

Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness

Collaborative, diverse, and compassionate individuals working to eliminate homelessness in La Crosse, Vernon, Monroe, and Crawford Counties.

Meeting Minutes January 19, 2021

Present: Mike Basford, (WI Interagency Council on Homelessness), Kristi Bechtel (La Crosse County HS), Jane Benzschawel, (Youth Homeless Collaborative), Katie Berkedal (La Crosse Community Foundation), Sandra Brekke (Gundersen Health System), Randall Brown (CAC, CCEH Vice-Chair), Teresa Byland (La Crosse County JSS, CCEH Secretary), Kim Cable (Couleecap), Kael Clemmerson (New Beginnings), Dalia Simpson (Catholic Charities), Kevin Fox (Vivent Health), Nick Harding (Catholic Charities), Isaac Hoffman (La Crosse County LAFC), Mary Jacobson (Family and Childrens Center), Carrie Jick (Salvation Army), Lauren Journot (YWCA), Jane Klekamp (La Crosse County Admin), Becky Koske (Couleecap), Catherine Lange (Mayo Clinic), Anthony Larsen (CVI), Mai Lee (Cia Siab Inc), Nathan Lewis (LCPD – NRO), Le Anne Martinez (CAC), Beth Mattson (YWCA), Meredith McCoy (WIBOSCO), Jeanne Meyer (Families First), Sadie Nelson (ILR), Ellen Oligney (ILR), Jessica Olson (La Crosse City Council), Nancy Parcher (La Crosse School District), Desiree Parker, Shannon Parker (Catholic Charities), Amy Schanhofer (Scenic Bluffs), Mark Schimpf (Couleecap, CCEH Chair), Kelly Schoberg (Inclusa), Anneliese Skoda (La Cross County HS), Stephanie Van Hulst (Institute for Community Alliances), Toni Van Kirk (Catholic Charities), Jacob Walker (LCPD – NRO), Abby Waters (Great Rivers HUB), Abigail Welty (Marine Bank), Mary Kay Wolf (Great Rivers United Way), Fue Yang (ILR).

1. November Meeting minutes – Approved.

2. Balance of State Updates:

- Kim Cable – Meeting last week, policy being discussed re: reimbursement of board members who are homeless or formerly homeless. Also, BOS committee members and Point In Time participants must be sure to inform committee chairs/leaders of in-kind matches of time and resources. In-Kind Match can also be collected for other committees in the WISBOSCO. The next meeting will be a half day on February 12. Two trainings are being offered by the BOS – on Motivational Interviewing and Trauma/Wellness Training. Look for further info on that. As part of a 2nd stimulus package, funding for COC programs is included – renewal, not competitive. The next round will be competitive.
- Kristi Bechtel – announced she is assigned to BOS Discharge Planning Committee.

3. Coulee Collaborative Updates – Mary Jacobson – In light of Julie McDermid’s recent resignation, the Driver Team is evaluating how best to move forward and whether a change in structure should be considered. Funding is still in place, and hopefully a plan will be developed in the next month or two. Concern was expressed at the meeting that a timeline should be in place for such an important task – Mary said she would bring that to the next Driver Team Meeting and ask for a timeline.

4. COVID-19 Contact Update – Kristi – Julie had previously been the COVID-19 contact for the BOSCO, Kristi took this over when Julie resigned. She said she is open to the Collaborative making a change in this, but the group supported her being in this role. She will be collecting data from the outreach team and homeless serving agencies on numbers of tests, positive cases, etc. Also keeps track of resources such as PPE, other needs. Kristi mentioned there is currently a debate at the state level on how to prioritize the homeless population for receiving the vaccine.

5. Donation Issue – Kristi – a donation was made at the state level, to be distributed among the four COC's in WI. Our share came to around \$200 and is unrestricted, meaning our group can decide on how to use it. It is most likely going to be directed to help with expenses for the Homeless Connect event. In the case of future donations, the question arose on if a process is in place for handling donations. It was mentioned that Catholic Charities, as fiscal agent for the Collaborative, already has a process in place. Future donations will be brought to the attention of this group for decisions on where to direct them if needed.

6. Point in Time Count – Becky Koske – will take place on January 28. The group will meet at 4:30am in the parking lot of King's Kitchen. Right now all teams are full – if anyone could be available on-call for this, let Becky know.

7. Pre-PIT Count – Fue Yang – a pre-count was held during the first week in January and counted 15 unsheltered people. This number was lower than in the past.

8. Action Plan Workgroups Update – Mark Schimpf – This group met earlier in January to discuss increase CCEH membership and diversity of membership. Work on this continues and a report will be due to the BOS in May.

9. Homeless Connect – Mark Schimpf – this event was cancelled in July 2020 due to the pandemic. Should we try to hold it in 2021? Typically it takes place in July and is held at the La Crosse Center. Some ideas that were suggested included holding it outside and possibly pulling in other groups, such as the group that did the Hearts in the Park event last summer. No decision is needed today but if we do decide to go ahead, planning should start soon.

10. Agency Updates:

- Kim Cable – Reminder of Carrie Poser presentation on January 26 – everyone should have gotten email info about it. Also, the Housing Authority has received 40 mainstream vouchers, applications for them open next Monday January 25. Also, the La Crosse County Board will be voting soon on making an additional \$100,000 available for prevention.
- Anthony Larsen reports CVI continues to provide services electronically.
- Lauren Journot – Funding update – ESG and HPP Covid specific funding is available, an application has been submitted.

- Le Anne Martinez – CAC is looking for more consumers to be involved – would like to set up a booth at Homeless Connect.
- Mike Basford – WI Interagency Council on Homelessness has a new website address – homelessness.wi.gov. Any info you might need should be there.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary