

Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2021

Present: Tennila Amerine (Couleecap), Ricardo Avecedo (Social Security Admin), Mike Basford, (WI Interagency Council on Homelessness), Kristi Bechtel (La Crosse County HS), Katie Berkedal (La Crosse Community Foundation), Sue Bennett (La Crosse Co. Health Dept.), Molly Betts (MHS Health WI), Sandra Brekke (Gundersen Health System), Kevin Burch (Catholic Charities), Teresa Byland (La Crosse County JSS, CCEH Secretary), Kim Cable (Couleecap), Kael Clemmerson (New Beginnings), Krista Coey (Salvation Army), Allison DePoole (Salvation Army), 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), Mary Jacobson (Family and Childrens Center), Lauren Journot (YWCA), Becky Koske (Couleecap), Catherine Lange (Mayo Clinic), Anthony Larsen (CVI), Nathan Lewis (LCPD NRO), Le Anne Martinez (CAC), Meredith McCoy (WIBOSCOC), Julia McDermid (The Exchange), Jeanne Meyer (Families First), Chandra Miller (DVA), Ellen Oligney (ILR), Nancy Parcher (La Crosse School District), Shannon Parker (Catholic Charities), Alicia Place (La Crosse Schools), Dawn Reinhart (City of La Crosse Planning), Jen Roberdeau (YWCA), Pat Ruda (FSPA), Mark Schimpf (Couleecap, CCEH Chair), Dalia Simpson (Catholic Charities), Anneliese Skoda (La Crosse County ISRS), Tennille Spears (YWCA), 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. April Minutes approved.

2. Q&A with Coulee CoC Delegate Nominees – Two nominees introduced themselves. Families First of Monroe County Executive Director – Jeanne Meyer. Director of Social Services at Salvation Army - Krista Coey. Mark has sent out questionnaires completed by both candidates, please review. Voting link will be sent out soon.

3. Balance of State updates – Kim Cable.

- New Board Chair has been elected – Lisa Haen. Cheryl Dietrich is new Vice-Chair.
- COC competition is expected to start at the beginning of summer.
- Review of recent trainings, upcoming trainings. Trauma and Resilience and Motivational Interviewing have been very popular. Carrie Poser will send emails re: upcoming trainings.
- EHH Grant – should be hearing soon. YWCA has been the lead agency on this grant.
- Emergency Housing Vouchers – La Crosse County and City will not be receiving any vouchers at this time.
- Desk monitoring is in place for WIBOSCOC sub-grantees. New contracts will be sent to local COC's for sub-grantees.
- Wisconsin will receive \$10 million as part of the American Rescue Plan's homeless allocation. Webinars will be scheduled to discuss the use of these funds – watch for an email from Carrie Poser.

4. EHH Lead Agency – Lauren Journot – YWCA is happy to continue as lead agency for this grant. ESP, HPP funds, sub-recipients get some of the funds, not just YWCA. Emergency housing, prevention and

rapid re-housing. **A vote was taken and the vote was unanimous that the YWCA continue as Lead Agency for the EHH Grant.**

5. Coulee CoC Action Plan Progress – Kim Cable. We were assigned several areas to work on, including adopting policies regarding Fair Housing, Involuntary Family Separation and Discrimination, and Education of Children Experiencing Homelessness. **A vote was taken and the vote was unanimous to adopt these policies.**

6. Day Center and Youth Shelter updates – YWCA. Day Center – still no building located yet. 11th and King location still a possibility. Youth Shelter – location in place, posted supervisor position. 1st Wednesday of the month meeting on this project – contact Jane Beschwamel if you would like to attend. Grant funds must be spent by April 2022.

7. CCEH Transition/Restructuring – Mary Kay Wolf and Mary Jacobson – Recent survey – reviewed results. Survey supported combining the Collaborative, CoC, and Coalition. Respondents favored having a project manager, with the PM housed at local government agency. There were many answers regarding the role of project manager. Meeting with the mayor this Friday, mayor may be pursuing the hiring of a Housing position, county will also be present. Survey results will be sent out to all.

8. Consumer Advisory Council Update – no update.

9. Agency Updates –

- Kevin Hundt – Coulee Tenants United hosting 2 info sessions re: homelessness and housing. June 21 and one other date in June. For more info contact Coulee Tenants United. Info will be sent out closer to the date.
- Abby Waters – Great Rivers Hub – 2 community health positions open, both are Spanish speaking positions.
- Mike Basford, State Interagency Council on Homelessness – Eviction Data Project launched last week – tracking data on evictions. Thursday this week the state legislature will review homeless budget. Link to website to offer your opinion:
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/committees/joint/2293>.
- Alicia Place – school district has received a grant this year for services to homeless children. Summer referrals should go to Alicia if you are aware of children in need.
- Mike Hanke – Housing is available for homeless veterans. Contact Mike to make a referral.
Michael.hanke@lsswis.org.

Next Meeting – June 15, 2021 at 2:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Byland, Secretary