

MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2021

PRESENT: Mike Basford (WI Interagency Council on Homelessness), Kristi Bechtel (La Crosse County), Jane Benschawel (YWCA), Molly Betts (MHS Health WI), Katie Berkedal (La Crosse Community Foundation), Randall Brown (CAC, CCEH Vice-Chair), Kevin Burch (Catholic Charities), Teresa Byland (La Crosse County JSS, CCEH Secretary), Kim Cable (Couleecap), Michael Fitzgerald (ILR), Kevin Fox (Vivent Health), Karl Green (UW Extension La Crosse), Michael Hanke (Klein Hall – Chippewa Falls LSS), Nick Harding (Catholic Charities), Isaac Hoffman (La Crosse County LAFD), Kevin Hundt (Coulee Tenants United), Mary Jacobson (Family and Children's Center), Carrie Jick (Salvation Army), Becky Koske (Couleecap), Catherine Lange (Mayo Clinic), Anthony Larsen (CVI), Mai Lee (Cia Siab), Le Anne Martinez (CAC), Meredith McCoy (WISBOSCO), Jeanne Meyer (Families First, Monroe County), Chandra Miller (DVA), Melissa Myers (Workforce Development Board), Sadie Nelson (ILR), Carol Onstad (First Free Church), Nancy Parcher (La Crosse Schools), Desiree Parker (VA), Robert Partarrieu (Catholic Charities), Shannon Parker (Catholic Charities), Alicia Place (La Crosse Schools), Tracy Rieger (Catholic Charities), Mark Schimpf (Couleecap, CCEH Chair), Dalia Simpson (Catholic Charities), Tennille Spears (YWCA), Tina Tryggestad (Couleecap), Stephanie Van Hulst (Institute for Community Alliance), Toni Van Kirk (Catholic Charities), Abby Waters (Great Rivers HUB), Mary Kay Wolf (Great Rivers United Way), Fue Yang (ILR).

1. Approval of February minutes.
2. Agency Presentation - Alicia Place – Homeless Liaison for La Crosse Schools. McKinney-Vento federal law requires education for homeless children, district must identify liaison. Reviewed definitions, law. Transitional housing recipients are considered homeless under this definition. Section 8 not eligible. Rights of homeless children are defined by this act and include: can be enrolled immediately without paperwork, transportation must be provided, including to school of origin, automatic free school breakfast and lunch, costs covered (school supplies, field trips). Important for stability, consistency, academic progress. Mark will send out info after the meeting.
3. BOS Updates – Kim Cable – March 2nd monthly meeting, resolution passed for new committee Diversity and Inclusion. Kim will be the Chair, recruiting new members. Each BOS committee has a charter, can be seen on BOS website. Let Kim know if you would be interested in serving on a BOS committee. Kevin Burch – serves on Finance Committee, stressed importance of local involvement on statewide BOS committees. Also discussed challenge of BOS to come up with matching funds for various grants. Staff time can help to cover match requirements.
4. Interim Executive Committee Membership Update - Mark Schimpf – so far – Kristi Bechtel, Jane Benschawel, Katie Berkedal, Sandy Brekke, Randall Brown, Hetti Brown, Kevin Burch, Krista Coey, City of La Crosse representative (TBD), Mary Jacobson, Jane Klekamp, Kathie Knoble-Iverson, Jeanne Meyer, Alicia Place, Heidi Svee, Mary Kay Wolf, – most major agencies covered. More info to come as the group develops. Meeting will be scheduled in next couple weeks.

5. Day Center and Youth Shelter Funding – Jane Benschawel – representing YWCA, the lead agency for both grants. The Day Center partners with the YWCA are the Salvation Army, Couleecap, ILR, and Catholic Charities. This will be a community space for those affected by homelessness to provide a safe place to gather, link to services. Still need a location for day center, preferably commercially zoned downtown. Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter partners are BLACK, 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection, Cia Siab, The Center and FCC. State and federal funding as well as HUD funding, is in place and temporary. Site located, will be announced when lease is signed.
6. Couleecap COVID Rental Assistance – Kim Cable – 2nd round of rental assistance payment, part of COVID relief money. 15 months available, including arrears up to 12 months, even in subsidized housing. Lot rent, security deposits, long term motel also eligible. File for energy assistance as first step. Helpful links: <http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/> and www.couleecap.org/rentalassistance.
7. Consumer Advisory Council Update – Le Anne Martinez – still working on Peer Support, looking to attract more consumers to get involved, hoping to get involved with upcoming Homeless Connect event, want to get the word out about CAC. Happy Birthday Randall!
8. Homeless Connect – Mark Schimpf - Hearts in the Park group is going to do another event, some time over the summer. We are looking at possibly partnering with them. Let Mark know if you are interested in helping with the planning of this event.
9. Agency Updates:
 - Mike Basford – Governor’s budget as related to homelessness – Mark will distribute a memo on the subject. Highlights: largest investment in homelessness in WI history. Details in memo.
 - Kevin Hundt – Coulee Tenants United – formed a year and a half ago, self-education about rental laws, available for brainstorming about tenant issues. Website for further info: <http://coulee.dsawi.org/la-crosse-tenants-united/>
 - Mike Hanke – Chippewa Falls Veterans Housing – space available for veterans. Single males, 48 beds in C. Falls, 17 beds in Green Bay. michaelhanke@lsswis.org for more info.

Next meeting: April 20, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary