**Eau Claire Housing Coalition**

**March 22, 2017: 2-3:30 pm**

**Bolton House**

**Minutes**

Submitted by Ken Adler

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, Kim Carey- Bolton Refuge House, Ken Adler-Chippewa Valley Free Clinic, Emily Carlson-Eau Claire City County Health Department, Measha Vieth-Western Dairyland, Courtney Brommer, Suzanne Marsolek – Western Dairyland, Christine Warloski-St. James the Greater, Denise Kurtz – Women’s Way, Caitlyn Opatik – ARCW, and Jessica Smith – ADRC.

1. **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order by Kelly Christianson.
2. **Approval of March minutes:** Minutes were approved as written.
3. **Local System Performance Measures:** According to Service Points: The number of unique people sheltered by local organizations went from 792 in 2015 to 767 in 2016. Some service providers (e.g. Bolton House and Hope Gospel Mission) haven’t been included in the count. We were asked for 3 strategies to decrease/eliminate homelessness in our area. We suggested: 1. Expanding Permanent Supportive Housing. 2. Providing more case management services. 3. Expanding transportation services. Emily C. is working with a Poverty Summit group to expand access to services, especially transportation services. She’ll keep us updated. 4. Creating more awareness of homelessness in our community. 5. Expand landlord liaison position.

The Wisconsin Balance of State COC (WIBOSCOC) website has lots of good statistics regarding homelessness here and throughout the state.

1. **Coordinated Assessment Update:** Newsflash: Anyone who does intake involving a SPDAT will have more forms to fill out (e.g. consent forms). The families group has been speaking about putting together a homelessness navigator position.
2. **Housing First Update:** They now have 16 apartments. Hope Gospel Mission has donated 4 vacuum cleaners to clients. They are hiring a new case manager to work with Sara. Western Dairyland has acquired a triplex apartment building that will provide housing for permanent supportive housing clients.
3. **ETH Update:** If any agency is interested in applying for ETH funds, there will be an informative webinar on 4/22/17 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Contact Jeanne Semb for details. The ETH grant itself has not yet been announced.
4. **COC Update:** No news lately.
5. **PORCH Updates:** The Families committee has been looking into continuing funding for the landlord liaison position. The Adult committee has reviewed their survey of people experiencing homelessness and will be meeting next week to begin discussion action plans.
6. **Poverty Summit Updates:** There will be one last Poverty Summit large meeting on April 6th at 6:30 at Grace Lutheran Church. This will be a nice summary session. Kelly has been on the housing committee and they have been working on helping the city of Eau Claire address the need for affordable housing.
7. **Agency Updates:**

* There is concern that the upcoming federal budget may cut funding for several programs that fund our member agencies, e.g. Community Development Block Grants, Section 8 vouchers, Violence Against Women Act, Energy Assistance, Head Start, Meals on Wheels, Short Term Rental and Mortgage and Utility Assistance, Affordable Care Act, AmeriCorps.
* The idea of having multiple voices with a unified message was discussed.
* The budget is far from being debated and passed. We will address it at our upcoming meetings.
* Local press releases could be helpful. Christine Warloski is willing to try to develop press release(s). Kelly is willing to contact the Leader-Telegram. All agencies are encouraged to email info to Christine Warloski.
* Jessica Smith will be working more with advocacy at the ADRC. The Hoarding Task Force is going to be overseen by the Health Department. The ADRC will be developing a volunteer program.
* The Chippewa Valley Free Clinic has a mental health clinic 1-2 Thursdays/month. Call them (715-839-8477) to set up appointments.
* Family Promise is sponsoring a Float-Fly-Pie triathlon on Sunday, 4/23/17, from 4-9 p.m. at Action City. There are team and individual events.
* The City is reviewing and revising the housing code.

1. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, 4/19/2017 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the City-County Health Department (Room TBA).**