

Community Engagement Align & Design Team Charter

Shared Vision and Universal Goals

Ensure Kent County residents, especially families with children and people of color, achieve stable housing or are Housed by Choice (that is, to live in quality, affordable housing in neighborhoods of their choosing) by:

1. Increasing affordable housing.
2. Dissolving homelessness.
3. Eliminating racial disparities in the Kent County housing system.

Overview

The key tasks of the Community Engagement Align and Design Team are to ensure 40% of people with lived experience are involved in decision making circles within the Kent County housing system and to develop a Kent County Lived Experience Council. To that end, the team will develop a community engagement plan or strategy for Kent County. The product of our initial meetings will be presented by a team spokesperson during the December 9th HSA meeting. This team is designed to be a long-term partnership requiring a time commitment of 12 months.

Process

This team will meet monthly and report out progress at the quarterly HSA convenings.

Phase 1: Discover

- Ground ourselves in the prior work from the HSA Common Agenda and Roadmap and recent meetings, as well as the life experiences of people impacted by housing stability
- Determine what stories have been gathered and what voices have been elevated
- Honor and capture the work that has already been done

Phase 2: Define

- What strategies will ensure 40% of people with lived experience are involved in decision making circles within the Kent County housing system?

- What kind of supports are needed to sustain the plan?
- How do we measure the effectiveness of the plan?
- What strategies are already working and how can we build upon them?
- Where are decisions being made?

Phase 3: Design

- Develop a community engagement plan for Kent County

Phase 4: Deliver

- Execute the community engagement action plan
- Develop a Kent County lived experience council
- Expand decision making circles within the Kent County housing system
- Empower people with lived experience

Phase 5: Continuous Improvement

- Monitor success
- Repeat phases 1-4

HSA Action Team Progress Report

Community Engagement Align & Design Team

Dec 9, 2022

Recent Accomplishments

- Identified community partners to join the Community Engagement Align & Design Team
- Met with community partners to review and discuss the community engagement strategy as presented in the Common Agenda & Roadmap
- Developed community engagement charter document

Upcoming Work

- Develop a succession plan for those in positions of power to ensure anti-racism and equitable outcomes continue
- Position people of color and those with lived experience in leadership and decision-making roles within the housing system
- Create an event-based communications plan to inform the community and key partners of our progress
- Develop lived experience councils

Team Overview

The key goals of the Community Engagement Align and Design Team are to develop a Kent County Lived Experience Council and to ensure that decision making circles within the Kent County housing system include 40% of people with lived experience. To that end, the team will develop a community engagement plan or strategy for Kent County.

Team Members

Adnoris “Bo” Torres (Strong Beginnings-Healthy Start)
Adrienne Goodstal (Mel Trotter Ministries)
Courtney Myers-Keaton (Heart of West Michigan United Way)
Dezirae Mitchell-Garcia (Kent County)
Latrice Harrison (LINC UP)
Niki Perkins (Access of West Michigan)

Eviction Prevention Task Force Team Charter

Shared Vision and Universal Goals

Ensure Kent County residents, especially families with children and people of color, achieve stable housing or are Housed by Choice (that is, to live in quality, affordable housing in neighborhoods of their choosing) by:

1. Increasing affordable housing.
2. Dissolving homelessness.
3. Eliminating racial disparities in the Kent County housing system.

Overview

The Eviction Prevention Task Force will have two broad charges: (a) to identify the causes of, and best practices to address the financial, social, mental health, and other instabilities experienced by vulnerable populations that frequently precede eviction, and (b) identify effective, collaborative, solution-oriented strategies, policies and practices to help residents maintain housing after eviction proceedings are initiated. Representatives from every principal sector of the housing crisis will comprise the Task Force, including those from the affected population, social services, local government, the legal field, and the housing/real estate community. This Task Force is designed to be a short-term partnership requiring a time commitment of four to eight months.

The product of our initial meetings will be presented by a Task Force spokesperson during the Housing Stability Alliance meeting on December 9, 2022.

Process

This team will plan to meet twice before the 12/9 HSA convening and up to two meetings after the convening. The number of meetings may be adjusted based on scheduling and availability.

Phase 1: Discover

- Ground ourselves in the prior work from the HSA Common Agenda and Roadmap and recent meetings, as well as the life experiences of people impacted by housing stability

- Determine what stories have been gathered and what voices have been elevated
- Honor and capture the work that has already been done

Phase 2: Define

- What is the current legal process for evicting tenants in Kent County?
- What resources are currently available to those facing eviction proceedings?
- Who are the first responders for residents dealing with an immediate housing crisis?
- Is there an Eviction Prevention Plan for Kent County?
- If so, should the plan be revised or discarded in favor of a new plan?
- What kind of supports are needed to sustain the plan?
- How do we measure the effectiveness of the plan?
- What are the known causes of evictions?
- What populations are affected by evictions?
- What strategies are already working and how can we build upon them?
- Where are decisions being made?

Phase 3: Design

- Develop an Eviction Prevention Plan for Kent County

Phase 4: Deliver

- Execute the Kent County Eviction Prevention Plan
- Expand decision making circles within the Kent County housing system
- Empower people with lived experience

Phase 5: Continuous Improvement

- Monitor success
- Repeat phases 1-4

HSA Action Team Progress Report

Eviction Prevention Task Force

Dec 9, 2022

Recent Accomplishments

- Identified community partners to join the Eviction Prevention Task Force
- Partnered with the 61st District Court
- Met with community partners to discuss eviction prevention programs and funding throughout Kent County
- Developed eviction prevention charter document

Upcoming Work

- Develop a comprehensive eviction prevention process for Kent County
- Identify Service Providers
- Identify Service Areas

Team Overview

The Eviction Prevention Task Force will have two broad charges: (a) to identify the causes of, and best practices to address, the financial, social, mental health and other instabilities experienced by vulnerable populations that frequently precede eviction, and (b) identify effective, collaborative, solution-oriented strategies, policies and practices to help residents maintain housing after eviction proceedings are initiated. Representatives from every principal sector of the housing crisis will comprise the Task Force, including those from the affected population, social services, local government, the legal field, and the housing/real estate community. This Task Force is designed to be a short-term partnership requiring a time commitment of four to eight months.

Team Members

*Alyssa Anten (Salvation Army)
Cathy LaPorte (61st District Court)
Erin Banchoff (City of Grand Rapids)
Gustavo Perez (Kent County)
Karen Tjapkes (Legal Aid of Western Michigan)
Matt Perin (61st District Court)*

Shared Measurement Align & Design Team Charter

Shared Vision and Universal Goals

Ensure Kent County residents, especially children and Families of Color, achieve stable housing or are Housed by Choice (that is, to live in quality, affordable housing in neighborhoods of their choosing), by:

1. Increasing affordable housing.
2. Dissolving homelessness.
3. Eliminating racial disparities in the Kent County housing system.

Overview

The Data Align & Design Team supports the work of the Housing Stability Alliance by refining our shared measurement system, enhancing our understanding of the housing crisis and its causes, transforming data into insights for the benefit of HSA learning and strategic decision-making, sharing best practices, and reporting our progress toward our Universal Goals to the HSA and the community. Our work will maintain an equity lens throughout, centering the voices and stories of those who have lived experience with housing instability.

Meeting Schedule

This team will aspire to meet monthly, with flexibility to adjust as needed.

Process

Phase 1: Discover

Ground ourselves in the prior data work of the HSA, with a particular emphasis on the shared measurement system as defined by the Common Agenda and Roadmap. Reacquaint ourselves with the lived experience stories and data-driven insights pertaining to failures of existing data systems. Clarify what data we care about (even if we don't yet have it), where it lives, and what capabilities exist (i.e., landscape mapping).

Inventory best practices and expertise that has already been identified/elevated.

Phase 2: Define

Why shared measurement is important (e.g., the value proposition or business case for key stakeholders). What is (or is not) working with respect to shared measurement, housing data, and data systems? Where appropriate, how might a new or different approach to shared measurement, housing data, and data systems support progress toward our Universal Goals?

Phase 3: Design

How can our current data systems and shared measures be refined and improved? Refine existing data systems (or design new ones) for better collaboration, alignment, and insight. Create or enhance mechanisms for regularly reporting progress on key metrics. Create an action plan/roadmap that prioritizes solution(s) by feasibility, cost (time and effort), and impact.

Phase 4: Deliver

Implement action plan in collaboration with HSA partners.

Phase 5: Continuous Improvement

Make iterations based on feedback from the HSA, repeating the above phases as necessary.

HSA Action Team Progress Report

Shared Measurement Align & Design Team

Dec 9, 2022

Recent Accomplishments

- Adopted team charter and team member commitment.
- Drafting 2023 Work Plan (in process). Focus on regular rhythms for indicator updates, communication within the HSA and to community, and indicator refinement.

Upcoming Work

- Updating Shared Measurement System - baseline numbers and success measure metrics: Using the existing Shared Measurement System (found on p. 20 of the [Common Agenda and Roadmap](#)) as a starting point, updating Baseline Numbers and Success Measure Metrics. Additionally, many of the data exploration of racial disparities in housing outcomes that formed the foundation of the HSA's work were based on information available at the onset of the pandemic. We'll update those insights where possible for an updated view into the "current state."
- Develop protocols for regular metric updates: Establish consistent flows of data with key partners, regular metric updates, and reliable communications of updates to the HSA and broader community.

Team Overview

The Shared Measurement Align & Design Team supports the work of the Housing Stability Alliance by refining our shared measurement system, enhancing our understanding of the housing crisis and its causes, transforming data into insights for the benefit of HSA learning and strategic decision-making, sharing best practices, and reporting our progress toward our Universal Goals to the HSA and the community. Our work will maintain an equity lens throughout, centering the voices and stories of those who have lived experience with housing instability.

Team Members

Al Vanderberg (Kent County)

Emily Schichtel (United Way, Heart of West Michigan)

Francisco Calderon (Family Promise)

Jim Talen

Kristin Gietzen (Arbor Circle)

Neil Carlson (DataWise Consulting, LLC)

Ryan Kilpatrick (DeVos Family Foundations, Facing Home Initiative)

Thelma Ensink (Degage Ministries)

Policy & Advocacy Align & Design Team Charter

Shared Vision and Universal Goals

Ensure Kent County residents, especially children and Families of Color, achieve stable housing or are Housed by Choice (that is, to live in quality, affordable housing in neighborhoods of their choosing), by:

1. Increasing affordable housing.
2. Dissolving homelessness.
3. Eliminating racial disparities in the Kent County housing system.

Overview

The Policy Advocacy Align and Design Team supports the work of the Housing Stability Alliance by identifying existing public policy barriers to the HSA's Universal Goals and recommending public policy changes that will help Kent County achieve them. Our team is concerned with the environmental conditions that led to our current housing crisis, as well as the conditions that will create a housing system that works for everyone. Our scope can involve federal and state policy, but must at minimum include local policy (city, village, township, county). Our work can include both legislative policy (e.g. municipal code) and administrative policy (e.g. rule-making). Our efforts will result in a working Kent County Housing Policy Agenda.

Meeting Schedule

This team will aspire to meet monthly, with flexibility to adjust as needed.

Process

Phase 1: Discover

Ground ourselves in the prior policy work of the Housing Stability Alliance, with a particular emphasis on the Common Agenda and Roadmap, recent studies, and housing data. Reacquaint ourselves with the lived experience stories and data-driven insights

pertaining to housing policy successes or failures.

Map the existing policy environment in Kent County with respect to the housing problem, including recent policy advocacy efforts already occurring in the county.

Phase 2: Define

Define the housing problem in Kent County within a public policy frame. What environmental conditions are contributing to our housing crisis?—and what policies are contributing to such conditions? What environmental conditions might dissolve it?—and what policies might create such conditions? Create housing policy problem statement. Identify key advocacy partners/allies who share our goals.

Phase 3: Design

Research best practices from across the county, state, and country where similar efforts have yielded public policy transformation to positive effect. Draft a Kent County Housing Policy Agenda. Prioritize public policy recommendations by impact and broad public support. Establish strategic partnerships with existing housing policy advocates. Create an accompanying Advocacy Action Plan to build public support for key policy objectives.

Phase 4: Deliver

Implement Advocacy Action Plan in collaboration with HSA partners and key advocacy partners.

Phase 5: Continuous Improvement

Make iterations based on feedback from the HSA, repeating the above phases as necessary.

HSA Action Team Progress Report

Policy & Advocacy Align & Design Team

Dec 9, 2022

Recent Accomplishments

- Adopted team charter and team member commitment.
- Drafted 2023 Work Plan: Key strategies include (1) development of housing policy agenda (with both short-term and long-term policy objectives) and (2) alignment with key advocacy partners for broad coalition.

Upcoming Work

- Establish relationships with key elected officials: The 2022 midterms yielded big changes for the Michigan policy landscape. Our team will establish strategic relationships with key elected officials that will create opportunities for influence and policy change.
- Identify Near-Term Policy Objectives: While we build a more comprehensive housing policy agenda that a broad coalition can support, we'll separately identify key near-term policy objectives, including those policies under current consideration at the local or state level.
- Map the Housing Policy Landscape: Inventory the key policies that shape our housing system by how they impact the housing stability continuum, level of government, size of impact, feasibility for reform/change, policy type, etc.

Team Overview

The Policy & Advocacy Align and Design Team supports the work of the Housing Stability Alliance by identifying existing public policy barriers to the HSA's Universal Goals and recommending public policy changes that will help Kent County achieve them. Our team is concerned with the environmental conditions that led to our current housing crisis, as well as the conditions that will create a housing system that works for everyone. Our scope can involve federal and state policy, but must at minimum include local policy (city, village, township, county). Our work can include both legislative policy (e.g. municipal code) and administrative policy (e.g. rule-making). Our efforts will result in a working Kent County Housing Policy Agenda.

Team Members

*Alison Freas (The SOURCE)
Bill Larzelere (Arbor Circle)
Brooke Oosterman (Housing Next)
Earle S. Irwin
Eric Brown (Urban League of West MI)
Jacob Doorn (Disability Advocates of Kent Co.)
Jim Talen
Maureen Kirkwood (Health Net of West MI)
Nancy Haynes (Fair Housing Center of West MI)
Ryan Kilpatrick (DeVos Family Foundation, Facing Home Initiative)
Stephanie Gingerich (LINC UP)
Stephanie Pierce (1000 FOC & Project GREEN)
Tracey Fountain (Kent DHHS)
Wende Randall (ENTF)*