

Press Release

From: Denise Cornelius

RE: Retirement and new director named

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Date: Oct 14, 2020

HOUSING SERVICES MID MICHIGAN NAMES NEW DIRECTOR

After 21 years as the Executive Director of Housing Services Mid Michigan, Denise Cornelius is retiring on October 23, 2020. The Board of Directors named Christie Harry as the new Executive Director. Ms. Harry has been the agency's Assistant Director for the past 17 years.

Ms. Harry started at the agency as a case manager. She went on to become the agency's foreclosure specialist and was instrumental in the agency's bid to become a HUD Certified Housing Counseling Agency. She was named the Assistant Director in 2010.

During the time these women served the agency, it has had tremendous growth. In 1999 when Ms. Cornelius became the ED, the agency's budget was \$225,000 annually. Today, the agency's budget is over 3 million. This growth in capacity was largely to the leadership of both Ms. Cornelius and Ms. Harry. Together and through collaboration with other agencies, especially in the last 10 years, several grants were awarded and many programs were added or enhanced.

Ms. Harry has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a MSW both from Michigan State University. She lives in Eaton Rapids with her family. In 2014, Ms. Harry was named Housing Counselor of the Year by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Ms. Cornelius was awarded the Athena award in 2007 from the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and was named the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness' Community Champion in 2017. She plans to continue to teach for Olivet College, stay connected to the Balance of State Continuum of Care as their Treasurer, remain as a Trustee on the Board of Directors for Eaton Community Health, and enjoy her 8 grandchildren.

Because of Covid-19, a zoom retirement party is planned for Ms. Cornelius. Anyone who wishes to express congratulations may sign on to the link on the agency's website at www.hs-mm.org or the agency's [Facebook page](#). The zoom session will be held on Friday, October 23rd from 1 to 3 pm.

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