



**General Membership Meeting
3:00 pm, Thursday, August 25, 2022**



In Person: Reality & Truth Ministries, 506 Montgomery Street, Montgomery 36104

Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87118953927?pwd=dGVFcjVnOWc4MFMNQUZlIGQDV2YTRLQT09>



Meeting ID: 871 1895 3927 Passcode: 6224

Note: Please enter your name and the name of your organization in the chat box.



Dial-in: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 871 1895 3927 Passcode: 6224

Note: Please email your name and the name of your organization to Eileen@midalhomeless.org.

MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

Lydia Pickett, MACH

Approval of Minutes from June 23, 2022

(Only MACH members are allowed to vote.)

Introductions

Updates/Reports

- Virtual Resource Hour Ghandi Daniels, The Wellness Coalition
Most Recent: Job Readiness
Next: September 21, 3 p.m. (pre-register on Zoom)
HandsOn River Region/2-1-1 Services and Programs
- River Region Connects Eileen Knott, MACH
- HMIS Data Review Tasha Cooper, HandsOn River Region

Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition

Lydia Pickett, MACH

Announcements/Information

- Give Smart Montgomery Grants (www.cacf.info)
- National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 12-20, 2022)
 - MACH's Second Annual Not-A-Bed Sleepout, Friday, November 18, 2022, location TBD
- Blanket Drive (November date TBD)

Presentation

- Reality and Truth Ministries LaDonna Brendle, Founder

Adjournment

Next Meeting: [October 27, 2022, 3:00 PM](#) (location to be announced)

Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless (MACH)

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, June 23, 2022, 3:00 pm at Morgan Memorial Library, Montgomery, AL

Persons present:

Jakia Sherrell-Thompson	CAVHS Veterans Affairs
Burton U. Crenshaw	Central Alabama Community Foundation
Eddie Compton	City of Montgomery
Sherri Lusby	City of Montgomery
Susan Alston Johnson	Faith Community Outreach/ Faith House
Kay Wilson	Community member
Malcolm Wilson	Community member
Breonna Alexander	MACH
Eileen Knott	MACH
Beverly Toodle	MACH
Lydia C. Pickett	MACH
Susan Mose	Montgomery County DHR
Daimion Roberts	The Salvation Army
Ghandi Daniels	The Wellness Coalition

Call to Order & Welcome by Lydia Pickett, Executive Director, MACH

Introductions – All present introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the April 28, 2022 minutes came from Ghandi Daniels; seconded by Beverly Toodle. Members approved the minutes as printed.

Updates

Coordination of Services Committee (Ghandi Daniels)

- Virtual Resource Hour has been held every other month beginning in March with over 30 people in attendance each time. Topics covered so far have been shelter services and mental health resources. The next Virtual Resource Hour will be on Employment & Job Readiness programs and will be Wednesday, July 20 at 3:00.
- River Region Connects is scheduled for August 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the City of Montgomery Metroplex. Service providers are asked to set up a table and/or provide on-site service, if possible. The Committee is also asking donations of for new or gently used tennis shoes for distribution at the event.

The Salvation Army (Captain Daimion Roberts)

- **Shelter Beds** – limited to 45 instead of 90 because of COVID concerns; individual beds and family units available, including 9 beds for veterans. Residents stay 2 weeks for free, then pay \$50/week. Check-in (first come first served) is at 4:30 daily with entry no later than 6 p.m. (early arrival encouraged). The public can call 265-0281 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to check availability; agencies needing to check available space for clients can **call Capt. Roberts at 980-579-6575**.
- **Meal Service** – 3 meals/day provided for residents. Dinner is provided daily for anyone in the community.
- **Life Hack** – 4 hour-long sessions on soft skills and life skills being offered to residents for general success after they leave the shelter. SA is **seeking motivational and information speakers** for the program.
- **Food Pantry** – Mondays Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the shelter. People needing assistance should call Tiffany or Camille at 265-0281 to register and ensure that they meet requirements for this service. Regardless, no one is turned away empty-handed from the Food Pantry. The SA also helps about 40 local churches by sharing items received from Montgomery Area Food Bank and local corporations with the churches for distribution. Institutions wanting to be a part of this network can call 334-265-0281.

- **Utility Assistance** – Clients and agencies should call Camille Gross at 334-265-0281 to get help.
- **Moving Plans** – SA is working with the City of Montgomery to find a new location no later than December. They are looking for approximately 30,000 square feet to rent for up to \$5,000 monthly. If they cannot secure a place by September, they may need to stop offering shelter services temporarily. There is a Mission Study in progress (community interviews and information-gathering required by headquarters prior to their move), which will be completed in July. Once completed, fundraising for the new location can begin, if needed.

Captain Roberts stated that he would ensure that all the above services are included in the 2-1-1 database.

Presentation and Information-Gathering

Due to a lack of time, Eddie Compton of the City’s Task Force on Homelessness agreed to make his presentation and facilitate a brainstorming session at the next General Membership meeting.

Announcements

- **Carastar Crisis Diversion Center** is open and accepting referrals for mental health services from law enforcement and hospitals. The public can call 1-800-408-4197 to inquire about services.
- The City of Montgomery opened their COVID Crisis Center located at 624 Augusta Avenue as an **overflow shelter** this week. They currently have 29 people staying there 24/7. People can be referred there for shelter but it should not be broadly advertised. Contact person: Sherri Lusby, (334) 452-1971.
- **Cooling centers** are available during the day at public libraries and at the EMA Center on Augusta Avenue.
- Susan Alston Johnson spoke about **Faith Community Outreach** which operates **Faith House**, a temporary shelter and supportive housing program for veterans, located at 1931 Highland Avenue. The agency is planning on adding supportive housing for women and children. Faith House is having an open house on Wednesday, June 29 from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. RSVP at 334-832-4845.
- Lydia Pickett stated that since MACH is the only current provider of **Rapid Rehousing** services funded by HUD (through City and ADECA grants), there is a **great need for at least one additional service provider** to handle the needs in the community. **MACH is not currently accepting new referrals.** She stated her hopes that other agencies would consider applying for funds in upcoming grant cycles.
- **MACH membership** – all present were encouraged to become members at \$10/year for individuals and \$50/year for organizations.
- **2-1-1 Database** – all organizations are asked call 2-1-1 to have their information included or updated in the resource and referrals database managed by HandsOn River Region.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 25, 2022, 3:00 pm via Zoom (bit.ly/MACH-GENERAL) and at a to-be-announced physical location.