**Eau Claire Housing Coalition January 11, 2017**

**Sojourner, 618 South Barstow Street 2-3:30pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Kelly Christianson-Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley, Jeanne Semb-Western Dairyland, Debbie Gough-PORCH Families with Children Subcommittee, Carrie Bloom-Western Dairyland, Sara Dutter-Western Dairyland, Dan Robinson-Catholic Charities, DeAnne Judson-Hope Gospel Mission, Sherri VanVuren-Western Dairyland, Pa Thao- Eau Claire Area HMAA, Caitlin Opatik- AIDS Resource Center of WI, Kim Carey- Bolton Refuge House, Sue Howe and Kathy Stewart- Positive Avenue, Dani Claesges- ECASD, Amanda Radle- Salvation Army, Lieske Giese- Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

1. Welcome and Introductions, note that Dan Robinson is retiring.
2. December minutes reviewed. Carrie Bloom would like the minutes to reflect the correct times for PIT- note that times recorded is not correct and should be “meet at Sojourner at 10:45pm on January 25th to start PIT count at 11pm. Post count starts Thursday, January 26th at 6am and continues until Friday, January 27th at 5pm”. Lieske Giese would like to add that attendee Emily Carlson was representing the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. Sara Dutter motion to approve minutes with corrections made. Carrier Bloom seconds the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.
3. Point In Time- reported by Carrie. All volunteers and leaders to meet at Sojourner on Wednesday, January 25th at 10:45pm. Group will head out at 11pm for count. More volunteers are needed to help with PIT. Please let Carrie know of potential volunteers. Volunteers needed especially in Buffalo and Trempealeau County. Please let your agency know about the post count- new this year. If any clients that comes in for services disclose or identified that they were homeless during the night of January 26th to any partnering agency between Thursday, January 26th 6pm and Friday, January 27th 5pm, they can still be counted for PIT- please let Carrie knows if any clients self-identified to your agency during the post count period.

HUD is also looking at how homeless youth are being encompassed into PIT and we have to document our efforts to find and count homeless youths. Coalition members discuss the difficulties of finding homeless youths as there is no youth homeless shelter in the area.

Letter still needs to go to ECPD with maps of search areas. Looking at adding the north side of town by Runway/Melby/airport as this area had not been targeted in the past.

Will have hygiene kits to hand out during PIT. Carrie is working on getting McDonald’s meal coupons as well as Kwik Trip gas cards.

1. Logo- discussion tabled for next meeting.
2. Coordinated Assessment Update-Jeanne reported that its working but takes a lot of time from staff due to the amount of case management required. Local team will meet to make this process as seamless as possible as there had been issues with referring people and intake. There were some recent policy changes that made the process easier on staff as it takes the “emotion” out of the decision-making process. Local team is also getting training for the new version of VI-SPDAT.
3. Housing First Update-Sara Dutter report that she has an opening and hoping to have someone in the apartment soon. In July, will expand program to 20 additional units and will hire a new staff to assist with Housing First. Currently, there are over 60 people on the singles waiting list. Not everyone that qualifies is on the priority list since they don’t score high enough on the VI-SPDAT. Western Dairyland looking to purchase a multi-unit home this spring/summer for Housing First.
4. BOS CoC February Quarterly Meeting will be in Wausau, WI on February 9th-10th. Coalition members are invited to attend. Please see the Balance of State website for registration and hotel information.
5. ETH Update- reported by Kelly, during the last round of ETH funding, there were special allocation that they applied for which funded the Landlord Liaison position. Jane who was hired has been very helpful in getting families to rent by working with families in shelter and connecting with landlords. Average days have been shortened from 45 days to 24 days. Rapid Rehousing could also factored in to the shorter average stay but it would be interesting to see if this trend continue after Rapid Rehousing dollars are used up in the next few months. Funding for this position ends June 30th. Kelly hoping to find other sources of funding to keep the position going as it clearly is working in decreasing length of shelter stays.

Lieske mention the Evicted panel happening at the public library and how the Coalition can advocate for funding to fund this position with local government. Lieske will email more information to Coalition members.

1. COC update- Kelly at Family Promise, have 3 or 4 spots left of the rest of the year. Surely, money will run out before the grant period ends June 30th.
2. PORCH Updates
   1. Families Committee: haven’t met yet. Have a meeting this coming Monday
   2. Youth 18-24 Committee: administered some surveys and hoping to be able to connect the dot soon.
   3. Youth under 18 Committee: no update.
   4. Adult Committee: no update.
3. Agency Updates:
   1. Western Dairyland has two units open. Energy Assistance is only by appointments now. No more walk-ins.
   2. Family Promise has rooms available as well. Ryan has two or three families that did not show up for their appointments. Could be because of the cold and holidays.
   3. Salvation Army will have funding to help as utility assistance this spring and summer. Families are referred to Western Dairyland first and using Salvation Army as a last resort. Families with disconnection notice can go to Workforce Resources for energy assistance.
   4. Health Department recently hired a Health Benefit Specialist, Tashai Atkins. She will help the Health Department look at how they can support better access to health care.
   5. ECASD- Dani updates the homeless youth number for this year. 1 in 31 children is homeless within the ECASD. Please use this new statistic to promote and bring awareness to homelessness in our community.
   6. Western Dairyland Headstart has 11 spots available for this coming school year. Sherry will bring applications to the next meeting.
4. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 15th, 2017 at 2pm at Sojourner