blanket Drive, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week events, and River Region Connects and will meet March 1 at 11:00 a.m. to focus primarily on River Region Connects (to be scheduled for summer 2022). Ghandi Daniels announced her need for a co-chair, especially in light of a new committee initiative to provide a bi-monthly virtual networking event (Resource Hour).

**Membership, Eileen Knott, MACH**

The committee will be meeting in March at a time to be determined. Eileen Knott has been re-connecting with lapsed members and refreshing membership lists on the MACH website. The work of this committee will be to prioritize membership connections with sectors that are underrepresented on the current active membership list. This work includes bridging gaps of representation with the four counties in MACH’s service area beyond Montgomery County.

**HMIS/Data Collection, Tasha Cooper, HandsOn River Region (HONRR)**

The Homeless Management Information System database is overseen by HONRR on behalf of MACH. HONRR operates the HUD-mandated Coordinated Entry System through 2-1-1 to match callers with best available housing resources. This committee is in charge of reporting annually to HUD in five areas: numbers served, data accuracy, system analysis, performance measures and the Point-in-Time Count. This year, the PIT Count was conducted February 22 (late date allowed by HUD due to COVID-19). Early review of the results shows 62 completed surveys of unsheltered people. A debriefing meeting is scheduled for March 17 at 11:00 a.m. All interested are invited to join to share recommendations and feedback. Jayme Teague has agreed to chair the PIT Count next year; Tasha Cooper will serve as co-chair. Lydia asked all service providers who do not participate in HMIS to consider doing so in order to help our efforts to find solutions to homelessness. Tasha Cooper can provide guidance on this.

**Mainstream Resources, Tara Davis, Friendship Mission**

Tara Davis introduced Sherri Lusby to discuss the City of Montgomery’s Crisis Center (a COVID isolation and quarantine space for those experiencing homelessness, located at the now-defunct Floyd Middle School. The form to refer clients is available from Sherri at 334.452.1971 or slusby@montgomeryal.gov. Sherri stated that there are two buildings on site. One is the Crisis Center, the other (managed by the Emergency Management Agency) is Warming Center. The Crisis Center was open for six months in 2020 and reopened two weeks ago. She stated they can do COVID testing for shelter providers if needed. Tasha Cooper noted that 2-1-1 has COVID questions as part of their screening and has seen numbers going down recently. Next meeting of the Mainstream Resource Committee is March 3 at 10:00 a.m.

**Presentation on MACH Housing Assistance Programs** (by Beverly Toodle, Program Services Coordinator)

- **MACH’s Housing Assistance Program** has three components: Street Outreach, Rapid Rehousing, and Homelessness Prevention. MACH recently referrals for 98 Emergency Housing Vouchers issued by Montgomery Housing Authority, but that resource has been exhausted.

- **Street Outreach** serves unsheltered homeless persons; includes assessment of needs and referrals to housing and other resources.

- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH)** helps those living on the streets, in shelters, or in places not meant for human habitation. There are no income eligibility requirements. Move-in costs and up to 6 months’ rent and utility assistance are available. Case managers work with participants to remove barriers that might keep them from remaining stably housed after assistance has ceased.

- **Homelessness Prevention (HP)** is designed for people who are at imminent risk of homelessness, such as those with a court-ordered eviction or who are otherwise unstably housed (living in hotels, doubled up, house-to-house, etc.). Income limitations apply. If a landlord is willing to work with MACH and the unit meets HUD’s standards, the participant may receive up to six months of
assistance (rental and utility arrears). Relocation assistance is also available, including application fees and security and utility deposits.

- Access to MACH’s programs is via third party referral through 2-1-1. Social service providers, case managers, social workers, pastors, and doctors’ offices, etc. may refer clients. Referral forms may be obtained from MACH or by calling 2-1-1. Completed forms are emailed to HandsOn River Region. HandsOn completes a “Coordinated Entry” Assessment and makes referrals to all available housing resources. Due to challenges created by COVID, applicants currently might wait six to eight weeks to receive assistance. MACH has hired new staff and hopes to cut down the wait time to two weeks or less. Clients who should expect a call from HandsOn and be patient until contacted by MACH.

- MACH has been working with state school system Homeless Liaisons to serve homeless families with school-age children, and with Brantwood Children’s Home in order to serve youth who are aging out of that program. Persons are affected by domestic violence have expedited assessment and wait times.

Beverly Toodle’s contact information: beverly@midalhomeless.org; cell: 334-315-7206.

Announcements/Updates

Alabama Law Enforcement Agency can now add emergency contact to Driver’s License: Alabama Driver License Renewal (alabamainteractive.org)

LaDonna Brendle, Reality & Truth Ministries
- A philanthropy and non-profit leadership event will be held in Auburn soon that will connect students to local non-profits to serve as interns and volunteers. LaDonna stated that she would guide any interns secured by Reality & Truth to serve on MACH’s Advisory Committees.

- Suggestion to the Membership Committee: those who respond to social media posts from MACH and to Patrick Aitken’s posts about homelessness could be recruited to serve on Advisory Committees.

Patrick Aitken, MACH
- River City UMC’s Fourth Saturday (homeless service event) will be 9 to 11 a.m. at 301 Dexter Avenue. Church of the Highlands will provide lunch. Nurses will provide wellness checks and COVID vaccinations.

- River City UMC’s weekday services to homeless persons have been limited for now and are available only by appointment.

Tasha Cooper, HandsOn River Region
- HONRR is partnering with Door Dash on a program called The Last Mile Delivery. HONRR can deliver 10,000 meals or pantry deliveries to clients who live within 10-mile radius of the agency from which the food. Clients must be comfortable with food being left on the doorstep. HONRR is looking for agencies who are helping clients with food insecurity. For more information: tcooper@handsonriverregion.org.

- HONRR will be ramping up its Volunteer program now that pandemic threats have lessened. HONRR can announce agencies’ volunteer needs and help manage the volunteer response. Currently preparing for National Volunteer Week and National Day of Service, so agencies can share volunteer needs via HONRR.
Agencies needing to make changes to their listing on HONRR’s website should send an email to Tasha. Specific volunteer needs that agencies have on an ongoing basis should be included on HONRR’s website because when volunteers sign up via HONRR, they become a “fan” of that agency and they are automatically alerted when new volunteer opportunities arise.

Ghandi Daniels, The Wellness Coalition - TWC is looking to work with five non-profits that would like to start offering Community Health Worker services. This opportunity will begin March 1 and last for five months. TWC will involve teach existing staff how to support COVID-vulnerable populations. Details will be included in a Request for Proposals that MACH will be asked to send out to the non-profits on its mailing list.

Lydia Pickett, MACH - MACH will begin holding General Membership meetings in person again soon (possibly with a virtual option). LaDonna Brendle offered Reality & Truth’s Montgomery Street building for any future meeting.

Adjournment - Adjournment time: 4:20 pm.

Next Meeting Thursday, April 28, 2022, 3:00 pm via ZOOM.
Nicey T. Eller

(biography)

After twenty-six years as a teacher and administrator in Phenix City Schools, Homeless Education Regional Specialist Nicey T. Eller traded suits for boots when she retired. She and her husband Jay moved to the country to build their log home and raise cattle in Henry County. Her professional tenure included leadership experiences and positions in schools and with faculties serving students and families from all socioeconomic conditions.

Since retiring, Mrs. Eller has continued to be active in educational leadership as an educational consultant targeting school improvement, new principal mentor, and advisor for aspiring principals throughout the state. Her poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and a book of devotions, *Conquering Anxiety with Thanksgiving* have been published since retiring.

Her experiences as a leader in Celebrate Recovery for the last nine years have taught her that childhood trauma such as poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity shapes decision-making for the rest of a person’s life. As an ALSDE Regional Homeless Education Specialist she collaborates with school systems and community organizations to serve as a conduit of outreach, resources, and hope.

Mrs. Eller received her B.A. in English from Shorter College in Rome, GA. She earned her M.S.Ed. in Secondary Education and Ed.S. in Educational Leadership from Troy University.
Membership Application

Type of Applicant (Check one):  □ Individual  □ Organization

Name of Individual/Organization:

Primary Representative:  
(Organizations only) Name, Title

Alternative Representative:  
(Organizations only) Name, Title

□ Individual Member
Agencies or businesses that provide direct services to homeless individuals or have an interest in the causes and problems of homelessness.
Dues: $10.00 per year

□ Organizational Member
Individuals that do not provide direct services to homeless persons, but who are interested in the causes and problems of homelessness.
Dues: $50.00 per year

Applicant’s Address
City  
State  
Zip  

Phone-Office  
Phone-Mobile  
Fax  

Primary Representative’s Email (Required)  

Alternative Representative’s Email (Required)  

If your organization aids homeless persons, please describe the type(s) of services you offer:

What is your interest in problems related to homelessness?

For Organizational Members: (Check box accordingly)
Type of organization:  □ Corporation; □ Unincorporated; □ Government Entity; □ Other ____________________________
Tax determination:  □ For Profit; □ Non-Profit
If non-profit, type:  □ IRS 501(c) (3); □ Public /Governmental; □ Faith-based; □ Other ____________________________

Please list any applicable licenses or certifications: ___________________________________________

☐ Signature of Applicant  
Date  

Make check payable to:  Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless or MACH
Mail to:  101 Coliseum Blvd., Montgomery, AL  36109
Questions, call:  334.261.6182 or, email mach@midalhomeless.org
Online payments, visit:  www.midalhomeless.org

Office Use Only  □ Accepted; □ Declined; Authority’s Initials:  Date:  LGL  TY