

Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2021

Present: Tennila Amerine (Couleecap), Ricardo Avecedo (Social Security Admin), Mike Basford, (WI Interagency Council on Homelessness), Kristi Bechtel (La Crosse County HS), Jane Benzschawel, (Youth Homeless Collaborative), Katie Berkedal (La Crosse Community Foundation), Molly Betts (MHS Health WI), Sarah Bowman (Consumer Advisory Council), Sandra Brekke (Gundersen Health System), Randall Brown (CAC, CCEH Vice-Chair), Teresa Byland (La Crosse County JSS, CCEH Secretary), Kim Cable (Couleecap), Kael Clemmerson (New Beginnings), Michael Fitzpatrick (ILR), Kevin Fox (Vivent Health), Karl Green (UW Extension, La Crosse), Michael Hanke (LSS Chippewa Falls), Nick Harding (Catholic Charities), Isaac Hoffman (La Crosse County LAFC), Kevin Hundt (Coulee Tenants United), Dominick Jacobs (LCPD), Mary Jacobson (Family and Childrens Center), Jane Klelamp (La Crosse Co. Admin), Karen Knox (YWCA), David Konkol (First Free Church, Onalaska), Becky Koske (Couleecap), Anthony Larsen (CVI), Mai Lee (Cia Siab Inc), Le Anne Martinez (CAC), Jeanne Meyer (Families First), Sadie Nelson (ILR), Ellen Oligney (ILR), Ben Olson (Bay Area Council Boy Scouts), Nancy Parcher (La Crosse School District), Dawn Reinhart (City of La Crosse Planning), Mark Schimpf (Couleecap, CCEH Chair), Dalia Simpson (Catholic Charities), Anneliese Skoda (La Crosse County ISRS), Heidi Svee (New Horizons), Tina Tryggestad (Couleecap), Stephanie Van Hulst (Institute for Community Alliances), Toni Van Kirk (Catholic Charities), Abby Waters (Great Rivers HUB), Erin Wencil (Marine Credit Union), Billie Wise (Couleecap), Mary Kay Wolf (Great Rivers United Way), Fue Yang (ILR).

1. March Minutes approved.

2. Agency Presentation – Marine Credit Union Foundation – Erin Wencil – Overview of services offered by the Marine Credit Union that benefit low income individuals. The Credit Union also has a charitable foundation that benefits community organizations as well as CU members in need. The Finding Home Program helps individuals plan for home ownership through 12-18 months of financial counseling and planning. For more info contact Majel Hein at 608-791-1385, majel.hein@marinecu.com.

3. Agency Presentation – Bay Area Council “Summer of Service” – Ben Olson – Meeting 4/26 at 4pm Zoom meeting – coordinate project between community organizations, looking for ideas about project that could happen between May and July utilizing Boy Scouts. If you are interested, reach out to Ben at Benjamin.olson@scouting.org.

4. Balance of State Updates:

- Kim Cable – referring to email from Carrie Poser – lots of info including upcoming BOS meeting - May 13 full day of training, May 14 BOS Business Meeting. Both will be virtual. Homeless Services Forum next Monday 9-10:30 RE: Covid issues. Advocacy Week coming up, opportunity to speak with legislators.

- Mark Schimpf –Kim Cable’s 2 year term expires in April, delegate needs to be in place by May. Concerned about timeline because it seems too short. Kim willing to remain as delegate until a replacement is elected. Mary Jacobson suggests we need to be transparent with the BOS. Do nominations for the next 3 weeks, review at the May meeting, link to vote after may meeting, vote at June meeting, August would be first BOS meeting they would attend. No objections. Mark reviewed the role of the delegate, which has been sent out previously in an email.

5. Day Center and Youth Shelter Updates – Karen Knox – a location for the day center is identified and pending, services in the works. Jane Benschawel – youth shelter at Family and Childrens Center, licensing is in the process. Two positions will be hired, posted on social media. YWCA will be hiring shelter coordinator in near future. 5-8 beds in the shelter, all genders. The name will be RHYMES- Runaway and Homeless Youth Mediation and Emergency Services.

6. CCEH Transition/Restructuring – Mary Jacobson – survey was sent out and results will be reviewed next week, next steps will be defined at that point.

7. Consumer Advisory Council Update – No update.

8. Homeless Connect Update – Connecting with Hearts in the Park – possible July date . More info coming.

9. Agency Updates:

- May 5 Open House in Tomah, at 3:30, Families First of Monroe County, see the new office space. 1500 N. Superior Ave, Suite 2, in Tomah. Shared parking with Goodwill.
- Coulee Tenants United is pushing for Right to Counsel particularly for eviction cases in La Crosse and intends to ask the city council to increase access to housing inspectors.

Next Meeting – May 18, 2021 at 2:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary