

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 16, 2020

Present on Zoom: Kristina Bechtel, Sue Bennett, Molly Betts, Sandy Brekke, Randall Brown, Alex Burg, Teresa Byland, Kael Clemmerson, Kim Cable, Kevin Fox, Melanie Hamel, Isaac Hoffman, Kevin Hundt, Mary Jacobson, Carrie Jick, Becky Koske, Anthony Larson, Mai Lee, Lt. Phil Martin, Le Anne Martinez, Julie McDermid, Ellen Oligney, Alicia Place, Jared Reed, Mark Schimpf, Abby Waters.

1. February Meeting Minutes – No changes or additions.
2. Funding and Program Updates:
 - Couleecap and WRAP (Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program) – Kim Cable gave this update – The state has launched WRAP specifically for those affected by COVID-19. Couleecap is designated to distribute funds for this program. Client must demonstrate loss of income due to COVID-19 and must be behind on their rent payments. Assistance cannot be used to assist those in subsidized housing. Details can be found on www.couleecap.org, including a pre-screening document. For clients without computer access, call 608-455-0198.
 - FSPA and Prevention Funding - Julie McDermid – clients screened by Couleecap and found not eligible for WRAP will be referred to the Prevention Prioritization List for assistance from other programs and funding sources. Funding has been bolstered by support from Gundersen, FSPA and other sources. All agencies who are part of the Coordinated Entry System will be referring clients to Couleecap and/or to the Prevention Prioritization List so they are considered for all possible assistance available.
 - EHH and CoC Grants – Melanie Hamel - No update available, but funding is secure for 2021.
 - CDBG Funding – Julie - The City received just over half a million dollars in additional CDBG funds. The Community Development committee decided to broadly allocate \$250000 of that to homeless services in the community. The funding will be available to agencies to apply for – up to \$80000 each to be used over a period of 18mos – to provide housing navigation staff and case management staff for supported housing programs and prevention programming. The City released the RFP for agencies to respond to last week and the applications are due in early July. Please contact Caroline Gregerson at the City of La Crosse for more information. The rest of the CDBG funding the city received will go to support childcare services and small businesses in our community.
 - Additional ESG Funding – Melanie – our 4 county region has received \$611K for COVID-19 related prevention/response. The funds have not been released yet but invoices can be back-dated.
3. Shelter Updates:

- Salvation Army – Carrie Jick – not many changes recently – clients are still somewhat restricted in their ability to come and go. The meal program is still going but usage is low. The average is 30 residents per night. Residents are asked for COVID-19 tests before admission but it is not required. Out of hotel vouchers.
- New Horizons – Ellen Oligney – the shelter is open, but numbers are limited due to social distancing – just one family per room. Residents have temps taken daily, strict cleaning protocols are in place as well as screening upon intake.
- Ruth House – Melanie – business as usual. One client per room, additional cleaning and monitoring in place.

At this point in the meeting, Julie expressed her thanks to the many people who have stepped up to help the various agencies during the crisis.

4. Coulee CoC Outreach Plan – Kim – the Balance of State has informed us that there is no longer a requirement to do the July Point-in-Time count but we are expected to do outreach. We can decide locally if we want to do an overnight street count on July 23-24. Becky Koske has offered to coordinate if enough people are willing to volunteer. Meetings are taking place to discuss plans for outreach, hopefully the city will allow this to take place in a city park, preferably away from downtown. Julie supports doing the PIT count as well as the stepped-up outreach.
5. After Hours Plan - Mark Schimpf sent out for review. Please send him any comments/changes you wish to suggest – a revised document will be sent out for a vote.
6. Balance of State Update:
 - Mary Jacobson’s term on the board is up in November. She is eligible for one more term and may be interested.
 - Kim Cable is newly elected to the board representing agencies that serve the chronically homeless. So now we have two representatives from our area on the state board!
 - Other updates – no in-person quarterly meeting has been held due to the COVID-19 quarantine. Remote meetings may be held in the future. Julie is working with the BOS on PPE equipment to address local needs.
7. Collaborative Updates:
 - Strategic Plan – Julie reports it is off-track due to COVID-19. A draft should be coming soon from Erin Healy.
 - Outreach update – ILR reports in 2nd quarter of fiscal year (3 months late 2019) 20 additional people were housed. Might be hiring staff to assist.
 - Quarterly meeting and system review in August – most likely a Zoom meeting.
8. Membership Agreements and Governance Documents – Mark is reminding all to complete membership agreements. Governance documents will be sent out and a vote will be taken in August.

9. Peer Support Training – Le Anne Martinez reported that this has been delayed due to COVID-19. Training was supposed to take place at Western Tech but that appears to have fallen through. ILR may be a resource. Randall Brown reported that the CAC will be meeting on Thursday and will be discussing how best to provide Peer Support Training.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020 AT 2:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary