

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 18, 2020

Present: Molly Betts, Alex Burg, Teresa Byland, Kim Cable, Dana Casberg, Daniella Fohr, Kevin Fox, Melanie Hamel, Kevin Hundt, Abbi Jeffers, Marla Kaufmann, Becky Koske, Anthony Larson, Kelli Larson, Krista Loey, Le Anne Martinez, Robert Matthews, Chandra Miller, Matt Mundahl, Melisa Myers, Sofia Naqui, Ellen Oligney, Morgan Pederson, Alicia Place, Jared Reed, Mark Schimpf, Leticia Silva.

1. January Meeting Minutes – No changes or additions.
2. Agency Presentation:
 - Le Anne Martinez presented on the Consumer Advisory Council. This group is a year old and advocates for the needs of those who are homeless and at risk of homelessness. A regular monthly meeting takes place on the 3rd Monday. Additional meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. Locations vary. The CAC is currently developing a Peer Support Group that will focus on helping people who are newly housed to sustain their housing. Group leaders will be trained in Peer Support in May at WTC. Right now the best way to contact the CAC is through the Franciscan Hospitality Center – Le Anne is usually there. The group is planning a flyer to distribute in the community and a link on the CCEH website so that information is easier to find.
 - A question came up after this presentation about changes in the nuisance law that may be causing an increase in evictions. There is no actual change, but an increase in enforcement efforts that could be causing more evictions. The nuisance law states that a landlord can evict if there are too many 911 calls or police visits to a rental unit. Two things were clarified – first, a victim of domestic violence is protected from this law if 911/police calls are made due to the DV case, if the victim is complying with whatever safeguards are in place. Second, and this issue was raised in Le Anne’s presentation, a newly housed, formerly homeless person is sorely tempted and maybe even pressured to let homeless friends stay in the new home. This is usually a violation of the lease. Officer Burg stated that it is typically these friends who are disruptive, cause the

nuisance calls and create problems. Newly housed clients should be reminded of the serious threat this can pose to their housing.

3. Wisconsin Balance of State Updates:

A quarterly meeting of this group took place February 13 and 14 in Rothschild, WI. Here are some highlights from Kim Cable:

- Three new directors were elected, including Kim Cable to represent Chronic Homeless Providers.
- Tier 1 funding for projects was approved. Tier 2 should know in 2 weeks.
- Interested parties are being sought to serve on the Strategic Planning Task Force. A meeting will take place on March 10. Email Carrie Poser if you are interested.
- There may be funding released from the federal government for more youth transition grants. Should involve a local planning process. If interested, contact Mary Jacobson, who is the chair of the Youth Advisory Committee at the WIBOSCOC.
- President Trump's budget is proposing cuts in funding for Housing, HUD and Public and Indian Affairs Housing. They are not likely to stand but we will wait and see.
- Assembly Bill 1119 in Wisconsin was approved and signed into law, Increased funding for SSSG grant for \$500,000 per year. Provides additional funding for shelters and motel vouchers.
- Next WIBOSCOC meeting will be held May 21 and 22 at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. August meeting is August 20 and 21 at Lake of the Torches. November meeting is November 12 and 13 at the Kalahari in the Dells.
- COC Application is coming up. Kim will be scheduling a community conversation about information that needs to be provided to the WIBOSCOC for the Collaborative application.
- DEHCR funding application should be out in the last week of February.
- New TBRA applications will be out in April. This can be for new applicants and renewals.

- Working on definitions and rules for shared housing involving FMR and utility allowances. Hopefully might make it easier to allow for shared housing situations.

BOS Committee Updates:

- System Performance Measures – Melanie Hamel reported that the Service Point website will be updated soon and she will be sending out a link.
- Discharge Planning – Daniella Fohr reported that this group is working on discharge planning from hospitals and foster care to find resources for these clients. Next focus will be jail inmates.

Confirmation of EHH LEAD Agency – vote was completed by Survey Monkey - a quorum was achieved and the YWCA will continue as Lead Agency.

4. CCEH Updates:

Innovation Teams are doing GREAT work!

- a. Homeless Prevention – meeting this month to make some exciting changes to current CCEH Prevention Program – holding a meeting this Thursday with Bob Henderson to discuss evictions in La Crosse – 2pm in Rm 2200 in the County Admin Bldg – ALL are welcome
- b. Housing Stability – completed their survey of why people become homeless - INCOME was the number one reason - and are honing in on their first project
- c. Housing Development – planning a half day meeting on 3/24 to bring new agencies on board to apply for available new HUD funding
- d. Landlord Liaison – held very successful meeting of interested providers across all teams to help identify what we need in a LL Project
- e. Systems Navigation – has begun building the Navigation Tool into the new website (yes, there is a new website underway!)

Strategic Planning Session is set for 3/5/20 – THIS IS SO EXCITING!

- f. Invitations have been sent
- g. Innovation Team Leads were invited – if they are not able to attend they should work with their Teams to identify a person to come and represent the Team

- h. Initial draft of plan will be shared with full membership to get input before final draft is completed

Data thru January 2020 is available on website (password: CCEHRocks)

- i. New graphs with Coordinated Entry Assessment information were added in January
- j. New link to ICA Monthly System Performance Measures Dashboard

Thanks to everyone who attended the January Quarterly System Performance Review

- k. Next one will be April 21st
- l. Any suggestions on how to make it better?

5. January Point in Time Count – Final report is not completed, but the count took place on January 22 and 6 unsheltered people were counted that night, mostly staying in cars.
6. 2020 Census – Kim Cable sits on the La Crosse County Complete Count Committee. This group is actively planning how best to include the homeless in the census count, which is important since it is a determinant in various funding sources that benefit the community. She handed out an informational handout, as well as some great swag, including lanyards, water bottles and bag clips.
7. Agency Updates:
 - Kevin Hundt was present from Coulee Tenants United, which he stated is affiliated with the Democratic Socialist Party and is concerned with political/economic issues. This group is a resource to people who feel they have been treated unfairly by their landlords. They can be reached at 608-305-4645 or couleetenantsunited@gmail.com.
 - Melisa Myers introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board. She will be doing an agency presentation in May.
 - Homeless Connect Planning Committee – Becky Koske announced that planning starts next Monday the 24th for this year's event. A 10am meeting on February 24 will take place at the Couleecap Conference Room. All are welcome. This group will meet monthly for now, with more frequent meetings closer to the actual event in July.

8. Upcoming Agency Presentations:

- March – CDBG Grant. City of La Crosse
- April – Vivent Health (formerly AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin)
- May – Workforce Development Board

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary