**Eau Claire Housing Coalition**

**November 16, 2016**

**Sojourner 618 S. Barstow Street**

**2-3:30pm**

**Minutes**

Submitted by Ken Adler

Attendees: Kelly Christianson-Family Promise, Jeanne Semb-Western Dairyland, Ken Adler-Chippewa Valley Free Clinic, Debbie Gough-Homeless Families Subcommittee-chair, Carrie Bloom-Western Dairyland, Kim Carey-Bolton Refuge House, Nadine Jentzsch-Catholic Charities, Suzanne Marsolek-Western Dairyland, Measha Vieth-Western Dairyland, Sara Dutter-Western Dairyland, Emily Carlson-Eau Claire City/County Health Department, Tonny Strong-Lutheran Social Services, DeAnne Judson-Hope Gospel Mission, Amy Giani-Family Promise, Kathy Stewart-Lutheran Social Services, Jenny Chaput-Western Dairyland, Natasha Gomez-Fischer Realty, Frances Mason-Western Dairyland, and Denise Kurtz-Lutheran Social Services.

1. **October minutes** were approved as written.
2. **Homeless Awareness event recap:** The event was as well-attended as hoped. The few people that attended were quite engaged. It had been publicized on TV 13, Volume One, and FaceBook. Not many people who were experiencing homelessness showed up. It was early in the month, which tends to attract fewer homeless people. In the past they had had an event at Oakwood Mall during a Packers game – thus, with fewer attendees. Just because few people attended, it doesn’t mean that the message that homelessness exists in Eau Claire wasn’t received. We discussed the possibility of joining up with other community events, e.g. the International Fall Festival, the Volume One concerts on Thursdays or the Farmers Market on Saturdays in Phoenix Park. Landlords may be able to publicize the event. For $50 you can have an event boosted on FaceBook. By the way, the food and entertainment and games were good at the event and we raised $48. The purpose of the event was supposed to be to inform people about how they can help with the issue of homelessness in Eau Claire. Perhaps the music, food, and games were not focused on the purpose. All in all, the organizers did a great job and we are grateful for their work.
3. **Point In Time** is coming up January 25th, 2017. New training materials will be coming out. The time of day or night for the count has not yet been determined. Carrie Bloom and Amy Giani will be organizing it.
4. **Logo:** A logo saying “Zer*Eau*- Ending homelessness in the Chippewa Valley” was designed by Colin at Western Dairyland. Some logowear items have been made. They might be used for fund raising. The logo currently doesn’t have the ECHC name on it. We will think about it and put it on the agenda for our next meeting.
5. **Coordinated Assessment Update**-Jeanne reports that 374 people were housed since January throughout the state by COCs. Our COC housed 17 people. Coordinate entry means that people experiencing homelessness are entered into a standard data list and efforts to find housing are prioritized by standardized needs. Our COC (ECHC) data looks like we aren’t housing as many people as other COCs, but there are many factors that go into the mix. The Coulee region receives a lot more federal funding than we do. It is hard for us to get more funding now. However, we are getting an expansion of our Permanent Supportive Housing funding.
6. **ETH (Emergency Solutions, Transitional Housing, and Homeless Prevention) Update:** Not much was spent on prevention last year (i.e. eviction prevention). Right now no-one is championing eviction prevention. To learn more: look into the Wisconsin Division of Housing. The program is so unwieldy that it has been unworkable lately. Amy Giani told us a success story regarding a family receiving rental assistance and becoming independent.
7. **COC update:** HUD funding for some projects has not come through since last summer.
8. **PORCH Updates:**

* Families committee is developing a proposal to include a tenant success class, continuation of the landlord liaison, hiring another case manager, and incentives for people to participate in the program. They also will be looking into what is needed to maintain the services or the existing homeless shelters.
* The Adults Committee has collected 55 surveys from people experiencing homelessness and the chair of the social work department at UWEC will be analyzing the data. Sojourner House is having trouble with overnight staffing and the committee will look into it.
* The <18 year old committee and the 18-24 year old group haven’t met recently.
* The Poverty Summit is working on issues similar to ours. We should be aware of their efforts.

1. Agency Updates

* Announcements regarding holiday events for our agencies will be forthcoming.
* Natasha Gomez from Fischer Realty answered questions from our members. There is a low vacancy rate in Eau Claire.
* Emily Carlson endorses the book *Evicted* as an excellent read.

1. **Next meeting**
   1. **Date: December 14th, 2017**
   2. **Time: 2:00 p.m.**
   3. **Location: Western Dairyland** (Please bring Holiday Treats!)