



# HOUSING SOLUTIONS NETWORK

**Tuesday, January 13 2014**

**2:00-3:30 p.m.**

**Networks Northwest 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
600 E Front St, Traverse City**

*Anyone interested in affordable housing for Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, and Wexford Counties is welcome to attend.*

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## AGENDA

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

**B. Consideration of Agenda and January 2015 Meeting Minutes**

**C. County Updates**

**D. Housing Outreach**

Discussion on opportunities for housing events, education, and awareness in 2015.

**E. Roundtable Discussion and Announcements**

*This is a chance to share experiences and best practices with other affordable housing stakeholders. Feel free to bring brochures, flyers, and other materials for distribution.*

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The purpose of the Housing Solutions Network is to provide a forum for interagency and intergovernmental communication and coordination related to housing issues in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, and Wexford Counties. This meeting is open to all who wish to attend. If you are not planning to attend this meeting, but would like to have input in the discussion, or provide handouts to the group, please contact Sarah Lucas, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments at (231) 929-5034 or [sarahlucas@nwm.cog.mi.us](mailto:sarahlucas@nwm.cog.mi.us).



# HOUSING SOLUTIONS NETWORK

## DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

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### Present:

Karen Emerson, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, Inc.  
Carol Moorman, Goodwill  
Kim Pontius, Traverse Area Association of Realtors®  
Cathy Odom, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency  
Wendy Irvin, Habitat for Humanity Grand Traverse Region  
Tina Allen, Greater Grand Traverse Continuum of Care  
Kris Brady, Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, Inc.  
Elizabeth Calcutt, Networks Northwest  
Sarah Lucas, Networks Northwest

### A. Welcome and Introductions

S. Lucas called the meeting to order at 9:15am and led introductions.

### B. Consideration of Agenda and September 2014 Meeting Minutes

The agenda and minutes were accepted as presented.

### C. County Updates

C. Odom mentioned CDBG home repair in Wexford County. She noted that there is money available for Kalkaska (half is targeted, including, South Boardman, Rapid City, and the Village of Kalkaska; other half is not), but Benzie has expended all funding. It's unclear whether MSHDA will have money in the future.  
K. Brady adds that they did not apply.

K. Emerson shared information on a February 7 event with NMCAA, Goodwill, and Michigan Works. She added that NMCAA was awarded Individual Development Accounts funding and that home buyer education programs are going on monthly (Cadillac, Petoskey, and TC).

T. Allen updated that the Continuum of Care has attended planning commission meetings in Garfield Twp, East Bay Twp, and Acme Twp to present on supportive housing and communicate that the lack of

rentals is preventing CoC from helping. The next meeting is in Elmwood Twp. CoC is addressing places that have sewers (that could handle more dense housing) and asking planning commissions to keep high density in mind.

#### **D. Appointment of Housing Solutions Network Chair**

C. Odom nominated Carol Moorman; K. Pontius seconded; Carol accepted. Consensus.

#### **E. Housing Outreach**

S. Lucas shared information on the Regional Prosperity Plan and explained that there is an opportunity to capitalize on everything that went into it by having a “roll-out” that would allow for having in-depth community conversations with the public. There would be one topic per month and business round tables, articles in the paper, releasing new websites, and other activities. Lucas asked if the group would be interested in having a month for housing, and if there would be an interest in participating or leading something like that.

K. Emerson pointed out that June is homeownership month for HUD and added that it would be an opportunity to engage in housing related activities (past example - street cleanup on 3 mile where neighbors got involved; they received mini grant for \$1,000 or so). It would be a way for Neighborworks members to focus on housing and promote it; could look into getting another mini grant, and if successful, could apply for award.

W. Irvin noted that energy efficiency will be highlighted in April – Habitat is partnering with the Denno Museum who has an exhibition focused around reused materials.

T. Allen emphasized the need to help people understand the unaffordability of rental housing, and the importance of having it for businesses and jobs.

C. Moorman suggested inviting developers of recently completed projects, having them talk, and then opening up for discussion.

Members discussed other outreach ideas including a workshop for developers; having some local government focused activities; and possibly having an award. K. Brady suggested introducing for-profits to nonprofits would be a valuable outcome. Members discussed being able to show an array of what has been done, maybe a “drive-by” to highlight projects such as Brookside units and Boardman apartments rehab project.

K. Pontius suggested a community conversation where community officials, developers, etc. are targeted. He pointed out that there are 6,000 jobs about to hit TC, so although housing needs were discussed for 7 years through the Grand Vision, this is now a community in crisis, and it’s going to be reactive building. He added that the best turnout comes when you can say that there is money out there. There might be potential for TAAR to get the National Association of Realtors to get money for speaker.

Members agreed to include planning activities for a housing focused month in June on monthly Housing Solutions Network meetings. S. Lucas will put down some of these ideas, which can be reviewed and

picked apart at the next meeting. T. Allen suggests that Sarah send out homework emails to people about how they can help.

#### **F. Housing Solutions Network 2015 agenda items**

S. Lucas asks about the agenda and whether the group wants to do the same as it has in the past or use this time to plan this June event.

T. Allen suggests about getting a “meeting in a box” – as in something that CoC could use to get through to people. CoC may go back to the four planning commissions they’ve visited and announce the June meeting.

K. Brady suggested creating a calendar so people can see when meetings are and group member can select to go to some; do this to help create a presence, be seen as an entity, a housing liaison.

Regarding the month of June, a Networks member suggests having one big regional event, then could have smaller conversations throughout the month.

Networks group discussed the meeting calendar; meetings were set for February 10 at 2pm, March 10 at 9am, and April 14, May 12, and June 9 at 9am at the Networks Northwest offices.

#### **G. Roundtable Discussion and Announcements**

T. Allen explained the regional Continuum of Care is a 10-county collaboration of organizations that meet to address issues of homelessness, and that she is the regional coordinator.

W. Irvin shared that along with the Dennonos, there is a retool exhibition Saturday, January 24 that revolves around using normal tools and objects and creating unique objects and art. In addition, there are three programming opportunities to come: February- families and children are being asked to create artwork with what home means to them; March is about repurposing, reviving, and restoring furniture; and the Smart Course, a nine week class about home care maintenance held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening of every month.

K. Pontius shared that the Traverse Area Association of Realtors has have an environmental committee that has been charged with affordable housing, and that at some point they will have volunteers to help with activities. There are 705 members in the five counties, so they are trying to get members to start going to planning commission meetings and bring back knowledge; it’s a new public advocacy campaign running out of TAAR.

K. Emerson noted NMCAA’s free tax preparation where people can go online or go in and offered to send out flyers.

C. Moorman noted that Goodwill still has training services for retail, food industry, and janitorial positions; and that construction is beginning at Carson Square and that Brookside has already started.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

