

Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2019

Present: Kim Cable, Teresa Byland, Randall Brown, Le Anne Martinez, Mark Schimpf, Julie McDermid, Alex Burg, Kael Clemmerson, Tom Kunz, Catherine Lange, Melanie Hamel, Daniel Simpson, Becky Koske, Bob Henderson, Anthony Larson, Kish Hudson, Sadie Nelson, Isaac Hoffman, Sr. Karen Neuser, Molly Betts, Abbi Jeffers, Kristina Bechtel, Abby Waters, Kevin Hundt, Casey Holthaus, Alexia Krause, Morgan Kuptz, Angela D., Melissa McCormick, Sarah Bowman.

1. Introductions.
2. October Meeting Minutes – No changes or additions.
3. Agency Presentations:
 - SER Jobs for Progress National, Inc. – Thomas Kunz came to the meeting to discuss this program, which offers employment opportunities to individuals 55+ who are unemployed and wishing to join the work force. For further information Tom can be reached at 608-615-1845 or you can visit the website www.ser-national.org.
 - Garske's Veterans Services – Daniel Simpson was present with info about this program which offers vocational services for veterans. The Homeless Veterans Integration Grant provides services and funding to help veterans become employed and/or stay employed. Not open to those with dishonorable discharge, but can help to amend such so that the veteran would then qualify. Dan can be reached at 715-523-2304 if you'd like further information.
4. Wisconsin Balance of State Update - Kim Cable gave a brief update on the meeting held on November 7-8 in WI Dells. The first day was an all day training on Trauma Informed Care. On the 2nd day annual elections were held and new officers were elected. Information will be coming out regarding the need to elect a board representative from among those who serve the chronically homeless. The next meeting of this group will take place in February in the Wausau area.

BOS Committee Updates:

- Gaps and Needs – Kim reported that an annual survey will be going out to clients and agency staff.
- Youth Advisory Board – Kristina reported an upcoming contest directed at youth 24 and under to develop an artistic expression of Hope and Home. This group is pairing with the Family and Childrens Center Youth Advisory Council to hold an event on December 18 from 4:30-7:30 at the FCC location at 1701 Main St, 1st Floor Conference Room. Food will be served.
- Coordinated Entry – Julie reported that this group is sending out a survey soon to gauge consumer understanding of the “list.”

5. Collaborative Update:

- No Outreach Update.
- Data Dashboard – will be up by the end of the week. Sadie reported that Abbi came to ILR to do CE training. Since September 1 there have been 98 calls for assistance in La Crosse County re: housing/homelessness.

6. January Point in Time Count - Becky announced the date of January 23, 2020, and passed around a sign-in sheet for those willing to participate.

7. Consumer Advisory Council Update – Le Anne and Randall gave this update. Le Anne reported that this group is looking for peer support training to assist with getting this off the ground. Randall reported that in December the CAC will be sending out Christmas cards and holding an event to give thanks to those who have provided support.

8. Agency Updates:

- Abbi brought up the National Homeless Person Memorial Day, which is on December 21. Last year there was no local event to commemorate – she asked if there was interest in doing something this year and offered to take the lead. Past years have seen a candlelight walk, bows on the trees in Cameron Park etc. Several people volunteered to meet to look at planning.
- Kim brought up the Housing Choice vouchers. The Housing Authority informs us that all vouchers are currently in use. The current number is

159. Each voucher comes with \$36 per month in funding for the agencies that administer services, which is woefully inadequate considering that admin and salary costs come from that money. The waiting list may open up in early 2020. Turnover is 1-2 vouchers per month. Kim has recently joined the Housing Authority Board.

- Cael reported that the New Beginnings building is for sale. The church is not planning to close but is looking for a new location, possibly a collaboration, that would be more cost-effective. Cael also expressed concern that there is little movement toward finalizing this group's constitution and by-laws, the After Hours Plan and the Emergency Weather Plan. Several people volunteered to assist with moving these issues forward.
- Molly reported changes to Badgercare for single adults. She will be sending detailed info to Mark, who will email it to the membership. As of this writing, that email has been sent.

9. Upcoming Agency Presentations:

- December - No Meeting
- January – System Performance Review
- February – Consumer Advisory Council

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary