

# 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 17, 2020

Present: Kristi Bechtel (La Crosse County HS), Sue Bennett (La Crosse County Health Dept), Molly Betz (MHS Health WI), Randall Brown (CAC, CCEH Vice-Chair), Kevin Burch (Catholic Charities), Teresa Byland (La Crosse County JSS, CCEH Secretary), Kim Cable (Couleecap), Michael Hanke (Klein House, Chippewa Falls, LSS), Isaac Hoffman (La Crosse County LAFC), Kevin Hundt (Coulee Tenants United), Nate Hundt (Aptiv), Mary Jacobson (Family and Childrens Center), Becky Koske (Couleecap), Catherine Lange (Mayo Clinic), Mai Lee (Cia Siab Inc), Le Anne Martinez (CAC), Beth Mattson (YWCA), Meredith McCoy (WIBOSCOC), Sadie Nelson (ILR), Ellen Oligney (ILR), Carol Onstad (First Free Church), Alicia Place (La Crosse Schools), Wes Porter (La Crosse Vets Center) Amy Schanhofer (Scenic Bluffs), Mark Schimpf (Couleecap, CCEH Chair), Ryan Stotts (Workforce Development Board), Stephanie Van Hulst (Institute for Community Alliances), Toni Van Kirk (Catholic Charities), Abby Waters (Great Rivers HUB).

1. October Meeting minutes – Approved.
2. Agency Presentation – Jane Benzschawel with the Youth Homeless Collaborative – youth serving agencies collaborating to serve runaway and homeless youth in the region. Long term goal is to have brick and mortar shelter. Will have funding as of 1/1/21, then capacity building begins. 24 hour crisis response will be offered once they are up and running. Ages served under 18, age 18 served if still in school. Marginalized groups are over-represented in homeless youth, services are being designed to address this. Contact Jane for more info at [jbenzschawel@gmail.com](mailto:jbenzschawel@gmail.com).
3. Balance of State Updates –
  - Quarterly meeting last week, November 12 and 13 - Mary, Meredith and Kim - business meeting on Friday, voted in new delegates and board members. Kristi Bechtel, Randall Brown, Melissa Myers all voted in. Funding will be competitive in 2021-2022. Will be asking Carrie Poser, WIBOS Director, to come to a meeting for a presentation on BOS. Possibly in January. Fair Housing Training offered by BOS on 11/24.

4. Housing Authority Vouchers – Kim – met with County and City last week. Housing Authority has applied for 40 additional mainstream vouchers. Designated for individuals ages 18-62 living with disabling condition. Preference for homeless. Still waiting to hear final decision. Staff will have to be hired to manage, city and county willing to support this for first three years.
5. Consumer Advisory Council Update – Exam December 2<sup>nd</sup> for state certified Peer Support Specialists Exam coming up. Another offered in February. Several people in our group will be taking the exam.
6. Homeless Persons Memorial – December online virtual event – Kristi - honors current or previous homeless who we lost in 2020. Flowers will be released into the Mississippi. May be putting laminated snowflakes on trees in Rotary Lights display – looking into this. Let Kristi ( [kbechtel@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:kbechtel@lacrossecounty.org) ) or Abby Jeffers ( [Abigail.jeffers@couleecap.org](mailto:Abigail.jeffers@couleecap.org) ) know if you know anyone who should be honored or if your agency has a tree at Rotary Lights.
7. Point in Time Count – Becky – will take place in late January. Meeting will be scheduled in early January for planning. Notice will be sent out re: meeting. Contact Becky if you are interested in participating. [Becky.koske@couleecap.org](mailto:Becky.koske@couleecap.org).
8. Agency Update – No updates today.
9. Local Coalition Packet Review and Action Plan – Kim – Has to be submitted by December 5 – need to identify three goals for us to address. Kim recommends these goals:
  - First goal – better representation on our coalition from County Jail, EMT, other missing sectors etc.
  - Second goal – to improve attendance – website/FB page could post info about meetings, minutes, contact info. Offer assistance to disabled individuals to attend meetings.
  - Third goal – Develop policies to address Fair Housing, Education and Anti-discrimination. Identify an assessment for providers to complete.

We need a committee to develop workable goals for which we can show progress by May 2021. If you'd like to help out, please contact Mark at

[mark.schimpf@couleecap.org](mailto:mark.schimpf@couleecap.org). Email Kim if you have input before December 5.  
[Kim.cable@couleecap.org](mailto:Kim.cable@couleecap.org)

Some of our performance measures are falling short, such as 2 year measure of whether someone returns to homelessness – these are probably too big to address between now and May 2021.

10. BOS is asking for COVID numbers among homeless community from La Crosse. This is important info that affects funding. Meredith stressed the importance that homeless serving agencies get this info to Julie ASAP at [jmcdermid@endhomelessnesslacrosse.org](mailto:jmcdermid@endhomelessnesslacrosse.org). . If your agency needs PPE, the state can assist.

**NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 2:30pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary