

Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2021

Present: Mike Basford, (WI Interagency Council on Homelessness), Kristi Bechtel (La Crosse County HS), Jane Benzschawel, (Youth Homeless Collaborative), Sandra Brekke (Gundersen Health System), Randall Brown (CAC, CCEH Vice-Chair), Teresa Byland (La Crosse County JSS, CCEH Secretary), Kim Cable (Couleecap), Krista Coey (Salvation Army), Kevin Fox (Vivent Health), Karl Green (UW Extension, La Crosse), Breanna Halling (Intern, Catholic Charities), Michael Hanke (LSS Chippewa Falls), Nick Harding (Catholic Charities), Isaac Hoffman (La Crosse County LAFC), Mary Jacobson (Family and Childrens Center), Lauren Journot (YWCA), Becky Koske (Couleecap), Anthony Larsen (CVI), Mai Lee (Cia Siab Inc), Le Anne Martinez (CAC), Beth Mattson (YWCA), Meredith McCoy (WIBOSCO), Julie McDermid, Jeanne Meyer (Families First), Chandler Miller (DVA), Ellen Oligney (ILR), Nancy Parcher (La Crosse School District), Shannon Parker (Catholic Charities), Robert Partarrieu (Catholic Charities), Alicia Place (La Crosse Schools), Amy Schanhofer (Scenic Bluffs), Mark Schimpf (Couleecap, CCEH Chair), Dalia Simpson (Catholic Charities), Ryan Stotts (Workforce Development Board), Toni Van Kirk (Catholic Charities), Jacob Walker (LCPD – NRO), Abby Waters (Great Rivers HUB), Mary Kay Wolf (Great Rivers United Way), Fue Yang (ILR).

1. January Minutes approved.

2. Carrie Poser Presentation on January 26: Mark and Kristi – Mark had sent out the slides from Carrie’s presentation on January 26, will send them out again in case you missed them. Kristi asked for the takeaways. People who had attended commented on the info that we are not taking in numbers of homeless individuals from other communities, in fact the opposite is true. Also, the number of housing units needed within our collaborative was defined clearly in her presentation, and we have a high rate of recurrence of homelessness. We reviewed the slide that outlines needs in the Coulee COC and a discussion took place on how we can resolve these issues – getting more units and reducing our rate of recurrence. Gathering data is key, including exit data to help us understand the high rate of recurrence.

3. Balance of State Updates:

- Two important meetings are coming up. On February 18 Carrie Poser will do a webinar on different ways to structure a collaborative. On February 25 we will have a local meeting to discuss using the info from 2/18 to help develop a path forward for our collaborative. Mark has sent out links to attend both meetings.

- Updates from Quarterly BOS Meeting: Kim and Kristi – Meeting was held virtually last Friday – Carrie did a statewide update on numbers and needs. Look for a funding announcement sometime between April and June. A barrier that has existed for some people to get services is being eliminated. The residency requirement which has been enforced in La Crosse County has resulted in some individuals not being eligible for needed services. Kristi reported that a mandate will be coming down from Madison that will prevent counties from denying services based on residency requirements.

4. Action Planning Update: Mark – we have been asked by the BOS to work on a set of 4 goals. The goals are: 1. Further develop CCEH membership - we are looking to add members from the jail, crisis responders and other areas that are not currently represented. 2. Develop CCEH policies. 3. Add a youth focus to the PIT process. 4. Increase awareness in the community by use of Facebook, other methods. Attendance at CCEH Meetings has been increasing. Further updates will be coming.

5. January PIT Count: Kim gave an update on the count, which took place overnight on January 27-28.

6. Consumer Advisory Council Update: Le Anne – The CAC is in need of tech support for clients coming to them for assistance. Peer Support, especially for the newly housed, continues to be a priority.

7. ESG-HHP Update: Lauren – No news yet, but the news should come next week re: Round 2 funding. A competitive grant application for \$1.8 million for day shelter and runaway/homeless youth shelter services should be coming soon.

8. Youth Collaborative Committee: Jane – This group is hoping to put together a committee and any interested parties are asked to email Jane at jbenzschawel@gmail.com. There was some discussion of this proposed committee becoming part of the COC and Jane was urged to get involved with the youth committee at BOS.

9. Homeless Connect: Mark – If you are interested in being part of a group to plan this event, please contact Mark. No decisions have been made yet about holding the event, and what it would look like, so help is needed!

10. Agency Updates:

- Anthony Larsen, CVI – continuing to accept referrals to get veterans off the streets. CVI is launching an app to help veterans locate services (not just housing). It's called the CVI Help App and can be found in the Google Store and Apple App Store. More info can be found at cvihelp.com. The contact person if you have questions is erica@threedesign.net.
- Chandler Miller, DVA – reports there are three locations with immediate openings for homeless or transient veterans, also veterans facing eviction. Contact Chandler for more info – chandler.miller@dva.wisconsin.gov.
- Michael Hanke – LSS in Chippewa Falls – reports lots of openings for housing for veterans. Contact: Michael.hanke@lsswis.org.

Next Meeting – March 16, 2021 at 2:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary