Present: Liz Evans, Great Rivers United Way; Dave Konkol First Free Church, Onalaska; Kristi Bechtel, Peace of Mind Counseling & BOS Board; Shannon Parker, Catholic Charities; Abbi Jeffers, Couleecap; Megan Gruber, Couleecap; Becky Koske, Couleecap; Kael Clemmerson, New Beginnings; Izabel Balk, New Horizons; Jackie Peterson, Quartz; Carrie Poser, WI Balance of State CoC; Stephanie Tourville, Inclusa; Julie McDermid, Karuna Housing; Sandy Brekke, Gundersen Health System; Molly Betts, MHS Health WI; Heidi Svee, New Horizons; Michael Fitzpatrick, ILR; Lee Walraven, Families First of Monroe County; Hannah Altimus, Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board; Ashley Handley, iCare Health Plan; Brian Sampson, City of La Crosse; Kristi Herold, La Crosse County DHS; Shaundel Spivey, B.L.A.C.K; Billie Wise, Couleecap; Jess Thill, Cia Siab, Inc; Deanna Kloster, UnitedHealthcare Medicaid Housing Manager; Le Anne Martinez, Consumer Advocacy Council; Rosanne Northwood, RHYMES/YWCA; Laurie Cooper Stoll, YWCA; Tina Tryggstad, Couleecap; Sadie Nelson, ILR; Marissa Miller, Justice Support Services; Kevin Hundt, Coulee Tenants United; Tabatha Dahn, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

**MEETING AGENDA**

**March 21, 2023**

1. Introductions and Housekeeping – Please chat your name and organization for attendance.
2. February Meeting Minutes – no changes needed.
3. New Chair Announcement – Liz announced Brian Sampson as the new Chair of CCEH.
4. Kristi provided a alance of State Update. Waiting on CoC competition results. Getting ready for new competition. Review the email blasts from Carrie Poser. BOS Quarterly Meeting Friday, May 19 is virtual. There’s no cost to attend and is a good opportunity to get to know how BOS CoC works. Couple trainings: April 12, DV Agency Embrace – Social Justice Work in Rural Wisconsin. Will not be recorded. Alonzo Kelly, Healing Center and Engagement. Advocacy work is being done at BOS. There is need for more affordable housing advocacy. WI BO S CoC Advocacy Forum, March 30. Talk to representatives to advocate for housing issues. WIBOSCOC - Advocacy ForumMar 30, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 PM (America/Chicago) Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.https://meet.goto.com/424511405
5. Coulee CoC Action Plan Review – Kristina Bechtel: Kristi presented the Action Plan. Goal #1 Conduct assessment, identify disparities in the provision or outcomes, and develop strategies. Goal #2 Coordination and Engagement – Inclusive Structure and Participation – Local Homeless Coalition Engagement. The subcommittee determined starting at the foundation would be good since the CoC has been through some changes over the past few years. Need to vote on the Action Plan. Liz will send an electronic vote today. Need answer by Friday to send to BOS. We would have a year to work on this and a six month check-in. Do we want the subcommittee to work on the goals and objectives or work on it as a whole? Discussion. Subcommittees will work better. The Subcommittee will report back to the larger group. Someone will need to lead the subcommittee. If anyone is interested in joining the subcommittee, contact Kristi.
6. Data Dashboard Update – Brian Sampson presented. Stephanie shared a version last month. The committee is still working on making it the most useful and user-friendly as possible. The data presented was from the end of February. Data presented includes: individuals & families on the prioritization list; the category of housing solutions for each household on the list; housing placement; and inflow/outflow. We will add the housing solutions over-time as a chart that can be clicked into from the pie chart of the current list. If you click into more details, you can view different visualizations including the detailed inflow/outflow, filters for the prioritization list, etc. Outflow - Where people are going each month; inflow – where people are coming from each month; definitions tab. This is a work in progress and will be adjusted as we go. Discussion – good to have the data and having the whole picture. Where will it live? Not sure yet. Plan is to have a monthly snapshot. It’s good to have the snapshot and the month-over-month data.

From Julie: Once we get it in the shape we want it in, Julie can provide a link or code to embed the visualization into any website so multiple organizations can share it if they would like. Abbi – Does ICA have how long households have been housed before returning to homelessness? Brian will ask Stephanie.

Data Dashboard Link: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/julie.mcdermid/viz/February2023DASH/PrimaryDASH>

1. After Hours Plan Review – Abbi Jeffers presented the After Hours Plan. This is in place so people seeking homeless services have access between 4:30pm and 8am and over the weekend. It is voted on yearly. Extra 211 line was removed. RHYMES was added. Information was provided by RHYMES Director. Also took the name of a staff person and changed to Passages and a change to a contact number at Couleecap. Question about having resources like suicide crisis line. This is not intended to be a resource guide, but who to call for shelter after hours. For Crawford, Vernon, and Monroe is to use Salvation Army for hotel vouchers. Do they have that? Salvation Army has Salvation Army extensions serving rural counties. Salvation Army in La Crosse does not have hotel vouchers. Kael will check with Major Hellstrom and Kayla regarding the services available in Vernon, Crawford, and Monroe Counties. The information was accurate when it was passed last year. Lee: In Monroe County – they do have funds from Salvation Army for hotel vouchers. The problem is not many hotels accept SA Vouchers. New Horizons does intake 24/7. Isaac: in terms of navigating, for La Crosse County, would a person just start calling the numbers? The preferred recommendation is to call 211. The plan is distributed to all CCEH partners, 211, and everyone listed. Abbi needs to confirm Crawford and Vernon vouchers and then will send out for a vote.
2. Houska Park Closing Status – Brian Sampson, Homeless Service Providers: Last Wednesday the City of La Crosse closed Houska. The Homeless Outreach Team had been going out on a regular basis to try to support and connect people with resources. On Wednesday morning, there were 7 people there who were provided resources. Cleanup is in progress. The park is fenced. Another round or two of cleanup will be done then regrading and re-soiling. No plans to open as an encampment again. To be a camp, it would have to go through steps with the Parks Department, inspection, and City Council. Question: Kael: rumors are going around that people are being bussed to other areas. Is that legitimate? The city is not bussing people. If a person has a legitimate housing option, transportation may be provided. Deanna: What happened to most of the people living there? How do they feel about leaving? Was there any win-win for them? A: Salvation Army came out to offer shelter spots several times. Not all people were connected with appropriate places. We are lacking housing options in the community. Deanna: How did we get people to leave? Brian: At it’s peak there were about 140 people there. They trickled out on their own. By end of October the camp license expired. Service providers continued working. At January Point-in-Time count there were 19 people. Throughout February it had dwindled and most people left on their own.
3. WERA/Housing Stability Team Update – Becky updated information from Dana – WERA stopped taking apps as of January 31 across the state. Allowed agencies to process as many apps as possible before the money was gone. There is a pause on spending as of now. Not hopeful that spending will open again. Directing clients to reach out to other local resources. Clients are provided with a list of resources and the team is providing housing stability services, but there are no funds for assistance. A housing stability case manager can help with navigation, landlord mediation, budgeting, accessing other resources. Housing Stability Case Managers are available and willing to work with folks in need of assistance. This is available to all counties in our CoC: La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, and Crawford. Q Le Anne: People can call the WERA number to access housing stability services. Would this include people who are housed? Also, are case managers still going over applications that were in prior to January 31? Case managers have gone through applications to let folks know that funding is paused and have offered services. WERA number: 1-844-267-0033.
4. Coulee CoC Annual Calendar – Brian Sampson – As we’re sorting everything out and to improve clarity and transparency, want to put together a calendar so that we can set up subcommittees ahead of time and people know what is coming up. Works well with the foundational goal of our Action Plan. It will be available to all. If anyone is aware of voting items that are coming up, please send to Brian. We’ll try to put it together in a document for succession planning. Brian has also reached out to the Balance of State folks. To contact Brian: email sampsonb@cityoflacrosse.org Q: for membership, how often do we sign our agreement? Le Anne – just one person from each organization is a voting member. Happens once a year. Liz will look up the date and get that on the calendar.
5. Agency Updates
6. Le Anne: Consumer Advocacy Council – A lot of people previously homeless and currently homeless. She’s been sending them to REACH. From Becky’s update, will probably have them call the WERA number. Le Anne and Randall need to be recertified for Peer Specialists in August. Le Anne does a lot of work with folks who are homeless or previously homeless. Site on City of La Crosse site doesn’t have Randall’s name for people looking for Peer Specialists. Randall and Le Anne are doing communities of practice work.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2023

Monthly Coulee Coalition to End Homelessness Meeting - third Tuesday of the month at 2:30pm. No meeting in July or December.

Join Zoom Meeting

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