

WASHINGTON COUNTY Continuum of Care – Local Coalition

Meeting Minutes

April 19th, 2023

1:30pm

Present Voting Members: Lori Prescott, Caitlyn Throneburg, Terrie Varga, Dayna Berger, Patricia John – Family Promise of Washington County, Yvonne MacDonald Hames, Laura Barajaz – FRIENDS, Inc., Mary Delgado – ADRC, Tiffany Wagner, Robert Kaisler – Catholic Charities, Rachel Trainer (James Lindsay as replacement attendee) – Center for Veterans Issues, Karen Roehl – Legal Action, Karl Glunz, Kay Lucas – SVDP, John Schiraj – United Way, Gina Bartoszewicz – Dept. Veterans Affairs, Melissa Bublitz – West Bend Housing Authority, Christine Huesemann – West Bend School District, Quentin Hatfield – Wisconsin Veterans Network, Melissa Weir – Lutheran Social Services, Emily Greene, Alexandria Schloemer– Youth & Family Project,

Present Non-Voting Members: Jon France - Washington County, Acute Care Service, Brenda Dunlap - Calm Harbor/Elevate, Becky Rehak - Icare Health Plan.

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 1:37pm April 19th, 2023.

Introduction of COC Organizations and Representatives

- Terrie Varga took roll call of all present representatives.

Meeting Minutes

- Approved January 11, 2023 meeting minutes.
 - o Melissa Bublitz made a motion to approve.
 - o Emily Green 2nd.
 - o All in favor. No opposed. Motion for Minutes approved.

Memberships, MOUs & Bylaws for WCCOC

- Catholic Charities become a voting member.
 - o Quentin Hatfield made a motion to approve.
 - o John Schiraj 2nd.
 - o All in favor. No opposed. Catholic Charities approved as voting member.
- Elevate expected to have paperwork ready by July to become voting member.

Delegations & Officers for WCCOC

- Nomination of Terrie Varga as Secretary to the WCCOC.
 - o Melissa Bublitz made a motion to approve.
 - o Karen Roehl 2nd.
 - o All in favor. No opposed. Terrie Varga approved as WCCOC Secretary.
- Nomination of Terrie Varga as delegate for the WIBOSCOC.
 - o John Schiraj made a motion to approve.

- Emily Greene 2nd.
 - All in favor. No opposed. Terrie Varga approved as WIBOSCOG delegate.
- Nomination of Terrie Varga as Board Member for the WIBOSCOG.
 - Karl Glunz made a motion to approve.
 - Melissa Bublitz 2nd.
 - All in favor. No opposed. Terrie Varga approved as WIBOSCOG Board Member.
- Requested again for WCCOG member to fill the Vice Chair nomination to the WCCOG
 - No volunteers as of this meeting, however, FPWC asked Laura of Friends, Inc. to inquire with Yvonne MacDonald Hames if there is interest from their agency.

EFSP Update

- John Schiraj from United Way made mention of the EFSP Phase 40 would be 14,719. \$294 will be kept by UWWC for admin. The rest to be used for food, and shelter. FPWC and Friends, Inc. will apply by May 13, 2023. Historically, funds have been split 50/50. Amount available to each would be = \$7,212.

EHH 2023-2034 Grant Cycle

- WIBOSCOG announced less funding available moving into the 2023-2024 grant cycle. Emergency Shelter services would then also be less. FPWC is the lead agency in the WIBOSCOG (and for WCCOG) for EHH funding. Due to lowered funding, FPWC proposed to administer emergency shelter funds as lead agency only and not have a subrecipient of Friends for the 2023-24 cycle.
- Approved motion for Family Promise of Washington County to be the lead agency for the 2023-2024 granting cycle and receive full funds for emergency shelter services for EHH funding.
 - Lori Prescott made a motion to approve.
 - Christine Huesemann 2nd.
 - All in favor. No opposed. Motion for FPWC lead agency and emergency shelter funding approved for 2023-2024 grant cycle.

EHH | RRH & HPP

- Terrie Varga reported on the households being served in Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention programming, reported a continuous increase in clients needing rental assistance. Trends include the cost of rent increasing, especially 3 bedrooms or more, in some cases security deposits doubling all over the county and difficulty locating housing. Inflation is going up more than the cost of living.

EHH | Emergency Shelter

- Caitlyn Throneburg gave an update on Karl's Place Emergency Shelter program. Guests are staying longer due to lack of housing and increased rents, and security deposits. We are seeing greater need for men needing shelter than women.
- Caitlyn Throneburg reported on the Promise Center Emergency Shelter program. Trends include households having difficulty finding places that will accept Section 8, difficulty locating 3–4-bedroom units, and continued unresponsiveness from landlords.

- Laura Barajaz reported on FRIENDS, Inc. emergency shelter program and reported seeing the same trends.
- Becky Rehak reported that they let landlords know they offer case management and thinks this could be helping landlords feeling more comfortable with their services.
- Quentin Hatfield reported offered a solution to help landlords feel more comfortable with renting to those with evictions. Rent Smart you take classes.

Coordinated Entry

- Dana Berger reported on the Coordinated Entry that there's a shortage of affordable housing, especially for those with prior evictions. Landlords don't want to take a chance with someone that has prior evictions, and there isn't enough section 8 housing. We are running low on tight on funds until July.
- Lori Prescott reported that on occasions a case manager will go for support when clients are looking for housing. The Government Grants are decreasing, costs are increasing, needs are increasing, and the rents are increasing. Everything is going up but employment income isn't increasing at the same rate.

Point in Time (PIT) - for July 26, 2023

- Caitlyn Throneburg gave a quick summary of the Point in Time count and asked for volunteers for the count. (Reach out to FPWC if interested).
- Lori Prescott also added that we ask any new member of the Washington County Local Coalition or anyone who has not done the Point in Time count yet to have a member of your agency participate in the count.

Coalition Action Plan 2.0

Approved Goal #1 Promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Homeless Services by selecting Conduct an assessment and Goal #2 System Performance Measures by selecting Strategies to increase employment income.

- o Caitlyn Throneburg made a motion to approve.
- o Melissa Bublitz 2nd.
- o Discussion: Karl Glunz offered to change his vote to Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private and Other Organizations by selecting Coordination with entities in your coalition's coordination, planning, and operation of projects that serve people experiencing homelessness. He stated this could include going back to having our COC meetings in person rather than online and improving interagency working relationships and communications on specific projects. | Quentin Hatfield stated he agrees with the strategy to conduct an assessment of current practices on diversity, equity and inclusion in homeless services. Secondly, he prefers under the "Systems Performance Measures" a strategy to reduce the length of time homeless.
- o All in favor. No opposed. Motion for Action Plan approved.

Other Business

- YHDP Adam Hurst (Hebron House) Didn't attend.
- Quentin Hatfield from WI Veterans Network said he has 11,000.00 in funds that he could help Family Promise with until July.
- Tiffany Wagner from Catholic Charities said that she was new to Catholic Charities, she shared some of the services they offer. They provide services for those suffering with mental illness by providing support, case management services, (case management is a free service), they take referrals from the Milwaukee office, walk-ins are welcome, referrals are sent to the Washington Co. Churches, and that nobody is turned away.
- Emily Greene gave an update on the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program - There are now accepting referrals, and they ask that you reach out to Alexandra directly if you know of any youth in need. Other YHDP program is operated out of Hebron House, which is based in Waukesha but covers Washington, Ozaukee and Waukesha County. Program will offer Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing for Youth. Currently in the process of locating apartment for the TH program. Adam Hurst is the contact for this program.

Spotlight Agency

- Kate Markwardt – WISBOSCOG Didn't attend.
 - o **Statistics on Racial Equity and Homelessness was to be the topic. Hopefully, this can be reviewed with us in July.**

Meeting Adjourn

- o Karl Glunz made a motion to approve.
- o Melissa Bublitz 2nd.
- o All in favor. No opposed. Motion for Adjournment approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 12th, 2023, at 1:30pm