

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 21,2020

Present: Daniella Fohr, Sadie Nelson, Kristina Bechtel, Karl Green, Sandy Brekke, Katie Berkedal, Jane Klekamp, Mary Jacobson, Heather Quackenboss, Le Anne Martinez, Randall Brown, Sr. Karen Neuser, Kish Hudson, Alicia Place, Erin Healy, Teresa Byland, Becky Koske, Abbi Jeffers, Liz Evans, Lizz Stanish, Tennille Spears, Melanie Hamel, Kim Cable, Norma Pfaff, Fue Yang, Anthony Larson, Sarah Bowman, Brandon Newsom, Caroline Gregorson, Mark Schimpf, Kevin Fox, Abby Waters, Catherine Lange, Chandler Miller, Krystal Reed, Ellen Oligney, Sofia Naqui, Molly Betts, Julie McDermid.

1. Introductions.
2. November Meeting Minutes – No changes or additions.
3. Agency Presentation:
 - Andrea Brownlee from Workforce Connections gave a presentation that focused on four programs offered by Workforce Connections – FSET (Food Share Employment and Training), Wisconsin Works (also called W2, which causes some confusion), Emergency Assistance and WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Details on these programs can be found at www.workforceconnections.org or by calling (608) 789-5620.
4. Discussion of EHH Lead Agency – Melanie Hamel presented this info. At present the YWCA is serving as lead agency for this funding source and is willing to continue to do so. Besides the YWCA, other agencies using these funds are Catholic Charities, Couleecap, the Salvation Army and Families First of Monroe County. An annual vote is required to name the lead agency. Since not all agencies are represented at today's meeting, a vote will be taken by survey monkey in the next couple weeks. Please look for an email about this and be sure to respond if you are a voting member of CCEH.
5. Wisconsin Balance of State Updates:
 - The next quarterly meeting of this group will take place February 13 and 14 in Rothschild, WI, near Wausau.

BOS Committee Updates:

- Gaps and Needs – Kim Cable reported that an annual survey went out to clients and agency staff. 450 surveys were returned, and now data is being gathered from the surveys.
- Youth Advisory Board – Kristina Bechtel reported two meetings were held in 2019. The Council is partnering with the Family and Children’s Center. Will be applying for Youth Demonstration Grant.
- Coordinated Entry – Julie McDermid reported that this group is sending out a survey soon to gauge consumer understanding of the “list.”
- System Performance Measures – No update.
- CoC competitive funding for the fiscal year starting 7/1/20 Update: Tier One – Couleecap Housing First and the YWCA Rapid-Rehousing has been funded. Tier Two is not yet decided – Couleecap’s bonus project is included here.
- Policies regarding Confidentiality, Code of Conduct and Finances are being reviewed. Changes will be approved by this group, then voted on at the May 2020 Balance of State Meeting.

6. CCEH Updates:

- CoC Governance Documents – Mark Schimpf reported a small group is meeting to update by-laws to clarify the role of this group and the broader CoC. The goal is to have something to present at the April quarterly meeting.
- Community After Hours Plan – Abbi Jeffers reported that a draft is near completion and will be presented next month for a vote.

7. January Point in Time Count - Becky Koske reported that everyone will be meeting at 3:30am at the King Street Kitchen on Thursday this week – space is still available if anyone else can help. Breakfast afterwards at the King Street Kitchen.

8. Homeless Connect Planning Committee – Becky Koske announced that planning will start soon for this late July event. Committees will be put together soon – email Becky if you can help. A first meeting will be scheduled in mid to late

February. The event will be held at the La Crosse Center Ballroom and the city is covering the cost of the rental there.

9. Agency Updates:

- Kim Cable gave an update on Section 8 vouchers. The online application is being updated and the waiting list is opening up. The process going forward should be easier. They are currently full and vouchers open up at a rate of about one per month.
- Kim also gave an update on the 2020 Census – she is serving on the census committee and wants to make sure homeless individuals are being counted. There will be an effort March 30-April 1 to count individuals in shelters, at meal centers, and in outreach programs.

10. Upcoming Agency Presentations:

- February – Consumer Advisory Council
- March – CDBG Grant. City of La Crosse
- April – Vivent Health (formerly AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin)

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary