

Merger Agreement Between MI 500 - Michigan Balance of State and MI 513 - Alger Marquette

The two independent Continuums of Care (CoC) agree to merge, with MI 513 - Alger Marquette being absorbed into MI 500 - Michigan Balance of State, with implementation through the 2020 calendar year and US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2019 fiscal year.

Each CoC has negotiated to agree to the terms outlined below and this Agreement has been shared and approved by each CoC's Membership/Governing Body on February 13, 2020.

Following this approval, MI 500 will take responsibility in leading the official merger process through the CoC Program Competition registration and application processes.

Terms:

MI 513- Alger Marquette will join MI 500 - MI Balance of State as a new Local Planning Body (LPB) of the MI 500 CoC. This entitles each county (Alger, Marquette) to appoint a representative to the Balance of State Governance Council, the decision-making body of MI 500.

Michigan Balance of State - MI 500 agrees to the following:

- Rank the two historically MI 513 permanent housing projects (one RRH and one PSH) in Tier 1 for FY20 funding round, provided the projects continue to meet HUD funding thresholds
- Rank the two historically MI 513 permanent housing projects (one RRH and one PSH) in Tier 1 for FY21 funding round, with the additional stipulation that the PSH project:
 - Reassess households in CoC-funded PSH and work to offer a "moving on" strategy to households that would benefit and are interested
 - Ensure that all households entering CoC-funded PSH have been identified as the highest acuity of eligible households through the community's Coordinated Entry System prioritization practices
- Adjust existing infrastructure funding to equitably cover Alger and Marquette Counties
- Work to identify and address permanent housing needs and gaps within Alger and Marquette Counties
- Complete all future CoC Program Competition processes with no additional requirements on Alger or Marquette Counties than required of any other MI 500 county

Alger Marquette - MI 513 agrees to the following:

- Timely entry of HMIS data and submission of annually required CoC reports (PIT, HIC, APR, LSA, SPM)
- Commit to continual quality improvement of HMIS data quality
- Follow all HUD requirements adopted into MI 500 policy and procedures, adapting to local needs where appropriate and not in conflict with federal, state, or CoC requirements and agreements
- Ensure CoC Program funded projects are operating to the best of their ability and submitting quarterly reports as required to the CoC Coordinator for CoC Program funded

projects (e.g. utilization above 93%, only serving eligible, prioritized households, maintaining records as required)

- Participate in MI 500 Governance Council, including the Consensus Decision Making model used

Furthermore:

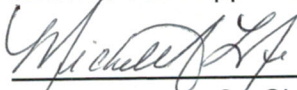
Alger and Marquette Counties will have autonomy as an LPB within MI 500 to:

- Determine their boundaries as a single LPB, merge with adjoining LPBs, or separate into two LPBs
- Adapt the MI 500 Coordinated Entry Policy to meet local needs and processes


Alger and Marquette Counties are entitled as an LPB of MI 500 to:

- Join any MI 500 committees
- Have any eligible entity apply for funding in the CoC Program Competition as operated by MI 500
- Be included under MI 500 infrastructure funding such as Coordinated Entry, System Coordination (Planning), and HMIS support

This agreement has been presented to the Alger Marquette CoC on 2/12/2020
and has been approved by the CoC, as attested by:


Chairperson or Co-Chairperson

2/12/2020
Date


Co-Chairperson or Vice Chairperson

2-12-2020
Date

Minutes

February 12, 2020

10:00-11:30am

Call (646) 876-9923 Meeting ID# 335-286-788

I. Call to Order/Welcome / Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Introductions of members present.

Attendees:

Michelle LaJoie, Rich Holmstrom, Jamie Lemay, Eleanore Fiori, Emilie Stack, Liz Nevala, Madison Meehan, Jason Wallner, Billie Jean Horrocks, Chelsey Sundberg, Hailee Richards, Katie Kauppila, Kathy Flagstafdf, Shelley Byrne, Kara Graci, Ellen Sargent, Jim Borowski, Amy Hale, Evan Bonsall, Kim Frost, Michael Lenten, Sharon Maki, Brent Clark, Callie Torkelson, Sarah Peuraloski, Greg Johnson, Meagan Hanson, Kimberly Navarre, Nick Emmendorfer, Cheryl Goc, Jason Weller, Mike Fittante, Jason Parks, Jenny Leaf and Jessica Vail.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Nick Emmendorfer to approve the revised agenda and supported by Michael Lenten. Motion carried.

III. Approval of January 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Nick Emmendorfer to approve the minutes as presented and supported by Sarah Peurakoski. Motion carried.

IV. Merger Discussion and Approval

Sharon Maki provided an over view to the members present regarding the BOS and AM CoC merger document. Discussion among the members took place and in summary it is believed the merger to Balance of State will increase access to technical assistance and overall provide increased service opportunities for Alger and Marquette. No perceived negative effects of transition to BOS. A motion was made by Sarah Peurakoski to approve AM CoC to merger with the BOS and supported by Nick Emmendorfer. Per the current By-Laws a Roll Call Vote took place. All designated voting members present voted in approval to merge with the Balance of State. Motion was passed.

V. Alger Marquette 2018 Count Reports

Jason Weller from the Michigan Coalition Against Homeless ---presented to the members a brief overview of the 2018 Count Reports. He will provide legislative priorities with talking points, to the CoC for use in political advocacy. Clarified basic difference between the PIT count, which is a snapshot versus the Annual Report which provides data from a full year. Data from Region 1 shows an oval increase of 14% of chronically homeless. The areas of Northern Lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula have 5% of the state homeless population, which is statistically a large percentage for the population size. Jason highlighted the report, including successes of decreased homeless veteran population and unaccompanied youth. 83% of homeless population had medical insurance. Overall, statewide decline of 2% in homeless population. Identified challenges were: minority populations are drastically over-represented in homelessness, as is the population of people with disabilities. The senior citizen population and family units have seen a significant increase in homeless population size. A hugely problematic statistic shows that incomes are not keeping up with Fair Market Rent (FMR) rates. A lack of affordable housing is one of the universal themes in the housing crisis.

The webinar link for data report will be provided to the CoC for review.

Data Committee: Question of how data can be better collected for more accurate information on the number of

homeless individuals. It is well known that there are MANY uncounted individuals and families in our area. Data quality will improve over time as more agencies are participating in the process. Discussion that it is important to look at the effects of programs (housing stability, successful transitions) over numbers.

Contact Michelle LaJoie if you are interested in being on the Data Committee.

VII. Partner Agency Spotlight – Shelley Byrne, Dickinson Housing Asst, LLC

Shelley presented data on MSHDA HCV vouchers. Currently there are 8 vouchers available in Marquette and 1 in Alger. Low number of people on waitlist. Discussion of difficulty maintaining contact with individuals once they leave shelters or change location without providing forwarding addresses, which results in them “dropping off” the list and mail being returned undeliverable.

March 2, 2020 the Alger and Marquette MSHDA general population waitlist will open up.

Member identified challenges with voucher disbursement:

1. Lack of landlords accepting vouchers
2. Unwillingness of landlords to “roll in” utilities AND if utilities are rolled in, it is too expensive
3. Paperwork: difficulty getting paperwork completed and packets returned as well as “losing track” of whereabouts of homeless individuals.
4. Criminal backgrounds, money owed to PHA’s and MSHDA resulting in individuals being ineligible for vouchers. There needs to be further discussion and action on how to incentivize landlords to participate with the HCV program as well as advocacy to reduce barriers to HCV access for individuals with criminal backgrounds. Several bills have been introduced which would make it illegal for landlords to discriminate against people with HCV’s.

Webinars regarding barriers will be forwarded by Michelle LaJoie.

Jenny Leaf will be the new MSHDA state representative

VIII. Governance Committee Report – Nick Emmendorfer

No report at this time.

IX. State Program Updates

Advocacy Day will be held in Lansing on March 11, 2020.

Building Michigan Communities Conference registration is open.

X. HARA Report – Greg Johnson

Greg Johnson provided to the members an overview of the MSHDA Go Section 8. It is a tracking tool to compare rental properties to be used by HARA agencies (tool for identifying reasonable rent options). A request was made by Greg to have the HARA staff members be authorized to users for MSDHA’s Go Section 8. A motion was made by Nick Emmendorfer and supported by Sharon Maki. Motion was carried.

Emergency Home Repair program in Alger County has available funds- Contact CAAM.

Home Purchase/Rehabilitation program for down payments and renovations has available funds- Contact CAAM

XI. Point in Time Count

Kim Frost reported that the PIT count was completed and data from tracking sheets is being compiled. She wanted to make sure that we thanked the NMU Social Work students for all of their assistance. Kim recommendation that for the 2021 count the committee is expanded to include more agencies/CoC members helping and to begin planning in July.

XII. MSHDA HCV Report

Kimberly Navarre added additional information regarding the HCV program as that the lack of forwarding addresses is a huge challenge in maintaining people on the Homeless Preference list and for providing services. She suggested developing options such as P.O. Boxes to ensure homeless people have sustained access to their mail.

XIII. Shelter Updates

Janzen Housing - Brent Clark gave a thank you to housing resource staff whom have been coming to Janzen weekly- this is a helpful practice. Janzen House has been very full.

Room at the Inn – Nick Emmendorfer reported to having an averaging 20-25 people per night and 1600 meals served last month. Guest Advocate Mark Holiday due to health reason will no longer be at the Warming Center. Mark was a great employee and will be missed.

Emergency Motel Voucher Program – Kimberly Navarre reported two families were housed on the motel vouchers in January. Both had housing upon exit. Continuing to work with Alger County to develop partnerships with local motels.

Harbor House - Census numbers are down. Residents have been obtaining employment and housing

XIV. Housing Options for Most Difficult to House Committee –Mike Lenten reported that the committee met and is focused on:

1. Increasing the number of landlords
2. Updating the landlord list of HCVs accepting units
3. Continuing to advocate with local PHA's to a.) provide case by case appeal opportunities for people with adverse criminal backgrounds and b.) to consider revising their ACOP (tenancy policies) to reduce the barriers for people with these legal histories to obtain housing with the PHA's.

Contact Mike Lenten if you are interested in being on the committee.

Next meeting will be 3/5 at 10:00 am at SAIL.

XV. Interdisciplinary Service Team (IST) Update – Nick Emmendorfer / Kimberly Navarre

Next meeting is scheduled for 2/19 at 10 am at CAAM. IST will focus on hard-to-house individuals, especially those who are currently not MSHDA eligible or PHA eligible.

XVI. Community Partnering Agency Updates

Marquette City Commissioner/Marquette County Rep Evan Bonsall- The County received a grant in the amount of \$19,000 for the Home Heating and Appliance Initiative. 3 applications have been received so far and would like to increase number of Native Americans to utilize the program. Sault tribe is currently completing census.

UPCAP- Community Health Forum June 18 (Providers) and 19 (Forum), 2020. There is a kiosk available at UPHP for people who need it to access MI Bridges.

Salvation Army- CAAM assisted in obtaining a refrigerator and freezer for the pantry which is very appreciated. AT&T has a program for lower interest costs if on SNAP. Feeding America truck Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 5 p.m. at Salvation Army Marquette.

SAIL- Disability Awareness Workshop 2/21/20 from 11-1 at the PWPL. Call SAIL to register. Chocolate Festival is 2/23/20 at 1:00 at NMU. Tickets are on sale now!

Pathways- Lynn Johnson is retiring in March.

Goodwill- No report

LSS- Welcome Home Program is full and going well. Receiving a lot of walk-in and telephone inquiries requesting assistance, especially for rental assistance.

SVDP- All annual reports are in from districts. \$91,000 was given in rental assistance and eviction prevention and \$600,000 in other financial aid across the UP and in Florence, WI.

MRS- No update

GLRC- 41 intakes in January and 30 plus people on wait list. L'Anse Recovery House is hosting an Open House.

North Care Veteran Navigator- Two people were hired for Opioid Response services. On February 27, 2020 from 1-2:30 in Escanaba is forum for advocacy regarding recent DHHS policies/legislative changes affecting benefits to low-income persons. Attendance and advocacy are needed!

Jason is now on the Marquette Transportation Board- send suggestions and concerns to him. Next MarqTran meeting is 2/20/20 at 6 pm.

DHHS- Local office received assistance to help with the backload of cases. Large amount of decision notices is being mailed out.

CAAM- The Community Needs Assessment for Marquette and Alger will be sent out for feedback on services.

Offender Success- There is a forum on 4/17/20. Focus is on Re-entry and Employment

VA- Referrals have increased. Lunch and Learn will be 3/27/2019 at 12 noon. Topic will be "How to access crisis network" with Lynn Johnson.

211- Free health and wellness programs at YMCA. Posters and brochures regarding 211 programs are available for distribution.

Next Meeting:

March 11, 2020 at MARESA

321 E. Ohio Street

10:00 a.m. AM

ACRONYMS

AHAR - Annual Homeless Assessment Report
BOS – Balance of State
CMH- Community Mental Health
COC - Continuum of Care
CQI – Continuous Quality Improvement
ESG- Emergency Solutions Grant
FQHC- Federally Qualified Health Center
GIW – Grant Assistance Worksheet
HALO- Home Assistance Link On-line
HAM - Homeless Awareness Month
HARA – Housing Assessment and Resource Agency
HARP- Homeless Assistance Recovery Program
HCV- Housing Choice Voucher
HEARTH – Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing
HIC – Housing Inventory Chart
HMIS- Homeless Management Information System
HPRP- Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-housing Program
HQS- Housing Quality Standard
HUD- Office of Housing and Urban Development
IST- Interdisciplinary Service Team
LPB - Local Planning Body
MPRI- Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative
MSHDA- Michigan State Housing Development Authority
NAMI – National Alliance for Mental Illness
NOFA- Notice of Fund Availability
PIT- Point-in-Time
QSOBAA- Qualified Service Organization Business Associate Agreement.
SAIL- Superior Alliance for Independent Living
S+C- Shelter Plus Care Program
SHP- Supportive Housing Project
SOAR- SSDI Outreach & Assistance Recovery
SPDAT-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
TBRA- Tenant Based Rental Assistance
UPHSC- Upper Peninsula Housing Stabilization Committee
VASH- Veteran’s Affairs Supported Housing

<u>Organization</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Designated VM</u>	<u>Alternate VM</u>	<u>Roll Call</u> <u>Vote on</u> <u>2/12/2020</u>
Great Lakes Recovery Centers	Mike	Fittante	Case Manager	x		Yes
Janzen House, Inc	Brent	Clark	Director	x		Yes
Lutheran Social Services-Welcome Home Program	Kim	Frost	Case manager	x		Yes
Marquette Alger RESA	Rayme	Martineau	McKinney-Vento Grant Coordinat	x		Absent
Marquette Housing Commission	Sharon	Maki	Executive Director	x		Yes
Salvation Army of Marquette County	Jamie	Ray	Case Manager-Mqt	x		Absent
Superior Alliance for Independent Living	Sarah	Peurakowski	Executive Director	x		Yes
United Way of Marquette County	Barbara	Meyer	Director of Operations	x		Absent
Community Action Alger Mqt	Greg	Johnson	Housing Director	x		Yes
CAAM/The Preserve at Orianna Ridge	Eleanore	Fiori	SHP Coordinator		x	
Lutheran Social Services-Welcome Home Program	Lindsay	White	Wellness Program Director		x	
Marquette Housing Commission	Susi	Hurley	Exec Assist/HCV Coordinator		x	
Salvation Army of Marquette County	Doug	Winters	Captain		x	Absent
Superior Alliance for Independent Living	Julie	Shaw	Associate Director		x	

February 12, 2020

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Organization	Email Address
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Mike Fittante	GLRC	
Jason Parks	Sol. Army	
Jenny Leaf	NISDA	
Jessica Vail	NISDA	