Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

**Attendance**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Abagail | Jeffers | Couleecap |
| Alicia | Place | School District of La Crosse |
| Anthony | Larson | Center for Veterans Issues |
| Ashley | Handley | Independent Care Health Plan |
| Barbara | Almond | Karuna Housing |
| Becky | Koske | Couleecap |
| Billie | Wise | Couleecap |
| Brian | Sampson | City of La Crosse |
| Claire | Bakalars | Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board |
| Dave | Konkol | First Free Church |
| Ebony | Hyter | Quartz Benefits |
| Isaac | Hoffman | La Crosse County LAFC |
| Izabel | Balk | New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers |
| Jesse | Todd | Family Promise of Monroe County |
| Julie | McDermid | Karuna Housing |
| Kael | Clemmerson | New Beginnings Christian Fellowship |
| Katie | Heyer | Couleecap |
| Katie | Spaeth | ICA Alliances |
| Kevin | Hundt | Coulee Tenants United |
| Kim | Cable | Couleecap |
| Kristine | Herold | La Crosse County ISRS |
| Lee | Walraven | Families First of Monroe County |
| Liz | Evans | Great Rivers United Way |
| Marissa | Miller | La Crosse County JSS |
| Maurella | Cunningham | RHYMES |
| Meredith | McCoy | Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care |
| Michael | Basford | WI DOA Interagency Council on Homelessness |
| Michael | Fitzpatrick | Independent Living Resources |
| Molly | Betts | MHS Health Wisconsin |
| Nancy | Parcher | La Crosse YMCA |
| Rosanne | Northwood | YWCA La Crosse |
| Rose | Monhaut | Legal Action of La Crosse |
| Sadie | Nelson | Independent Living Resources |
| Sandy | Brekke | Gundersen Health System |
| Shannon | Parker | Catholic Charities of La Crosse |
| Stephanie | Tourville | Inclusa |
| Tina | King | MHS Health Wisconsin |
| Vanessa | Renley | Mayo Clinic Health System |
| Vie | Matty | Head Start |

**MEETING MINUTES**

**October 17, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 2:34pm

**Introductions and Housekeeping:** Introductions and attendance were done via chat.

**September Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve the September meeting minutes by Sandy Brekke, seconded by Lee Walraven. Motion passed to approve the September meeting minutes.

[**Data Dashboard**](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/julie.mcdermid/viz/September2023Dashboard/Story1) **Update:** Brian Sampson went over the monthly data dashboard. There have been some changes made based on feedback from CCEH members. The average length of time in days on coordinated entry and maximum days on coordinated entry list have been added to the main dashboard tab. Definition of “Returning from housing” – there is no timeframe for someone to be counted. If the person had ever been on the coordinated entry list, got into housing, and came back onto the list, they are considered returning from housing. Links to archived dashboards have been added. Point in Time data also added.

Q: Where does the data come from? A: Katie from ICA - data is from a handful of reports: Monthly dashboard, coordinated entry prioritization summary report. All reports come out of HMIS and run directly in HMIS and delivered to Julie McDermid on the first of the month.

Data in HMIS is entered from agencies doing work in the CoC: YWCA, Couleecap, Karuna, Salvation Army La Crosse, Families First of Monroe County, Family Promise of Monroe County, Catholic Charities, and others all enter data in HMIS.

Julie McDermid From Chat: The reports are scheduled to be run and emailed to me on the 1st of each month. I download the CSV files and plug them into the visualization software but don't do any editing or make any changes to those files except to save them from CSV files to Excel workbooks.

**Balance of State Update:** CCEH is in the process of finding a replacement for Kristi.

Meredith McCoy provided an update. The CoC competition is over. The Virtual Quarterly meeting is November 17. Registration link on [website](https://www.wiboscoc.org/coc-meetings.html). Upcoming February quarterly meeting will be a conference on the 8th and 9th in Wausau at The Jefferson. Two tracks are planned: leadership and working in the CoC. The comment period on new [Coordinated Entry forms](https://www.wiboscoc.org/ce2023.html) is open until Friday. If you have an opinion, send your comments. Couleecap has two projects in the CoC competition; New Horizons has an application for DV Rapid Rehousing; and the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project is included. All information is public on the [BOSCOC website](https://www.wiboscoc.org/).

Q: Regarding the Balance of State Competition, are we supposed to vote on the projects submitted? Or notified of projects submitted? No vote and information is on the BOSCOC website.

Brian provided an update on other grants being pursued for the coalition. The City of La Crosse is working with Couleecap on an employment grant and City and County of La Crosse are working on recovery voucher grant for the whole coalition. Deadlines coming up over the next couple weeks.

**Vote for Positions:** CCEH Voting Members can use this link to vote to approve Lee Walraven as the CCEH recommendation to the BOSCOC Board and Becky Koske as the CCEH BOS Delegate: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RNPDFDM> The link will be open until Friday.

**Action Plan Progress:** Molly Betts provided update on the Action Plan. The Action Plan Subcommittee has been meeting for several months. First focus was training for coalition and community members to address disparity of people of color entering system in disproportional rate.

Option 1: YWCA Racial Justice Workshop. YWCA has a training program covering three topics: Racial Identity Development; Deconstructing Racism; and Exploring Privilege. The cost is $5100 for minimum 15 maximum 25 participants. Not necessarily tailored to homelessness/housing or La Crosse. This is a three-day, 24 workshop. There are questions of how we would pay for it and how to include community members who would benefit from education.

Option 2: UW Center for Poverty has some webinars focused on housing. Potentially could watch and have facilitated discussion. A barrier is how to get community folks to attend?

Option 3: Each organization within the CoC submit a plan for how they will address DEI education and training.

Q: What were some ideas of how to reach the target audience? Talked with Chanin (doing La Crosse County DEI work) about how to reach folks. It would cost more to have her consulting firm do the work.

Kim Cable: idea of getting someone to do a community-wide training on Fair Housing. An organization in Madison may do for free if we hosted a couple of session and might get to the issue that’s trying to be addressed. Can’t see landlords coming to a three-day training. From Michael Basford via chat: [www.fairhousingwisconsin.com](http://www.fairhousingwisconsin.com)

We’ll get information from Fair Housing Wisconsin and come back with new options.

**Homeless Person’s Memorial Update:** Abbi updated. The event will be on December 21. A planning meeting will be scheduled next week. Email Abbi if interested in helping. Abagail.jeffers@couleecap.org

**City/County Plan Update:** First round of core system work teams to talk about the three parts of the homelessness response system: prevention, crisis response, and outflow. Discussed current state, barriers and challenges. Next round of meetings in two weeks to discuss future state. What we want the system to look like. Also reaching out to other groups, faith organizations, funders, people currently experiencing homelessness, etc. A lived experience team is meeting weekly to give feedback as things come in. They are on track to deliver a plan for final approval by the mayor and county administrator by the end of 2023.

**Emergency Event Sheltering:** Timeline for long-term plan is because we’ve done a lot of short-term plans for emergency sheltering in cold months, but don’t have a long-term plan. Brian has been meeting with emergency managers for the City and County of La Crosse to determine indoor, daytime places for people to go during extreme weather events. Looking to figure out details for places and security staffing.

Q: Kevin Hundt – is there planning for a variety of options? If it were possible to find money from City Council or other sources, if money were found, have on-going indoor shelter for the winter with staffing? A: Money is the lesser barrier than staffing. We don’t have adequate number of people to staff a facility.

Q: Kevin Hundt – is that issue based on current staffing levels. If there is money to hire, is that still a barrier? A: Don’t know specifics. Would have to ask each organization that provides emergency shelter services what that looks like for them.

Feel free to reach out to Brian for more information.

**The Human Rights Commission:** Julie McDermid. The HRC has been having lots of discussions about the city having a homelessness and affordable housing crisis. They are looking to write a resolution to help. What types of actions would we like to see? Bear in mind, the Human Rights Commission is a City commission – jurisdiction is just the city. Example: recent change to camping ordinance, could they ask for a park to be designated for camping? Can email suggestions of actions to Julie and HRC member or Lewis Coleman. Claire Bakalars is a Commissioner. Claire: the HRC is looking for short-term resolutions to fill gaps for people in our community. Julie will create a google form. Can enter your ideas using this Google form link: [https://forms.gle/SXqGQZkawU5sQmDx7](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FSXqGQZkawU5sQmDx7&data=05%7C01%7Clevans%40gruw.org%7Ce3591a7b6130476cbc7008dbcf557efc%7Cf00e7058532b4c039958222a8ffd4a16%7C0%7C0%7C638331738338972339%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CvpflUMUTOor1nGXill3TLl9EdgwT%2BixD1DWUxppVUo%3D&reserved=0)

**Agency Updates**

Isaac Hoffman: La Crosse County update on Bridge Housing for Families project. All started as ARPA dollars that came to county. Housing was a top priority in a study of how ARPA dollars should be spent. Bridge Housing for Families and Bridge Housing for Adults were two work groups. County approved $3M to go toward Bridge housing effort. They went through an RFP process. Couleecap and Catholic Charities submitted a joint proposal. Concurrently, a group was working on programming. It’s intended to be temporary housing with case management to get people to permanent housing. Couleecap and Catholic Charities are purchasing and owning the buildings. No funding has been made available for the case management yet. Goal for the program is to acquire 16-20 units by the end of 2025. There is a separate name for the project: Thriving Families Program. Going to reconvene on programming. Not offering openings yet. Goal is to acquire 1/3 of properties in each year 2023-2025. Reach out to Isaac with questions. Details will be made available when programming is ready.

Jesse Todd: Executive Director of Family Promise of Monroe County which is a family homeless shelter program. They have a holistic approach to homelessness. Families are vetted. Rotate to different church locations week to week. Any families in Monroe County can be referred. They also help with diversion. They have a Community Health Worker. They work through Coordinated Entry as well. They have a few hundred comforters and blankets to distribute. Let Jesse know if you could use any. director@familypromiseofmonroecounty.com. From chat: our website is www.familypromiseofmonroecounty.com if you guys would like to check out a little more about us. We do have a online application there for people looking for services.

Maurlla Cunningham from RHYMES: November is National Runaway Prevention/Runaway Homeless Youth Awareness Month. Maurella will share a listing of what they are doing with Brian and/or Liz. Feel free to share info and contact Maurellla for more information. Please help raise awareness of the problem and resources. MCunningham@rhymeslax.org

Claire Bakalars – introduced herself. She represents the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board. WWWDB administers a number of programs for folks looking to get a job or get upskilling/training. Email bakalarsc@westernwdb.org and website: westernwdb.org

Motion to adjourn by Lee Walraven, seconded by Molly Betts. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Liz Evans, CCEH Secretary, 10/18/2023