

Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2021

Present: Tennila Amerine (Couleecap), Richard Acevedo (Social Security Admin), Izabel Balk (ILR), 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), Kevin Fox (Vivent Health), Isaac Hoffman (La Crosse County LAFC), Kevin Hundt (Coulee Tenants United), Mary Jacobson (Family and Childrens Center), Becky Koske (Couleecap), Anthony Larsen (CVI), Le Anne Martinez (CAC), Bob Matthews, Meredith McCoy (WIBOSCO), Julie McDermid (The Exchange), Abby Mestad (Great Rivers HUB), Jeanne Meyer (Families First), Chandler Miller (DVA), Sadie Nelson (ILR), Ellen Oligney (ILR), Nancy Parcher (La Crosse School District), Danielle Person, Alicia Place (La Crosse Schools), Dawn Reinhart (City of La Crosse Planning), Jen Roberdeau (YWCA), Pat Ruda (FSPA), Amy Schanhofer (Scenic Bluffs), Mark Schimpf (St.Clare Health Mission, CCEH Chair), Dalia Simpson (Catholic Charities), Tennille Spears (YWCA), Tina Tryggstad (Couleecap), Toni Van Kirk (Catholic Charities).

1. August Meeting Minutes – No changes or additions. Approved.
2. Agency Presentation:
 - Housing Stability Team Presentation – Abby Mestad – Great Rivers HUB – Rent Smart program -will send out copy of power point presentation. Services include budgeting assistance, how to communicate with landlord, and lease/eviction information. This info is available for other professionals to provide to clients.
3. July Point in Time Count: Becky Koske – July numbers - 90 unsheltered individuals (may have actually been more than 100), 61 were in shelters. In January the count was 8 unsheltered and 171 in shelters.
4. Wisconsin Balance of State Updates: Kristi Bechtel

- COC competition underway. Reminder – feel free to apply to rapid re-housing and other program for bonus dollars.
 - BOS awarded YHDP grant (Youth Homeless Demonstration Program) \$7.5 million – we need to submit an action plan on how we would spend our share of the money. It will be competitive and there is no guarantee we will receive any of these funds. HUD is offering an additional \$12,500 to coalitions to use for planning purposes/coordinate plan for the region. \$5,000 match requirement. Looking for an agency who would be willing to accept these funds and take on this role. Shaundel Spivey from BLACK may be willing to do this.
5. Day Resource Center and Youth Shelter Updates – Day Center is open as of today. Open House tentatively scheduled for October 12 4-7pm. Abby from Couleecap is overseeing 2 positions there, including Landlord Liaison and Coordinated Entry Specialist. Opportunity to meet Landlord Liaison will be coming soon. Working on a brochure with info about the offerings at the Center.
6. Dues Discussion – Kristi Bechtel – BOS dues are currently \$250 per year for each coalition. Vote on 3 things:
- Approval of raising membership dues,
 - Proposed new dues would be \$1350 flat or \$1663 (percentage of COC grants), Option C recommended.
 - Do we go with flat rate or percentage?

Should the cost of dues should be spread among all agencies since everyone benefits from the COC funding, even though only two agencies receive the funding? How would we break it down, what would be the cost per agency?

Mark will send out a google poll for voting.

7. Consumer Advisory Council –Le Anne Martinez - CAC thanks the new Day Resource Center for giving them space for CAC Meetings. Next week Randall and Le Anne will be taking state exam for peer support specialists.
8. 2021 Homeless Memorial Committee – Kristi – first meeting October 22. Let Kristi know if you would like to participate.
9. Winter Shelter Updates/Discussion – City has some money to provide services for winter sheltering. Salvation Army talking with city about opening Warming Center early and possible hotel vouchers. Warming Center looking at sheltering 32 people each night. No info yet on whether the city will allow camping in Houska Park over the winter. Lots of behind the scenes work going on to come up with plans for getting our homeless population through the upcoming winter. More info to come.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary