



HOUSING SOLUTIONS NETWORK

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Conference Room, Traverse City Michigan Works!
1209 S. Garfield Avenue, Traverse City

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

AGENDA

A. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)

Julie Gardner	MSHDA
Roger Myers	PVM
Craig Patterson	The Woda Group
Carol Moorman	Goodwill
Connor Miller	North Sky Nonprofit Network
Jeff Vitton	GT County
Nicki Basch	GTB Housing
Bob Carstens	Acme Township
JoAnn Turnbull	TC Housing Commission
Pat Hess	Northern Health Care
Emilee Syrewicze	FMH
Cathy Odom	NMCAA
Carol Brito	MSHDA/Homeownership
Kimberly Pontius	TAAR/GV Core
Brandon Fewins	Sen. Debbie Stabenow
Virginia Coulter	GT County
Joan Hanpeter	PVM
Cindy Eveleigh	Goodwill
Patty O'Donnell	NWMCOG
Janie McNabb	NWMCOG
Sarah Lucas	NWMCOG
Kirstie Sieloff	NWMCOG

B. Consideration of Agenda (5 minutes)

The agenda was accepted as presented.

C. Consideration of May 2012 Meeting Minutes (5 minutes)

The meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

D. County Updates (5 minutes)

Cathy Odom asked for ideas on Marketing the CDBG Program in Kalkaska County.

Virginia Coulter updated on programs available in Grand Traverse County.

E. Grand Vision to Grand Action – HUD Sustainable Communities Grant (15 minutes)

Patty O'Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, provided an update and timeline on grant activities. The Sustainable Communities Challenge Planning Grant Program (3-year grant) is being used for the Grand Vision to Grand Action strategies. The grant looks at many different areas because of connections between all elements. There are 15 contractors working to get underrepresented and low-income individuals participating in the creation of the plans. Efforts will work to include all existing plans from other organizations. Local governments will then be sent plans for review and can adopt them as a whole or use parts of them. As far as a timeline, NWMCOG is looking to have other inventories and strategies within a year

F. Grand Vision/Housing Solutions Network Communications (5 minutes)

Janie McNabb, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, discussed Grand Vision communications. The Grand Vision website will be updated fairly soon—specifically the Grand Vision Network pages. The Grand Vision seal may be used by any project that supports the Grand Vision. As a reminder, each network gets 2 videos through February 2013. This year's event will be October 2nd-4th and 9th-11th 5:30-7p.m. Grand Traverse County's event will be at the State Theatre, other locations TBD. Thanks to TAAR®, we will have Events North running the event to make sure everything runs smoothly. There will be a Grand Vision campaign looking to engage the business community to discuss how they are benefitting from Grand Vision—if you know any businesses who would be interested please contact Sarah Lucas. Additionally, TV 7&4 will be covering 30% of costs.

G. Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (25 minutes)

Roger Myers, CEO and President of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, a senior housing provider and developer, discussed statewide and regional projects and programs. Established in 1945 by the church, the organization used to only serve Presbyterians. Today, the organization is legally separated from church but keeps the name for heritage reasons. The organization serves the broader community and only about 10% Presbyterians. The Presbyterian Villages has 25 different communities in the Lower Peninsula (with about 4,000 seniors) and works with subsidized, income restricted, market rate, and high end housing. Their most recent development is in Kalamazoo. They do mostly housing but are doing more community-oriented projects. They have several continuing care retirement communities with independent living, skilled nursing, and assisted living all in one place. Their developments strive to adopt the local character of the community. The organization collaborates and partners with the community, nonprofits, faith-based, government, and for profit organizations. They are now looking to develop two Village Networks in Michigan, which are organizations that help elders living in neighborhoods stay in their homes.

H. Woda Group, LLC (25 minutes)

Craig Patterson, Vice President-Development of the Woda Group, LLC, discussed local housing development projects and activities. The Woda Group does only affordable projects and ranks as 5th in the nation. They have completed 6,500 units with over 20 projects in Michigan, including the Bayview Apartments in Frankfort and the Crooked River Apartments in Emmet County. The group is pursuing two future projects in the Traverse City area. When completed, the Woda Group will have invested \$20,138,832 into the area. All units in both developments will be affordable.

I. Grand Traverse County Housing Inventory and Strategy (25 minutes)

Sarah Lucas, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, presented information from the 2012 Grand Traverse County Housing Inventory and draft Housing Strategy for review and discussion. The inventory can be found here <http://www.nwm.org/planning/planning-policy/housing/grand-traverse-county-housing-inventory-and-strategy.html>. The Grand Traverse Housing Inventory and Strategy were developed as part of county master plan process. A Housing Strategy committee was formed to provide information, data, and review drafts. Local governments are also involved in the plan creation process. The inventory provides assessment of existing housing stock and is not a market study. Each of Grand Vision counties will receive an inventory and strategy. We would appreciate your feedback—please feel free to schedule a meeting to discuss the inventory. Other groups that would like to have this information presented to them may contact Sarah Lucas. Next meeting will discuss the strategy further and talk about how we want to structure review of other counties' plans.

J. Roundtable Discussion and Announcements (5 minutes)

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.

- Connor Miller from North Sky Nonprofit Network has 2 new AmeriCorps VISTAs coming in August for a year—any housing opportunities available? Please contact Connor with any information.
- NWMCOG is interested in doing a video for people looking for housing—anyone who knows of someone searching for housing and would be willing to be in a video please contact Sarah Lucas