Good Morning, my name is Greg Pratt. I am part of a local street team that goes out on a weekly basis to feed the homeless in the Lansing area between the hours of 7pm to 2am. I am honored to be here today and speak on behalf of some of the homeless in Lansing.

I support HB 4919; it's a good start, it's not perfect, but it's giving the homeless Michiganders rights that are long overdue. I am hopeful this bill will stop the municipalities from discriminating against the homeless just because they are in the municipal parks.

Where are the homeless supposed to go when the shelters are full? Everyone says, not here, but the homeless need a place to go. At night, cities kick the homeless out of the parks due to city ordinances against sleeping in parks after hours.

Did you know that Federal courts are now saying that homeless Americans are protected under the 8th Amendment? Who knew that the homeless people have rights just like you or me?!?

One of my biggest concerns for Homeless Michiganders is the cold temperatures in the winter. The frigid winter temperatures like we had last winter. I saw a man almost freeze to death because of the extreme temperatures. He had nowhere to go, the shelters were full.

Lansing Township and municipalities across Michigan alike do not have emergency plans put in place to help and protect the homeless from the cold. There is a lack of resources and understanding that is needed to help the homeless in these emergency situations. The City of Lansing has "Code Blue" but even that doesn't mean much when the shelters are full.

Do any of you know what 1 thing can stop homeless people from continuing to be homeless? It's the Michigan ID. When Cities discard the homeless people's belongings, their IDs can get lost and the homeless person has to try to get a new ID. This task is extremely challenging and yet with the ID in hand, the homeless Michiganders are able to gain employment.

Another example that I would like to share is pertainings to the state and county alike failing the homeless Michiganders. In the Lansing area there is a homeless man who is mentally handicapped, he believes that his cat is his son. Because of this, the man is afraid to leave his "son" behind, so he sits in his spot & stays there, deficates himself, and is unable to get his prescriptions filled because he refuses to move for fear of something happening to his "son."

I reached out to Adult Protective Services who took him to a motel for a few days, got him cleaned up and as soon as the motel voucher was completed. They kicked him to the curb. He has less items than before and is worse off mentally, physically and emotionally. What was the purpose of putting him in a hotel room is they cannot provide him with the proper resources?

The last concern I want to bring up this morning is regarding what to do if a shelter kicks out a homeless person due to their disability and due to liability reasons. Where is that homeless Michigander supposed to go? There are multiple people in the Lansing area that are in this situation right now.

September 28, 2023

House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business
Subcommittee on Housing
Re: HB 4919- MCEDSV Support

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

     The Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCEDSV) asks you to support House Bill 4919. MCEDSV is a nonprofit, membership organization made up of over 70 agencies that serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking across every county in Michigan. Our member programs provide comprehensive services including wrap-around sexual assault response, forensic examinations, shelter, therapy, counseling, and advocacy. They are on the front lines delivering services and witnessing the danger, uncertainty, and harm that survivors of violence face every day.

     Our member programs regularly convey to us the barriers their clients face when engaging with systems. Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness in women.[1] Many of the protections outlined in HB 4919 address the structural barriers that have been specifically identified by our member programs. Survivors located in the non-permanent shelter at our programs often face discrimination in employment and other systems that require permanent housing. When it comes to domestic violence, these barriers and discrimination are a threat to the survivor's safety and often trap survivors in dangerous situations. Some studies have even found that nearly half of all homeless women have previously stayed in abusive relationships as a result of a lack of other options.[2]

     While this legislation will not serve as a panacea to all barriers to service for survivors, this legislation is significant and goes a long way in treating survivors and others experiencing homelessness with the dignity that they deserve. Please support HB 4919.

Heath B. Lowry
Staff Attorney-Policy Specialist

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[1] Wilder Research Center, Homelessness in Minnesota 2003 22 (2004); Center for Impact Research, Pathways to and from Homelessness: Women and Children in Chicago Shelters 3 (2004); Nat'l Center on Family Homelessness & Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network, Social Supports for Homeless Mothers, 14 26 (2003); Inst. For Children & Poverty, The Hidden Migration: Why New York City Shelters Are Overflowing with Families (2004); Homes for the Homeless & Inst. For Children & Poverty, Ten Cities 1997-1998: A Snapshot of Family Homelessness Across America 3 (1998); Virginia Coalition for the Homeless, 1995 Shelter Provider Survey (1995)(out of print), cited in Nat'l Coalition for the Homeless, Domestic Violence and Homelessness: NCH Fact Sheet #8 (1999).
[2] Id.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HB 4919
TO ESTABLISH A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR
MICHIGANDERS FACING HOMELESSNESS

MO⌘SH

michigan organization on
adolescent sexual health

September 26, 2023

RE: MOASH Supports HB 4919

Dear Chair Coleman, Majority Vice Chair Dievendorf, Minority Vice Chair Aragona, and Members of the Subcommittee on Housing,

On behalf of the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH), I am writing a letter of support for HB 4919 which would establish a bill of rights for unhoused Michiganders. While we have seen recent declines in rates of Michigan youth homelessness who are unhoused, we owe our youth even more support. The experience of being unhoused — for any length of time — is incredibly dehumanizing; more often than not, our societies erase and neglect unhoused people. This bill would create and/or strengthen a variety of anti-discrimination protections for unhoused people (including youth), including protections for them to exist with more freedom and dignity in public spaces, and to assert their right to vote and have their voices be counted.

For more context on who MOASH is and why we care about this: MOASH is a statewide non-profit that mobilizes youth voices, engages community partners, and informs decision-makers to advance sexual health, identities, and rights for Michigan youth. Through a combination of programming, advocacy, and youth leadership development, we work to advance comprehensive sex education, increase access to broad sexual and reproductive health services, and combat sexual violence towards and amongst youth. We see our mission as intimately connected with advancing housing stability and justice.

Every single young person deserves to live in a safe and sustainable environment, and yet, there are alarming rates of homelessness amongst Michigan youth. According to the 2019 Annual Report on Ending Homelessness in Michigan, there were almost 15,600 unhoused children as a part of families, almost 800 unaccompanied unhoused youth under 18, and nearly 4,000 unhoused youth ages 18-24. Focusing on high school youth, a recent policy brief from University of Michigan using 2019 data highlights that nearly 6% (over 22, 400) of high school youth reported being unhoused in the last 30 days. To emphasize — these are numbers just on high school youth, and fails to consider youth 19-24. To further contextualize experiences of being unhoused amongst older youth and just focusing on a subset of these youth, consider that one quarter to one third of youth (18-24) who are unhoused were previously foster youth, and often simply "aged out" of the system. The numbers are alarming no matter what communities you focus on and or how you analyze any available data. These are all young people who deserve to live in safe and stable homes. They deserve to wake up and go to sleep each night knowing they have a stable place to live and find refuge.

With all of this said, we strongly urge you to vote yes on HB 4919 to establish a Bill of Rights for Homeless/ Unhoused Michiganders (including youth). Given your power and your responsibilities as their electeds, Michigan youth are looking to you for support.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shakti Rambarran, MPH, MS

Advocacy Director

Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH)

www.moash.org | info@moash.org

Homeless Definition

CRITERIA FOR DEFINING HOMELESS	Category 1	Literally Homeless	(1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
	Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	(2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that: (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
	Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who: (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
	Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	(4) Any individual or family who: (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (ii) Has no other residence; and (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

Homeless Definition

ELIGIBILITY BY COMPONENT (Emergency Solutions Grants Program)	**Street Outreach**	Individuals defined as Homeless under the following categories are eligible for assistance in SO: • Category 1 – Literally Homeless • Category 4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV (where the individual or family also meets the criteria for Category 1) SO projects have the following additional limitations on eligibility within Category 1: • Individuals and families must be living on the streets (or other places not meant for human habitation) and be unwilling or unable to access services in emergency shelter
	Emergency Shelter	Individuals and Families defined as Homeless under the following categories are eligible for assistance in ES projects: • Category 1 – Literally Homeless • Category 2 – Imminent Risk of Homeless • Category 3 – Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes • Category 4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV
	Rapid Re-housing	Individuals defined as Homeless under the following categories are eligible for assistance in RRH projects: • Category 1 – Literally Homeless • Category 4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV (where the individual or family also meets the criteria for Category 1)
	Homelessness Prevention	Individuals and Families defined as Homeless under the following categories are eligible for assistance in HP projects: • Category 2 –Imminent Risk of Homeless • Category 3 – Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes • Category 4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV Individuals and Families who are defined as At Risk of Homelessness are eligible for assistance in HP projects. HP projects have the following additional limitations on eligibility with homeless and at risk of homeless: • Must only serve individuals and families that have an annual income below 30% of AMI

Homeless Definition

RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS	Category 1	Literally Homeless	• Written observation by the outreach worker; <u>or</u>
			• Written referral by another housing or service provider, <u>or</u>
			• Certification by the individual or head of household seeking assistance stating that (s)he was living on the streets or in shelter;
			
			• For individuals exiting an institution—one of the forms of evidence above <u>and</u>:
			  o discharge paperwork <u>or</u> written/oral referral, <u>or</u>
			  o written record of intake worker's due diligence to obtain above evidence <u>and</u> certification by individual that they exited institution

	Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	• A court order resulting from an eviction action notifying the individual or family that they must leave; <u>or</u> • For individual and families leaving a hotel or motel—evidence that they lack the financial resources to stay; <u>or</u> • A documented and verified oral statement; <u>and</u> • Certification that no subsequent residence has been identified; <u>and</u> • Self-certification or other written documentation that the individual lack the financial resources and support necessary to obtain permanent housing
	Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	• Certification by the nonprofit or state or local government that the individual or head of household seeking assistance met the criteria of homelessness under another federal statute; <u>and</u> • Certification of no PH in last 60 days; <u>and</u> • Certification by the individual or head of household, and any available supporting documentation, that (s)he has moved two or more times in the past 60 days; <u>and</u> • Documentation of special needs <u>or</u> 2 or more barriers

	Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	• *For victim service providers:*
			  o An oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance which states: they are fleeing; they have no subsequent residence; and they lack resources. Statement must be documented by a self-certification or a certification by the intake worker.
			• *For non-victim service providers:*
			  o Oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance that they are fleeing. This statement is documented by a self-certification or by the caseworker. Where the safety of the individual or family is not jeopardized, the oral statement must be verified; <u>and</u>
			  o Certification by the individual or head of household that no subsequent residence has been identified; <u>and</u>
			  o Self-certification, or other written documentation, that the individual or family lacks the financial resources and support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Securing State ID & Vital Records Training
Generating an HMIS ID Card

The HMIS ID Card is an acceptable form of documentation to assist an individual in securing a state identification card.

HMIS participating agencies will use the workflow noted below.

Note: If you are a non-HMIS agency we ask that you partner with a local HARA or shelter in your community. They will be able to create this ID for you. If you are unable to obtain the ID card in person, there is a process for printing the ID as a PDF. Instructions are on Page 6.

Generating an HMIS ID Card

Obtain Client Photo

1. Take a client photo

2. Save the Client's Photo to your computer using the following naming convention:

   File Naming Convention: **Client Photo Year_Month_Day_First Initial of First Name Full Last Name**, spaces should be designated by underscores. Example: If photo was taken on January 1, 2019, the file would be named "Client_Photo_2019_03_27_hbag"

3. Upload the JPEG as a File Attachment

   Access the client's record. From the Client Profile tab, scroll down to the bottom of the screen to locate the File Attachments section. Click on **Add New File Attachment.**

File Attachments

Date Added ▼	Name	Description	Type	Provider	Added From
Add New File Attachment		No matches.			

   a. Click on **Choose File.**
   b. Enter a **Description** if desired: For Example: Client Photo
   c. Click on **Upload.**

You will see that the file has been uploaded.

File Attachments

	Date Added ▼	Name	Description	Type	Provider	Added From	
🗑	03/27/2019	Client_Photo_2019_03_27_hbag.jpg		jpg	Ladybug Services - MCAH Training CoC - BoS CE Supportive Services Project (HUD) 2018	Client Profile	🔒
Add New File Attachment				Showing 1-1 of 1			

Printing the HMIS ID Card

4. Printing a Client ID from the Client Profile tab

   a. Upload the Client Photo as an Image in the area to the right of the Issue ID Card
      i.   Click "Change"
      ii.   Browse your computer and upload the photo JPEG you have saved
      iii. Click "upload" and the photo image will appear as a picture

   b. To set a card up for printing, select **Issue ID Card**. This will bring up the card in print format as a PDF file.

Securing State ID & Vital Records Training
Generating an HMIS ID Card

MICHIGAN COALITION
AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

Printing Client ID's from a Client List is SkanPoint

a. Click the *SkanPoint* tab in the left hand menu to move into *SkanPoint*.

▶ Last Viewed	Favorites
Home	
ClientPoint	
CallPoint	
ResourcePoint	
ShelterPoint	
SkanPoint	
▶ Reports	
▶ Admin	
Logout	
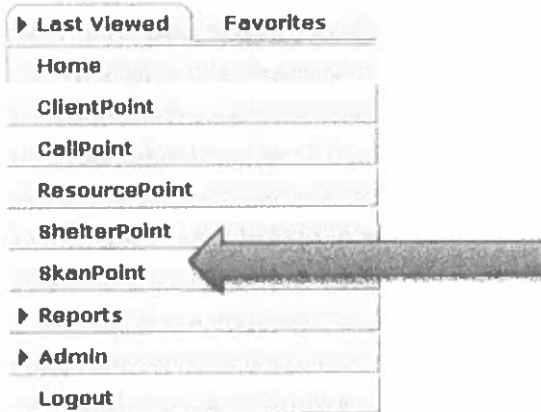
c. The primary *SkanPoint* screen will display. From this screen, click the **Generate ID Cards** tab: (this allows you to print ID cards for clients or lists of clients). (*Refer to Skanpoint training to learn more about creating and managing lists*)

d. The current provider's client lists will display

Generate ID Cards

List Name	Provider ID	Provider Name	Date Created	Date Updated	Total Clients
➕ Big Shelter List	0	Bowman Systems, LLC	10/06/2009	10/06/2009	2
➕ Bowman Systems LLC List	0	Bowman Systems, LLC	09/28/2009	09/28/2009	0
➕ Community Meal List	0	Bowman Systems, LLC	09/29/2009	10/06/2009	4
Generate ALL ID Cards			Showing 1-3 of 3		

d. Click the **Green Plus** icon to print ID cards for clients in the selected list. NOTE: Clicking **Generate ALL ID Cards** to print ID cards for all clients in every list.

- When printing ID cards from a list, the Client List will display.
- Check the **Check Boxes** of the clients that need an ID card or Click **Check ALL Clients** to set all check boxes.
- Click **Clear ALL Clients** to clear all check boxes
- Click **Print ID Cards for Clients** to initiate the print.
- Click **Cancel** to return to the previous screen without printing cards.

MICHIGAN COALITION
AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

Generating an HMIS ID Card as a PDF File (instructions above)

Participating HMIS Service Provider (HARA or Shelter)

1. Obtain client photo from the non HMIS participating agency via email
2. Upload the picture onto the client profile in ServicePoint
3. Create the client ID card
4. Print the client ID card as a PDF
5. Send the PDF as a secure email

Non Participating HMIS Service Provider

1. Obtain client photo and send to HMIS provider agency via a secure email
2. Receive Client ID card via secure email (example: zixmail)
3. Print HMIS ID card for client

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Fact Sheet

What is a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)?

A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a software application designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons throughout a Continuum of Care (CoC)[1] jurisdiction. An HMIS is typically a web-based software application that homeless assistance providers use to coordinate service provision, manage their operations, and better serve their clients.

HMIS implementations can encompass geographic areas ranging from a single county to an entire state. An HMIS knits together homeless assistance providers within a community and creates a more coordinated and effective housing and service delivery system.

How do HUD and Congress use and support HMIS?

Policymakers and planners at the federal, state and local levels use aggregate HMIS data to obtain better information about the extent and nature of homelessness over time. HUD's HMIS initiative is in response to 2001 Congressional direction on the need for data and analysis on the extent of homelessness and the effectiveness of the McKinney-Vento Act[2] Programs including: developing unduplicated counts of clients served at the local level; analyzing patterns of use of people entering and exiting the homeless assistance system; and evaluating the effectiveness of these systems. Additional information on the Congressional Direction and an annual report to Congress on HUD's Strategy for Homeless Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting can be found at: http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/hmis/strategy/.

What data is entered into HMIS and how is it protected?

In 2004, HUD published data and technical standards for the implementation of HMIS. These requirements detail the data collection, participation, privacy, and security requirements for all agencies entering data into or having access to the HMIS. A copy of the HMIS Data and Technical Standards Final Notice can be found at: http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/hmis/standards/.

All users of the HMIS must adhere to the privacy protections and security protocols in the Final Notice. Each organization must adopt a privacy notice, post a privacy sign that discloses uses of information, and implement a consent protocol (i.e. inferred, written, oral). Each individual workstation (i.e. computer), network, and server accessing, transmitting, or storing HMIS data must conform with the security standards. Each individual user must have a unique username and password to access the individual workstation and the HMIS application. Each computer must be stored in a secure location with updated virus protection, a locking screen saver, and be protected by an individual or networked firewall. Additional security provisions for system servers and networks include transmission encryption, mechanisms to limit access to the HMIS to previously approved workstations, off-site backup and recovery, proper disposal of storage devices, and system monitoring procedures. Data Standards training modules are available at: http://www.hmis.info/resources.asp?cvid=235&ccid=1.

What questions can HMIS help to answer at the local and national level about homelessness?

HMIS is not a national database of homeless people. Data on homeless persons is collected and maintained at the local level. HMIS can help local communities understand how many people are homeless in shelters and on the street; how many people are chronically or episodically homeless; the characteristics and service needs of those served, and which programs are most effective at reducing and ending homelessness.

HMIS can help HUD and Congress understand: how many people are homeless in the United States; who is homeless; where people receive shelter and services and where did they live before they became homeless; the patterns of homeless residential program use; and the nation's capacity for housing homeless people.

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[1] For more information on HUD's Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs visit:
http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/
[2] For more information on the McKinney-Vento Act visit: http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/rulesandregs/laws/

Why is HMIS a better alternative than point-in-time counts or aggregate service provider reports for gathering community-wide information on homelessness?

One night counts, commonly referred to as point-in-time counts provide a head count of the number of persons that are homeless in a community on one given night. Point-in-time counts do not usually provide information on whether a person was homeless for one day or a longer period of time and have been shown to under represent those persons who move in and out of homelessness throughout a time period.

Aggregate program level information provides duplicated information on the number of persons served, their characteristics, and needs by adding up program level data across a community about those persons who were served during a given time period. Although aggregate program information may offer broad based knowledge about the population served, the same person is often counted multiple times by the different programs and can lead to a limited understanding of patterns of service use or population size.

HMIS generates unduplicated counts of clients served and is designed to capture information over time (i.e. longitudinal data) about those persons moving in and out of the homeless assistance system, including changes in residential status, family composition, and service use. HMIS provides the most accurate picture of the extent and nature of homelessness within a community.

Who is responsible for implementing the HMIS?

The CoC is at the core of planning and service delivery for homeless individuals and families within any given community or geographic area. Each CoC is responsible for HMIS implementation, including planning, software selection, implementation and management of the database according to HUD's HMIS Data and Technical Standards.

The HMIS administering agency and/or the applicant/sponsor of a SHP dedicated HMIS project are agents of the CoC, manage HMIS operations on behalf of the CoC, and provide HMIS administration functions at the direction of the CoC. The experience of successful HMIS implementations has shown that active participation by CoC members in the management of the HMIS process, including establishing policies, procedures and protocols for privacy, data sharing, data analysis, reporting, and data validity is essential. Additional questions about HMIS grant requirements and funding are available under the Questions and Answers section of the 2006 Notice of Funding Availability at: http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa06/grpcoc.cfm.

What are the requirements regarding data submission by homeless service providers to the CoC?

Homeless assistance providers who participate in the local HMIS are required to submit data to the central server that is maintained by, or on behalf of the CoC's system administrator, at least once a year. With the exception of domestic violence agencies, the standard requires that all HUD McKinney-Vento funded programs that assist homeless persons submit the universal data elements (Name, SSN, DOB, Ethnicity/Race, Gender, Veteran's Status, Disabling Condition, Residence Prior to Program Entry, Zip Code of Last Permanent Address, Program Entry/Exit Date) for each client served annually. In addition, HUD McKinney-Vento programs that complete Annual Progress Reports (APRs)[3] are required to submit program-specific data elements (Income and Sources, Education, Physical Disability, Developmental Disability, HIV/AIDS, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, Services Received, Destination and Reasons for Leaving) for each client served.

Given the unique circumstances of their clients, domestic violence shelters are not required to submit personal identifying client-level information to the CoC. In January 2006, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization of 2005[4] became law and contains provisions that amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act relating to the disclosure of data to HMIS by domestic violence providers. HUD is analyzing the legislation to determine the most appropriate instructions and advice to convey to communities and domestic violence programs.

Where can I find additional information on HMIS?

Additional information is available at: HUD's website: http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/hmis/ or on HUD's HMIS technical assistance website: www.HMIS.info.

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[3] For more information on HUD's Annual Progress Report visit: http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/apr.doc
[4] Public Law 109-162 is available at http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:H.R.3402: (Section 605)

[PLEASE PLACE THIS FORM ON AGENCY LETTERHEAD]

HOMELESS VERIFICATION LETTER
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics

[Date – *Must be within 30 days of application*]

Shelter Participant (full legal name):_____

DOB:_____   HMIS Number:_____

This form, along with the accompanying HMIS CARD, certifies that the above individual meets the definition of category 1 homeless as that term is defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

∧∧

Please check the location type in which the household currently resides:
☐ Emergency Shelter   ☐ Place not meant for human habitation   ☐ Safe Haven   ☐ Other_____☐ Transitional Housing

I, [case manager/representative of referring agency], hereby certify that the information above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Per the MDHHS guidelines, the above-named individual is eligible to present this homeless verification for a single proof of residency document (MCL 333.2891(19)), as well as use this verification to request receiving a vital record at the shelter/agency address.

Applicant Initials	Consent
	Applicant is applying for a fee waiver, pursuant to MCL 333.2891(19)
	Applicant would like to use the following shelter address to receive mail: Shelter Provider Name: _____ Shelter Provider Address: _____ Shelter Provider Number: _____

Case Manager Signature:_____Date: _____

Print Case Manager Name:_____Phone/Email:_____

NOTE: When applying for a Michigan birth certificate, a formal application along with verification of identity will be required.

Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT)
Fact Sheet

What is SPDAT?
1. A System-wide tool needed to help guide the right household to the right support intervention at the right time to end homelessness.
2. An Objective approach to assessing needs for housing and life stability based upon evidence.
3. Language and theoretical orientation appropriate for housing case manager.
4. Move away from "first come, first serve" or luck to service delivery.
5. By understanding risks to housing stability we are to promote homelessness proofing.

What is the difference between a Full Assessment and Pre-Screening?
1. Final Assessment looks at the depth (acuity) of an issue.
2. A pre-screen looks for the presence of an issue.
3. A pre-screen can be a necessary first step in being assessed.
4. A full assessment is done if you are going to provide any housing assistance.

Note:
> You can do a full assessment without the pre-screen, but you cannot do the pre-screen without doing the full assessment.
> It is expected there will be more pre-screens than full assessments.

SPDAT Will:
1. Form the foundation.
2. Prioritize who will get served and why.
3. Help teams allocate their time.
4. Measure changes in acuity over time.
5. Help provide a structural framework to case management delivery.
6. Determine the number of people with certain acuity levels that can receive a certain type of service.
7. Be a tool of objectively.   SPDAT will totally disrupt a case manager's thought pattern.

Note:
> Each component has its own research body.

Things to Know:
1. What service providers say they do on paper is what they do in practice...No Exception!
2. Access to shelter is coordinated.
3. All housing types (TH, PSH, PBV, etc.) are centralized. You must know all the eligibility requirements for each program. No secondary assessments should be done.
4. As many rules/compliance requirements that can be eliminated are eliminated.
5. Assessment tool should be grounded on evidence.
6. People are people - not a number, and not a conclusion of an assessment. (What are the interventions - not the assessment?) Coordination and assessment inform choices that people can make, not make choices for people.
7. Operates with transparency decision making process. Not dependent on case manager knowing how to skirt around the system.

SPDAT: starts with skills you should already have:
1. Get clients housed and stay housed;
2. Connections to community resource;

3. You believe in hope;
4. Don't need to heal or fix people;
5. Guide opportunities to coach and support, not focus on the clients behaviors;
6. The people you support do the hard work;
7. People can and should be respectfully challenged to change;
8. Proactive planning and support prevents reactionary crisis responses.
9. People can and do recover.

SPDAT Doesn't
1. Assists with decision-making.
2. Provide a diagnosis.
3. Does not take place of any other Clinical Assessment.

CoC Bodies should have Consistent Tools & Procedures
1. How to have consistent referral procedures and get people where they need to go.
2. Must have written procedures, explaining how and why people are being referred and prioritized.
3. No side doors for access to housing-provide some sort of instruction. Map out and coordinate access to PSH projects.
4. Provider, funder and consumer understand the process.
5. Diversion is a service-not the absence of a service. (Research has found that 30% of people who are seeking shelter can be diverted.)
6. Programs should focus on getting those with the deepest need served instead of getting the person who has been on the waiting list the longest housed.
7. Under what conditions should a client be re-assessed? Set up procedures and guidelines around this.

Note:
➤ Rental and utility assistance are part of the diversion system. You are providing assistance to keep the person from becoming homeless.

Criteria for Train the Trainers
1. Have the supervisor send a letter to MSHDA asking for training.
2. The individual must be comfortable using the SPDAT tool.
3. The individual must have experience in explaining SPDAT concepts.
4. Attend full day training.
5. Must be able to attend Quarterly CoC Performance Meetings.
6. OrgCode (Iain) will send a letter verifying those who are qualified as Train the Trainers.

Other:

The SPDAT vs VI-SPDAT: As most of you know MSHDA is actively auditing the use of the SPDAT in your Coordinated Assessment Process. It is important to recognize that the SPDAT and the VI SPDAT (hence forth known as the "VI") are not interchangeable. They are two distinct tools used for different purposes. Many CoC's are using the VI SPDAT as a pre-screening tool to identify those clients that need a full SPDAT. HARA contractual obligations are for the SPDAT – not the VI. Shelter contractual obligations are for the VI to identify clients that need to be referred for a full SPDAT. The SPDAT is used to qualify households for deep resources such as RRH or PH.
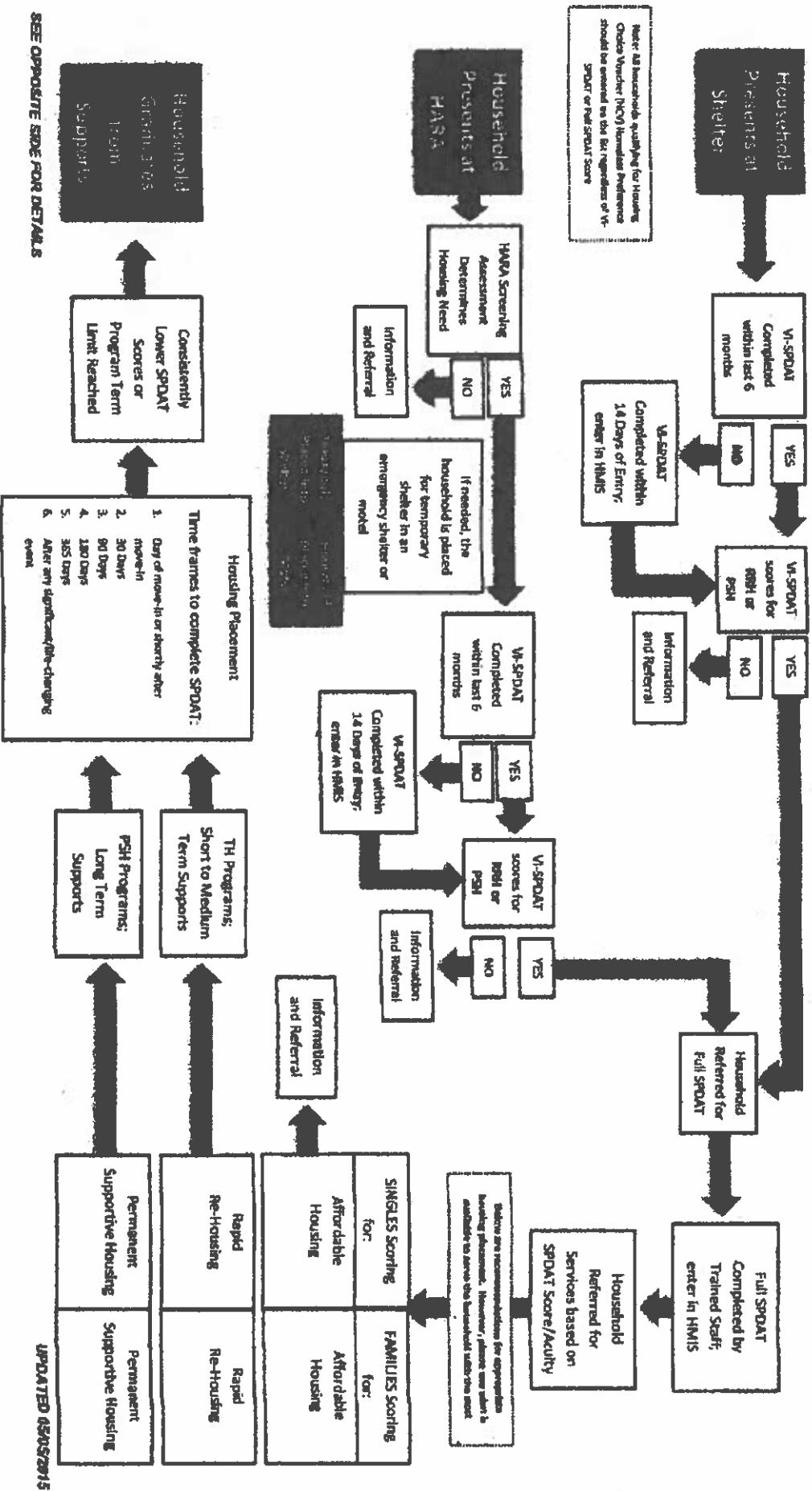
Some additional facts about the two tools:

- The total score for the SPDAT is 80 points. The total for the VI is 20 points.
- Certification to use the SPDAT is achieved by completing full day training with Iain De Jong. You may be certified for the VI by completing video training and passing the test on the MCAH Certification Site.
- The SPDAT is completed on the "Measurement Tab" in ClientPoint. You must be on the Measurement Tab to complete the SPDAT. If you do not have access to it, please call Christine Corbett at MCAH and she will help you set it up. The VI is completed as a sub-assessment like the SSM on many of the Intake Assessments.
- There are Data Quality Reports for both Tools in ART>Data Quality>SPDAT
- Referral for the SPDAT is usually a score of 5+ on the VI.
- Eventually, funding organizations for RRH and PH will want validation of the SPDAT score for those clients for whom you have issued vouchers. Currently DCH PH is requiring 40+ and RRH 25+ on the SPDAT. These thresholds may move around a bit as we go forward but it should be consistent.

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) & Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)

VI-SPDAT and Full SPDAT Workflow

Household Presents at Shelter

Note: All households qualifying for Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Homeless Preference should be entered on the list, regardless of VI-SPDAT or Full SPDAT Score

VI-SPDAT Completed within last 6 months
- YES
- NO

VI-SPDAT Completed within 14 Days of Entry, enter in HMIS
- YES
- NO

VI-SPDAT scores for RRH or PSH
- YES
- NO → Information and Referral

Household Referred for Full SPDAT

Full SPDAT Completed by Trained Staff, enter in HMIS

Household Referred for Services based on SPDAT Score/Acuity

Below are recommendations for appropriate housing placement. However, please use what is available to meet the household with the most...

SINGLES Scoring for:
- Affordable Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing

FAMILIES Scoring for:
- Affordable Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing

Information and Referral

PSH Programs: Long Term Supports

TH Programs; Short to Medium Term Supports

Housing Placement

Time frames to complete SPDAT:
1. Day of move-in or shortly after move-in
2. 30 Days
3. 90 Days
4. 180 Days
5. 365 Days
6. After any significant/life-changing event

Consistently Lower SPDAT Scores or Program Term Limit Reached

Household Presents at HARA

HARA Screening Assessment Determines Housing Need
- YES
- NO → Information and Referral

If needed, the household is placed for temporary shelter in an emergency shelter or motel

VI-SPDAT Completed within last 6 months
- YES
- NO

VI-SPDAT Completed within 14 Days of Entry, enter in HMIS
- YES
- NO

VI-SPDAT scores for RRH or PSH
- YES
- NO → Information and Referral

Household Grows as it needs Supports

SEE OPPOSITE SIDE FOR DETAILS

UPDATED 05/05/2015

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) & Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)

VI-SPDAT and Full SPDAT Workflow

Introduction

The VI-SPDAT and Full SPDAT Workflow illustrates the statewide coordinated entry and assessment process to prioritize housing assistance for those most in need through use of the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT). Local communities should use the workflow to guide their service system design.

What's the difference between the VI-SPDAT and Full SPDAT and the various versions?

- The VI-SPDAT is a pre-screen that looks for the presence of an issue and determines who should receive the Full SPDAT
- The SPDAT or Full SPDAT looks at the depth (acuity) of an issue and determines the appropriate type of service intervention
- The VI-SPDAT and Full SPDAT are available in a version for singles and for families. Singles receive the VI-SPDAT and Full SPDAT, Families use the F-VI-SPDAT, F-SPDAT

  Note: The workflow only references VI-SPDAT and Full SPDAT but providers should use the appropriate version for the type of households being served

Who does receive the VI-SPDAT and Full SPDAT assessment?

- Singles/families that meet criteria for Category 1 – Literally Homeless of the HUD Homeless Definition AND
- Persons who are 16 years or older (only if being compared to another youth program)

Who does NOT receive the VI-SPDAT or Full SPDAT assessment?

- Singles/families that do not meet the criteria for Category 1 – Literally Homeless of the HUD Homeless Definition, i.e. Prevention OR
- Persons that are under the age of 16
- If financial resources are not available, the Full SPDAT should not be provided. Clients should be given referrals, etc.

When does data get entered on HMIS and how are scores shared?

Both VI-SPDAT and Full SPDAT data are required to be entered on HMIS and should be entered as soon as possible to facilitate coordination of service delivery. While real-time data entry is not required, it is *strongly encouraged*.

How does this impact entering households on the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Homeless Preference List?

If a household is eligible for the HCV Homeless Preference List, then they should be entered regardless of VI-SPDAT and/or Full SPDAT score.

For questions or comments, please contact Amber Sheppard (DHHS) at amber_sheppard@michigan.gov or 517-284-XXXX or Kendra Sanders (MSHDA) at XXX@michigan.gov or 517-241-XXXX

[PLEASE PLACE THIS FORM ON AGENCY LETTERHEAD]

HOMELESS VERIFICATION LETTER
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics

[Date – *Must be within 30 days of application*]

Shelter Participant (full legal name):_____

DOB:_____   HMIS Number:_____

This form, along with the accompanying HMIS CARD, certifies that the above individual meets the definition of category 1 homeless as that term is defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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Please check the location type in which the household currently resides:
☐ Emergency Shelter   ☐ Place not meant for human habitation   ☐ Safe Haven   ☐ Other_____☐ Transitional Housing

I, [case manager/representative of referring agency], hereby certify that the information above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Per the MDHHS guidelines, the above-named individual is eligible to present this homeless verification for a single proof of residency document (MCL 333.2891(19)), as well as use this verification to request receiving a vital record at the shelter/agency address.

Applicant Initials	Consent
	Applicant is applying for a fee waiver, pursuant to MCL 333.2891(19)
	Applicant would like to use the following shelter address to receive mail: Shelter Provider Name: _____ Shelter Provider Address: _____ Shelter Provider Number: _____

Case Manager Signature:_____   Date: _____

Print Case Manager Name:_____   Phone/Email:_____

NOTE: When applying for a Michigan birth certificate, a formal application along with verification of identity will be required.

DCH-VR Homeless Verification 11-19

Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT)
Fact Sheet

What is SPDAT?
1. A System-wide tool needed to help guide the right household to the right support intervention at the right time to end homelessness.
2. An Objective approach to assessing needs for housing and life stability based upon evidence.
3. Language and theoretical orientation appropriate for housing case manager.
4. Move away from "first come, first serve" or luck to service delivery.
5. By understanding risks to housing stability we are to promote homelessness proofing.

What is the difference between a Full Assessment and Pre-Screening?
1. Final Assessment looks at the depth (acuity) of an issue.
2. A pre-screen looks for the presence of an issue.
3. A pre-screen can be a necessary first step in being assessed.
4. A full assessment is done if you are going to provide any housing assistance.

Note:
> You can do a full assessment without the pre-screen, but you cannot do the pre-screen without doing the full assessment.
> It is expected there will be more pre-screens than full assessments.

SPDAT Will:
1. Form the foundation.
2. Prioritize who will get served and why.
3. Help teams allocate their time.
4. Measure changes in acuity over time.
5. Help provide a structural framework to case management delivery.
6. Determine the number of people with certain acuity levels that can receive a certain type of service.
7. Be a tool of objectively. SPDAT will totally disrupt a case manager's thought pattern.

Note:
> Each component has its own research body.

Things to Know:
1. What service providers say they do on paper is what they do in practice...No Exception!
2. Access to shelter is coordinated.
3. All housing types (TH, PSH, PBV, etc.) are centralized. You must know all the eligibility requirements for each program. No secondary assessments should be done.
4. As many rules/compliance requirements that can be eliminated are eliminated.
5. Assessment tool should be grounded on evidence.
6. People are people - not a number, and not a conclusion of an assessment. (What are the interventions - not the assessment?) Coordination and assessment inform choices that people can make, not make choices for people.
7. Operates with transparency decision making process. Not dependent on case manager knowing how to skirt around the system.

SPDAT: starts with skills you should already have:
1. Get clients housed and stay housed;
2. Connections to community resource;

3. You believe in hope;
4. Don't need to heal or fix people;
5. Guide opportunities to coach and support, not focus on the clients behaviors;
6. The people you support do the hard work;
7. People can and should be respectfully challenged to change;
8. Proactive planning and support prevents reactionary crisis responses.
9. People can and do recover.

SPDAT Doesn't
1. Assists with decision-making.
2. Provide a diagnosis.
3. Does not take place of any other Clinical Assessment.

CoC Bodies should have Consistent Tools & Procedures
1. How to have consistent referral procedures and get people where they need to go.
2. Must have written procedures, explaining how and why people are being referred and prioritized.
3. No side doors for access to housing-provide some sort of instruction. Map out and coordinate access to PSH projects.
4. Provider, funder and consumer understand the process.
5. Diversion is a service-not the absence of a service. (Research has found that 30% of people who are seeking shelter can be diverted.)
6. Programs should focus on getting those with the deepest need served instead of getting the person who has been on the waiting list the longest housed.
7. Under what conditions should a client be re-assessed? Set up procedures and guidelines around this.

Note:
➢ Rental and utility assistance are part of the diversion system. You are providing assistance to keep the person from becoming homeless.

Criteria for Train the Trainers
1. Have the supervisor send a letter to MSHDA asking for training.
2. The individual must be comfortable using the SPDAT tool.
3. The individual must have experience in explaining SPDAT concepts.
4. Attend full day training.
5. Must be able to attend Quarterly CoC Performance Meetings.
6. OrgCode (Iain) will send a letter verifying those who are qualified as Train the Trainers.

Other:

The SPDAT vs VI-SPDAT: As most of you know MSHDA is actively auditing the use of the SPDAT in your Coordinated Assessment Process. It is important to recognize that the SPDAT and the VI SPDAT (hence forth known as the "VI") are not interchangeable. They are two distinct tools used for different purposes. Many CoC's are using the VI SPDAT as a pre-screening tool to identify those clients that need a full SPDAT. HARA contractual obligations are for the SPDAT – not the VI. Shelter contractual obligations are for the VI to identify clients that need to be referred for a full SPDAT. The SPDAT is used to qualify households for deep resources such as RRH or PH.

§ 4 Freedom of worship and religious belief; appropriations.

Sec. 4. Every person shall be at liberty to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. No person shall be compelled to attend, or, against his consent, to contribute to the erection or support of any place of religious worship, or to pay tithes, taxes or other rates for the support of any minister of the gospel or teacher of religion. No money shall be appropriated or drawn from the treasury for the benefit of any religious sect or society, theological or religious seminary; nor shall property belonging to the state be appropriated for any such purpose. The civil and political rights, privileges and capacities of no person shall be diminished or enlarged on account of his religious belief.

History: Const. 1963, Art. 1, § 4, Eff. Jan. 1, 1964.

Former constitution: See Const. 1908, Art. II, § 3.

Request for Homeless Management Information System Report by Client Receiving Services

I am formally requesting the entirety of my Homeless Management Information System report from _____, 20____ to present day to be released to myself, and this form serves as my written request.

My purpose in requesting my HMIS report is: to review and verify the services I've received that have been recorded within the system, to observe any errors within the report for my review and to request correction, and to obtain a copy of my personal data and receipt of services recieved for my own records.

I consent for my HMIS report to be released to myself electronically via my personal email at _____@_____, forgoing costs incurred by requesting reports to be printed out, as per your policy. If my request is denied, electronically include a written explanation in 7-10 business days to the email address listed above.

I am requesting for the entirety of my HMIS report to be disclosed. Program, Client, and Service Level data including content pertaining to but not limited to:
- Entry and Exit dates
- EXIT reason for leaving
- EXIT destination
- Agency and/or other user creating entry or exit
- Agency and/or other user creating file
- Agency and/or other user updating file
- Client consent expiration
- Program providing service (if different from agency recording entry)
- shelter stay yes/no
- length of shelter stay
- Service description (on each entry)
- unmet needs
- list of services (including documents from SPDAT screening and Point In Time surveys)
- list of referrals recorded
- list of referrals received
- qualifying services
- ongoing services

_____
Participant signature

_____
Printed name

City Rescue Mission of Lansing Doctrinal Statement

Faith in Practice:

1. **Scripture:** The 66 books of the Old and New Testament are complete, verbally and plenary inspired Word of God, being inerrant, infallible, and final authority for faith and life. As divine revelation of God, they shall be interpreted according to grammatical-historical meaning (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

2. **The Godhead:** There is one triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each eternal, identical, and equal in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great works of creation and redemption (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 1 John 5:7).

   a. **Father:** The Father is perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, and measureless in power. He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus.

   b. **Son: 1.** Jesus Christ became man without ceasing to be God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary so that He might reveal God and redeem sinful humanity (Isa. 7:14; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4-5. **2.** He accomplished our redemption through substitionary death on the cross, and our justification is made sure by His physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; 1 Peter 1:3-5). He ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God. There, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Intercessor and Advocate (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25-28; 1 John 2:1-2) **4.** Christ will visibly return with His saints to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom, as promised to the nation of Israel (Dan. 2:31-45; I Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18).

   c. **Holy Spirit: 1.** The Holy Spirit has come to complete and perfect in us all Christ accomplished on our behalf by His atonement. He convicts of sin, regenerates, sanctifies, gifts us for ministry, and assures of salvation. He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:7-11; Eph. 1:13-14). As divine Teacher, He assists believers to understand the Scriptures (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27) **3.** He gives spiritual gifts to every believer and uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly so they can do the work of the ministry (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-7).

3. **Spiritual Gifts:** We believe in the continued expression of the spiritual gifts. The more demonstrative or 'sign gifts' such as healing, raising the dead, and speaking in tongues were given for the authentication of the apostolic generation and are not normative for today. (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22).

4. **God and man:** God is sovereign and allows humanity free will.

   a. **Salvation: 1.** Salvation is the gift of God brought to by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of sins. All sins, except blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, are forgivable (Matt. 12:31; John 1:12; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 1:9). **2.** Man was created in the image of God, but, through Adam's sin, humanity fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:27; Rom. 5:12). **3.** Once saved, all the redeemed are kept by God's power, thus secure in Christ forever (John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 38-39). **4.** Believers have the privilege of rejoicing in the assurance of their salvation through God's Word, which clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13).

   b. **The Church: 1.** The church, which is the body and bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons (1 Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 5:25-27). **2.** The establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament (Acts 14:27; 1 Tim. 3:1-13). **3.** The local church is autonomous and free of external authority or control (Acts 15:19-31; 1 Pet. 5:1-4). **4.** Water baptism and the Lord's Supper are Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church (Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

   c. **The Personality of Satan:** Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man. He is the declared enemy of God and man and shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Isa. 14:12-17; Rev. 20:10).

   d. **The Eternal State: 1.** All people will be bodily resurrected: the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:12-13). **2.** At death, souls of the redeemed are absent from the body and present with the Lord; in conscious bliss, they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43;

2 Cor. 5:8; I Thess. 4:16-17). **3.** After death, souls of unbelievers remain in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection; with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and be cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:41-46; Rev. 20:11-15).

Faith in Practice:
1. **Separation:** All the saved should live so as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, and to refrain from all immodest appearances (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1).
2. **Civil Government:** God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: Home, Church, and State. Everyone is subject to these authorities, but all (including these authorities) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon another. Home, Church, and State are separate and sovereign in their respective, biblically assigned spheres of responsibility (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:33; Heb. 13:17).
3. **Love:** We should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers but also toward unbelievers. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids stirring up strife, taking revenge, or threatening/using violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in sinful actions (Matt. 5:44-48; John 13:34-35).
4. **Human Sexuality:** God has commanded us to refrain from any intimate sexual activity outside marriage. Any board member, staff member, or volunteer of the Mission confirmed to be involved in sexual sin (including molestation, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, pornography, and/or transexualism) will be immediately removed from any positions of ministry or service by the Executive Director or Board of Directors (Leviticus 18; Romans 1:26-29). The only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24).
5. **Divorce and Remarriage:** God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one spouse dies. However, Biblical provisions allow divorce within limited conditions; in such cases, divorced persons may hold positions of service and be used of God to minister at the Mission (Malachi 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12).
6. **Abortion:** Human life begins at conception; an unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes taking human life. We reject any teaching that abortions are acceptable (due to rape or incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or for the mental well-being of the mother) (Psalms 127:3, 139:14-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:44).
7. **Lawsuits Between Believers:** Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians to resolve personal disputes. The Mission possesses the resources to resolve personal disputes between Mission staff and/or volunteers (1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32).
8. **Slanderous Gossip Forbidden:** Slandering the character or hurtful destructive criticism of methods and practices of others is sinful and not to be permitted (1 Timothy 5:13, Proverbs 6:16-19).

Authority of Statement of Faith:
The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members of the Board of Directors and all personnel of the City Rescue Mission. All educational and promotional materials used in the ministries of the City Rescue Mission shall be in complete agreement with this Statement of Faith.

Name:_____Phone Number: _____

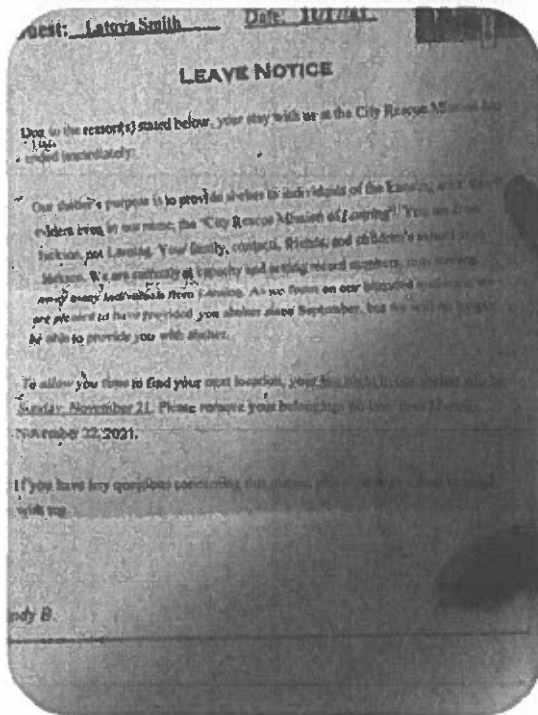Address:_____City, State, Zip: _____

I,_____, have read and agree with this doctrinal statement on_____.

05-2021

Toyaa Smith

Is this ok for city rescue Mission to kick people out after already accepting amother and her 5 children

5m   **Like**   **Reply**

Write a comment...

letter from sam
1 message

Mike karl <mike.d.karl@gmail.com>   Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 3:39 PM
To: Linda Karl <LKarl407@gmail.com>

I am a single mother of three. My youngest child was born after 1am, the day after I entered shelter. Since their birth, my family has stayed in Homeless Angels Lansing (July 29th, 2021- September 2021) Homeless Angels Owosso (September 2021-December 2021.), the motel program at the Travelodge (December 2021-April 2022), and once more at the City Rescue Mission (July 2022-August 31st, 2022. during my lease with Todd Dowrick). My HMIS does not accurately represent these dates, and for certain it currently shows me having left the Rescue Mission before August (I had received confirmation of being on the Lansing Housing Commision HCV waitlist while in shelter, and allegedly me having received the verification from the City Rescue Mission caseworker had contradicted where my HMIS shows me having left shelter prior to August.) . My first SPDAT, that wasn't completed until i was in shelter for over half a year, read 9+ referral to Permanent Supportive Housing while I went on to be placed into Rapid Rehousing. And on paper, my Point In Time count recorded in January 2022 had said I've been homeless 100 times, which is also inaccurate. During my stay in Homeless Angels, i was not entered into the HMIS system, and as a result was kept in shelter an extended period of time as i was unable to work with a federal housing authority from July 29, 2021- December 28, 2021 and was not able to be placed into a HUD housing program. My stay in Homeless Angels Owosso was verified through the director of Homeless Angels Lansing post my stay with the agency, despite having revoked their authority to disclose information past December 29, 2021.

During my stay in shelter, it is worth noting people are threatened to be exited from the shelter for not completing a chore in the facility maintaining further than just their personal quarters including common areas, commercial kitchens, communal showers, etc. There is no compensation for the labor, and there is no training. I mention no training in that during my stay in Homeless Angels Owosso, no kill times on cleaners were followed, showers were cleaned once a day as opposed to between usage, and the same mop head and water were used in common areas, bathrooms, showers, personal quarters without the cold brackish water being changed- noted up to 3 days at a time and the same mop head was used for 4 months straight before they had implemented changing it once a month towards the end of my stay there, which is not a significant improvement. As a result of an ill kept living environment, my youngest child had been hospitalized twice while staying at Homeless Angels Owosso in unsanitary communal living. They had multiple respiratory diseases (including RSV and bovine coronavirus- which is different from covid-19. it is a disease spread through animal waste) within the first 6 months of life. They had required up to two nights overnight observation on oxygen, and had been taken from the hospital in Owosso to Sparrow by ambulance both times. The doctors at Sparrow had sent a referral to the specialists at Helen DeVos in

Grand Rapids for the markings on their face, as Sparrow was not able to diagnose them. We have been to Helen DeVos numerous times since and have more appointments scheduled coming up, including tomorrow (3/15/23) for ophthalmology. My child has since been diagnosed with telangiectasia, dilated or broken blood vessels located near the surface of the skin or membranes. Since birth it has been spreading across the left side of their face, down their throat and across the right side of their face. Currently there is no diagnosis as to why the condition is spreading, and we face it potentially spreading to their brain, heart, or liver, which would cause major complications.

Christmas 2021 the shelter had confiscated my children's Christmas gifts. I did not have access to my own printer and was provided forms to fill out for gifts by the shelter director, despite them operating a free Christmas store. When the gifts came in they were kept by the shelter, including gifts I had to pick up from CACS and gifts a friend had mailed me. I was informed it is disgusting that I solicited all of these gifts and they have a 4 gift policy to prevent gifts being flipped for "whatever money"- implicating drug money. I had called to apologize to CACS for soliciting gifts. The gifts sent from a friend were returned 12/28/21, and I was told shortly after that I had 30 minutes to leave the shelter and was told i'm being exited for being manipulative.

In February 2022 I began services with Capital Area Housing Partnership, and April 11th my caseworker through them had contacted me on a housing lead following several failed leads, and asked me to meet her at the unit the next day at 1pm where I had met with her and Todd Dowrick. She had said that they have worked with Todd many times and I had signed my lease that day. The unit was a mess but he had said it was a mess from the previous tenants and assured it would be cleaned up that day for us to move in, however the yard remained littered with various debris,scrap metal, and previous tenants belongings.

My tenancy with Dowrick has expunged time in two Rapid Rehousing programs mitigating maintenance and repair issues in the unit. And after being deficient in 6 of 8 points on Capital Area Housing Partnership's reinspection on July 17th, the sewage in the basement within the first month there, followed by a cockroach infestation, a bed bug infestation, and an identified mouse infestation, we had ended up placed back in shelter during the lease. I had also called the city codes office.

Dowrick Rental Properties is very persistent in implementing "Do-It-Yourself" solutions in that when requesting professional services be contracted to apply chemicals I was met with the reply:
"We treat bugs with the same materials we purchase similar to what an extermination company uses. Brad had two products available for use today. You refused to allow him to apply either. Contact me if you reconsider."
It had taken approximately a week of us having left the unit for him to finally contract an applicator licensed to apply the chemicals to treat the cockroaches, and we returned to the home to be swarmed by bed bugs that night. When the exterminator had returned for the bedbugs he also pointed out,less than 3 months into our tenancy, there being established mouseholes, and that so long as there were mice in the unit the bed bugs would be a reoccurring dilemma as the mice would serve as shelter and food for them.

Not only had we encountered pest infestations, sewage drains had stopped and backed up into the basement 5 times during our tenancy. All five times the initial reaction was to drop a hose in the main sewer line and blast water through the pipe to clean it. In regards to the cause of the sewage back ups the initial 2 incidents, maintenance had replied " we don't know what had caused it." the third time, 3 baby wipes were found on the floor amongst the sewage and maintenance had informed me that i had to clean the resulting mess, advising me to be careful using the bleach. The fourth time no wipes were found and they had cleaned the mess. The fifth time no wipes were found, and maintenance had been unsuccessful in blowing the main line and had finally contracted someone to clear the pipes where he had claimed to have hit something solid like tree roots (no camera has went down to confirm this however).

Section 4 of the lease addendum reads: "the tenant agrees not to place disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, grease, wax, or other materials of a similar nature in any plumbing fixture. Stopped drains will be cleaned at the tenants expense with the exception of 'roots' in the main drain as documented by a drain cleaning service." the entirety of my tenancy the hose used to drop down the main drain was kept under the basement stairs and it wasn't until the fifth time a drain cleaning service was contracted, where allegedly roots were hit.

In addition to the sewage back ups and the pests, the hot water in the unit had also went out 5 times during our tenancy, one of the times had coincided with the second time the sewage had backed up and the sewage wasn't addressed until i had went into the basement to turn off a light that had been left on and confronted the sewage and dead mice littering the floor. Maintenance had been standing in the sewage during at least two of the times they were addressing the hot water, heater. The last time the hot water went out the bottom of the hot water heater had rusted out and was leaking onto the floor.

REPORT ON MY EXPERIENCE AT HOLY CROSS

By Lee (my middle name), MSW

I went to work in early August for Holy Cross Services at 430 N. Larch Street in Lansing, Michigan, with the best of intentions.

I had been sent to Holy Cross by an employment agency, who told me that I would be working to find housing for homeless persons. I was interested.

I went there on a Monday and was shown to the office of Nancy Oliver, the director. The interview went fine, although I remember feeling a bit uncomfortable. Then two things happened. The director told me that I would be working on the second shift, which was a custodial job. I was confused. I thought this was a social work job, which would have been consistent with my resume.

Had she even looked at my resume? Did she know that I was a social worker? I wondered.

The rest of the day, I trained t the front desk with Robin, the receptionist. I learned that as part of my job on the second shift, I would be carrying heavy loads of sheets and towels to the dorms for the new residents. I would be breaking up fights, and I would be giving Narcan injections to people who were overdosing. And I would be there alone, with no backup.

This was a little more than I bargained for. I became more and more confused. I had been told by the agency that had hired me that this was a social work job, but it sure didn't seem like one.

The second thing that happened at my interview was also confusing. The director told me that she had been staring at me because I was the spitting image of her mother. She said that I looked like her mother and that my mannerisms were like her mother. She came over to me and showed me a picture of her mother on her cellphone.

I didn't really see a resemblance but I didn't say anything. But again, I felt uncomfortable. I realized later that by saying this, my relationship with her changed from a professional relationship to one that was personal and even a family relationship. It altered the dynamic between us, and it opened the way for transference from her to me.

I went home that night and couldn't sleep. I decided to go in the next day and confront the director and ask if there was a social work job available.

But when I went in on the Tuesday, the director was not there, so I went to Michael, the assistant director, who was the next in charge. I told him I thought my skills would better be utilized during the day shift. I told him that I had quite a bit of experience running groups and doing case management.

He immediately agreed with me and told me that he would discuss this with the director, and that he would recommend that I work during the day shift. I felt relieved.

I then began training under Lucy, the one case manager at Holy Cross, who began teaching me everything she knew. But when I returned the following Monday, I learned that Lucy had been hospitalized over the weekend with a serious seizure. During my time at Holy Cross, she never returned, and I had no one to train me.

I realized that I was going to need to learn things on my own.

I did complete the training on the complex computer system, called HMIS, and I started to make phone calls to other community agencies to try to put together some knowledge about what was available to homeless persons through the other agencies.

At the same time, I was very curious to start meeting the participants of Holy Cross to see what their situations were – how they had become homeless, and what their goals were for housing. I started to have one-on-one meetings with them to fill out housing plans and to start working with them on their plans for permanent housing.

Since there was a lack of government funding, I began to look for ways for the participants to move toward housing in other ways – by looking for jobs, or by looking for other subsidized options like HUD and other low-income housing.

I also looked for ways to work with people in getting their needed identification, and by identifying other areas of their lives where they needed help, ie: substance abuse and counseling issues.

On my first day at Holy Cross, I was given a tour of the building and shown the New Hope dayroom area at Holy Cross. I was shocked to see that the participants

had no materials in the dayrooms – other than a TV mounted on the wall. Many of them spent the day sitting with their heads in their hands, depressed. Or they watched the one TV in the room all day. Some lay on the floor, and some just sat at tables with their heads in their arms on the tables. It was a dismal scene.

I wanted to make a change to this. I wanted the participants to be able to use their minds.

I started a campaign with my neighbors in my senior independent living apartment complex to collect unused art supplies, books, puzzles, games, etc. My friends were generous, and I began finding boxes and bags of such items outside my door in the morning. I brought them to work, and pretty soon the dayroom had books, a really nice chess set, a scrabble game and Monopoly game, a collection of puzzles, activity books, crayons, markers, colored pencils and adult coloring books, etc.

The other thing I did was to start running groups three days of the week. On Mondays at 9am, we had a housing group. I had planned that once or twice a month, instead of the housing group, we would have a hygiene group, as this was badly needed.

On Wednesdays at the same time, we had a mental health group where we discussed feelings and other mental health issues. On Fridays, we would have a creativity and contest day, in which participants could earn bus passes and tokens for things like art, poetry, and writing contests, and competitive games like chess and dominoes.

These groups were a success. There were approximately twelve or thirteen attendees in each group, which was a majority of the people in the dayroom at that time of day. I tried to make the groups both interesting and fun.

I began to build a rapport with both the participants and the staff, who seemed to be encouraged by the things that were going on with the participants and the dayroom.

From my second day at Holy Cross, I began to realize that the staff at Holy Cross was both hard working and dedicated. I liked everyone I was working with, and I think they liked me. I even made friends with the kitchen staff.

The one exception to this was the director. I tried several times to go to her office just to wish her a good day, but I didn't feel comfortable with her. She seemed to not like me – at least, that was the feeling I got from her.

One day, I went to her office and she told me that I seemed to be "floundering" at my job. I was surprised. Floundering to me means drowning. I didn't feel I was drowning at all. I felt that with my lack of organized training, I was managing to survive quite well.

Her lack of supportive language made me feel just that - not supported. I began to avoid going into her office. This director stayed in her office at all times. I never saw her once greet any of the participants.

In spite of these misgivings about the director, I felt happy working at Holy Cross, and felt that I was working with a supportive team. I felt dedicated to the participants and just wanted to help them move from homelessness to permanent housing and a better life. I had no agenda at Holy Cross other than to help the participants.

One thing that did happen during my last day at Holy Cross was that when I looked at participants' records on HMIS, I had the looming feeling that something was not right. I now suspect, and am now in the process of confirming with executives in other homeless agencies, that it is possible that Holy Cross is possibly collecting federal money for services they are actually not delivering.

For example, on my last day of employment at Holy Cross, I was doing an interview and a housing plan with a female participant, Danielle Allen. One thing I did know was that each new participant at Holy Cross is required to have an online interview called a SPDAT after they had been housed at the shelter for fourteen days. This paperwork would be forwarded to the office next door – Diane Singleton – and would be the start of the participant's journey to getting a Section 8 voucher and subsequent housing.

When I looked through her record, I saw that a SPDAT had never been done on her, even though she had been living at the shelter for five or six months. There were no case notes for her – not even one. Her record showed that she had no income, no SSI. She had not been sent to DHHS to apply for SSI.

She also had no ID. No birth certificate, Michigan ID or Social Security card. I was stunned.

I asked her if anyone had ever met with her to do a housing plan or talk about her housing goals, and she said No, No one. So, she had been living at the shelter for six months with no services, even though I had been told that Holy Cross had been paid daily for services for her.

After she left my office, I started looking through other records on HMIS - a lot of other records. And what I found shocked me. The neglect that I had found with this female participant was not an exception, it was more often the norm.

Before I left for the day, I went to the assistant director, who had not left yet. I reported to him what I had found. He looked away. Then he got up, went and closed the door to his office, sat down said to me, "Someone is bleeding us dry." Then I understood. I understood why I was the only case manager there – the only one trying to help the participants.

I understood why the food was substandard, why there were no supplies in the dayroom, why I had encountered resistance when I wanted to start the groups, and why these was no washer and dryer for the 40 or so residents on the first floor of the shelter.

I understood why no housing services were being given to the residents at Holy Cross. He told me there should be enough money to provide these things. Instead, the residents were only being given bare bones care. There was only one possible conclusion.

Where was the money going? I wondered. And who was suffering? The participants.

This was federal crime if it was true. Stealing from the participants was a federal crime, crime against HUD and other agencies. I was astounded. Who would steal from homeless people – the poorest of the poor?

What happened next pulled the rug out from under me and left me in a state of shock.

At 4:30pm on 9/15, the director came unexpectedly into my office, which she had never done before. I was preparing to leave for the day. She looked around and asked if there was anyone else in the area, to which I said no.

At first the conversation seemed friendly and we chatted about little things. She asked how I was doing, and I told her truthfully that I was doing fine. Then the conversation changed.

She said that she was very concerned about my safety. She didn't like me working in the offices, even though during the day there is quite a bit of traffic in these offices. I told her that I had never felt unsafe at any time at Holy Cross. Actually, the only times I had felt uneasy at Holy Cross were when I was with her. I thought that, but did not say it.

She continued to talk about my safety. I knew there was an empty office upstairs, so I suggested she move me up there. However, she continued to insist that I was not safe.

Then, she began to talk about the budget. She said that I was costing her too much money. She said that if I was hired at Holy Cross instead of working through an agency, that I would be paid the same or less. I was being paid $17 per hour by my agency, which I knew was below the norm for a case manager.

But she continued. She said that she had several options. Either she could move me to a permanent position manning the front desk, or a permanent position manning the New Hope dayroom, or she could have my agency find me a different position with another company.

I was stunned. She wanted to fire me! I started to feel cold.

I told her several times that I preferred to stay at this job, but that no matter what the outcome was, I would deal with it, which is the truth. I loved the job at Holy Cross, but if I was fired by her, I knew I would survive. But I went into a state of shock.

She kept on talking about my safety, and she told me to think about all this and to get back to her the following day. But her intention was clear. I would no longer be working as a case manager. And that she wanted to get rid of me. Then she left and I gathered my things to go home.

I got home, and continued to try to process what had just happened.

I called Michael, the assistant director and told him that I needed to work at home the next day, and he agreed. I needed a day to think. He asked me to document everything, which I did. I worked on the report that night, and emailed it to him at about midnight.

Over the weekend, I thought a lot about all this. The next day, I reported all this to the FBI. I suspected fraud at Holy Cross. But it was not up to me to prove this. It was much bigger than I was.

Things then went from bad to worse for me. I tried to text and email my friends at Holy Cross, but they did not respond. Either they had been poisoned against me or they had been told not to communicate with me. I can only imagine the lies they were told about me.

They might have been threatened with termination if they did contact me. I knew that they had young families and that job termination was not an option for them. So, I understood. But that did not make the situation any less painful for me.

I was very sad to lose my job at Holy Cross, but I also know that I am extremely resilient and that I would survive this turn of events.

I did not go back to work at Holy Cross the following Monday. I cannot work in a toxic situation. Been there, done that. I will fight for my job, but I will fight from home until the dust clears.

I feel I did an amazing job at Holy Cross, especially in light of the fact that I had very little training. Something happened for me at Holy Cross. I fell in love with the job and with the participants. My heart went out to them all. I wanted to help them, and they all knew that I cared about them.

At this time, I am working at home and considering my options. I know that somehow, I want to work in the homeless arena. Because I genuinely care about the homeless people.

When I left, I had started a campaign to get them all prepared for the winter. I was trying to find resources to get them warm coats and boots and scarves and hats and blankets. I just wanted them to survive the coming winter.

The last two things I have heard about Holy Cross are that 1. They have improved the food in the cafeteria. When I was working at Holy Cross, I sometimes ate lunch in the cafeteria. I went for the six weeks I was there without ever seeing a vegetable. There was lettuce, plain lettuce and some Italian dressing, but no vegetables.

The rumor I heard was that the food had greatly improved, and I was glad.

And 2. I heard that the computers at Holy Cross were all on lock down. Was that the doing of the FBI? I had no way of knowing.

My hope is that somehow Holy Cross will be investigated and that the situation for the homeless people will become more ideal. Become the way it is supposed to be. I realized that all the time I worked there, I was trying to make this happen.

But the problem was that the problem was bigger than I was. I couldn't possibly have done what I was trying to do which was to make Holy Cross work.

For the participants.

I am still hoping for this.

Lee