

Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2021

PRESENT: Tennila Amerine (Couleecap), Mike Basford, (WI Interagency Council on Homelessness), Kristi Bechtel (La Crosse County HS), Sue Bennett (La Crosse Co. Health Dept.) Molly Betts (MHS Health WI), Randall Brown (CAC, CCEH Vice-Chair), Kevin Burch (Catholic Charities), Teresa Byland (La Crosse County JSS, CCEH Secretary), Kael Clemmerson (New Beginnings), Krista Coey (Salvation Army), Daniella Fohr (SalvationArmy), Kevin Fox (Vivent Health), Michael Hanke (LSS Chippewa Falls), Isaac Hoffman (La Crosse County LAFC), Kevin Hundt (Coulee Tenants United), Mary Jacobson (Family and Childrens Center), Lauren Journot (YWCA), Becky Koske (Couleecap), Le Anne Martinez (CAC), Meredith McCoy (WIBOSCO), Julie McDermid (The Exchange), Jeanne Meyer (Families First), Jay Odegaard (La Crosse Parks Dept.), Kari Porter (La Crosse Vets Ctr), Wes Porter (La Crosse Vets Ctr), Ellen Oligney (ILR), Nancy Parcher (La Crosse School District), Dawn Reinhart (City of La Crosse Planning), Jen Roberdeau (YWCA), Amy Schanhofer (Scenic Bluffs), 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), Mary Kay Wolf (Great Rivers United Way).

1. June Meeting Minutes – No changes or additions. Approved.
2. Housing Navigation Team Update – Isaac Hoffman – developed Housing Navigation Guide to assist staff working with individuals looking for housing, since the process can be difficult. 2 purposes – as a training guide for new workers and also to be used as a public training. Let Isaac or one of the committee members know if you would like them to present this tool to your staff. The committee members are: Dillon Mader from Project Proven, Alicia Place from the La Crosse School District, Anthony Larsen of CVI, Julie McDermid from The Exchange, Kish Hudson of ILR and Fue Yang, formerly of ILR.
3. Houska Park Encampment – Jay Odegaard – Cameron Park encampment had been creating problems for nearby businesses. City looked for an area where individuals could camp to get them away from downtown, put in port-potties, washing stations, trash cans, electricity, etc. 37 tents are there as of this morning. Will look into the possibility of having a phone available in case of an emergency. City has not put a cap on the number of people that will be allowed to live there. Not sure what will happen in the winter, whether everyone will go to shelters or if some people will opt to stay at the park over the winter. ILR is going there 2x weekly minimum for outreach – meals will be provided on Thursday and Sundays, with more hopefully coming –

no more meals at Cameron Park. Portable shower units were considered but won't be provided at this time due to cost. This encampment is being run on a shoestring budget – if any agencies are able to provide camp showers or any other resources to help, it would be great. Individuals are asking for yoga or sleeping mats, pillows and flat sheets.

4. Balance of State Updates: Kristi Bechtel – Diversity and Inclusion Committee has been created, Kim Cable is chairing. Hoping to recruit more diversity on the BOS Board. Trainings will be offered on Motivational Interviewing again. August 12 – Training Day – Friday August 13 will be Quarterly Meeting. Training to be offered on helping clients deal with finances. Check it out on BOS website

A. Delegate Election Results – Jeanne Meyer is new delegate to BOS.

B. YHDP NOFO Update - Mary Jacobson – Locally Kristi and Mary will be attending meetings to put together the grant application through our BOS. Should be long process – app is due by the end of July but beyond that is extensive planning.

5. CCEH Transition Updates – Mary Kay Wolf - Transition team has met with City – the City is hiring a homeless position within the Planning Dept. May include landlord liaison role. Would not be replacement for manager role in CCEH. Would serve only the City due to funding sources.

6. Day Center and RHYMES Update – Lauren Journot – Location will be 11th and King Building. Hiring for positions for Shelter Director, will then hire advocate positions. No longer calling the Day Center by that name, haven't decided on name yet.

7. PIT Count Planning – Becky Koske – July 22nd – look for an email in early July re: a planning meeting, possibly Tuesday afternoon the 6th to plan routes and teams etc.

8. Homeless Connect Planning Update – Becky Koske – No event last year – also won't be doing traditional event this year. We have the La Crosse Center reserved for 2022. This year we will join with Hearts in the Park to provide an event in late October/early November. Planning will continue. Please reach out to Becky if you want to help with the planning.

9. Consumer Advisory Council Update – CAC (Le Anne Martinez and Randall Brown) will be involved in planning of the above event, set up a booth to reach out to homeless individuals. Randall is taking his Peer Specialist exam soon. Continuing outreach with homeless individuals to offer help.

10. Agency Updates:

A. Coulee Tenants United – Kevin Hundt – Everyone is invited to two online seminars being offered through the La Crosse Public Library on June 21 and June 28, 6:30-8:00pm. Register on these links:

<https://www.lacrosselibrary.org/homelessness-and-housing-complex-problems-and-proven-solutions-part-1> and <https://www.lacrosselibrary.org/homelessness-and-housing-complex-problems-and-proven-solutions-part-2>.

B. Julie McDermid – The Exchange has a waiting list for AC units and fans. Clients need to apply to get on the waiting list for these items, can get other furniture items right away. Send phone and email contact info on yourself and your client when you apply.

C. Housing available for single male veterans through LSS in Chippewa Falls – contact Mike Hanke to make a referral.

D. New Beginnings - Kale Clemmerson – still looking for a new building, please reach out if you know of anything.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021 AT 2:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary