

# Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

## Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2019

Present: Kim Cable, Teresa Byland, Randall Brown, Lee Ann Martinez, Mark Schimpf, Julie McDermid, Molly Betts, Becky Koske, Sarah Jackson, Tom Kunz, Anthony Larson, Abbi Jeffers, Melanie Hamel, Leticia Silva, Toni Van Kirk, Isaac Hoffman, Krista Coey, Abby Waters, Brandon Newsom, Ruth Symitczek, Fue Yang, S. Karen Neuser, Catherine Lange, Sara Bowman.

1. Introductions and New Officers – Election results are in. Our new Chair is Mark Schimpf, Vice-Chair is Randall Brown, and Secretary is Teresa Byland.
2. September Meeting Minutes – Approved.
3. System Performance Review – Led By Julie McDermid. The Dashboard Log-in on the CCEH Website is CCEHRocks. This is not to be shared publicly because it is still a work in progress. Input on the dashboard is welcome! Julie reviewed the data and outcomes. It was mentioned that there has been a 25% decline in homelessness over the past five years.
4. Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) Cycle Kick-Off - The Innovation Lab group has six work areas with a team addressing each area. The Consumer Advisory Council was added to the list at today's meeting. Team Leaders gave updates:
  - Data Quality – Abbi Jeffers gave this update. This team is focusing on the Warming Center, but is waiting for some staff changes to occur before measuring the use of the Warming Center by the chronic homeless population.
  - Re-Housing – Kim Cable gave this update. The focus of this team is to look for ways to increase permanent housing opportunities for the homeless. Increasing Section 8 vouchers might be one possible strategy. It has been challenging to schedule meetings and

attendance has been poor, so additional members would be helpful.

- Prevention – Isaac Hoffman gave this update. The focus is on landlords, trying to get them connected to tenants sooner. Resources exist but aren't getting connected to the people who would benefit fast enough.
- Housing Stability – Becky Koske gave this update. This group is considering doing a survey, unless one already exists, to measure how knowledgeable people are about available resources. Also looking to identify potential problems at the time of placement when possible, to hook up services before the placement is jeopardized.
- System Navigation – Isaac gave this update as well. This group envisions a tool that would guide people through the system and help them know where to go based on their needs. The focus is on identifying helpers (typically social workers) that people can go to depending on the SW's expertise.
- Landlord Liaison – Julie McDermid gave this update. An obstacle here is how to staff this program – one idea is to hire a staff person through increased funding of Section 8 vouchers. This might be difficult considering the many requirements that come with these vouchers, making them labor intensive.
- Consumer Advisory Council – Randall Brown gave this update. This group is looking at Support Groups for newly placed homeless individuals, in which they can be supportive of each other and also share info about resources. Also looking for an agency that might be willing to help with Peer Support Training.
- Another update will happen at the January 202 CCEH Meeting.

5. Wisconsin Balance of State Update - Kim Cable reported that the next BOS Meeting is November 7-8 in WI Dells. Votes will take place on new members and the 2020 budget, also minor changes to by-laws. The

YWCA's Rapid Re-Housing funding is renewed, and Couleecap received 2 grants and funding for one bonus project.

6. Consumer Advisory Council Update - This group is very focused on the Innovation Lab work right now. A question was asked about who is the best contact for this group, Sarah, Randall and Lee Ann were all identified as good contacts.
7. Agency Updates – Leticia Silva from the Warming Center reported that they are due to open in 2 weeks, and really need volunteers. The 6:30-9 shift is in need of help, as well as the overnight hours.
8. Upcoming Agency Presentations:
  - November – Open
  - December – No Meeting
  - January – System Performance Review

**NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, November 19 at 2:30pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary