

La Crosse Collaborative to End Homelessness

Collaborative, diverse, and compassionate individuals working to eliminate homelessness in La Crosse County.

Meeting Minutes

March 20th, 2018

Present: Kevin Fox, Melanie Hamel, Kim Cable, Abbi Jeffers, Sue Bennett, Kathie Knoble-Iverson, Kael Clemmerson, Alisha Gaunitz, Deborah Kelly, Kaitlyn Hamann, Silke Sambataro, Becky Koske, Jane Alberts, Brian Hopkins, Emilie Lindquist, Amanda Kubista-Owen, Kristina Bechtel, Patrick Dienger, Tristine Bauman, Kevin Burch, Chandra Cox, Mary Jacobson, Julie McDermid, Caroline Gregerson, Mark Schimpf

1. Agency Presentation – Affordable Housing in La Crosse
2. Introductions
3. Wisconsin Balance of State By-Laws
 - a. Discussion of three options for board composition
 - b. Timeline for input, vote by CoC, and submissionThe major points of discussion of the BOS by-laws relating to board composition are presented below:
 - The relevant information (pro/con list from BOS, meeting minutes from town hall discussion at last BOS quarterly meeting, and timeline) has been distributed several times to the email list for the membership committee.
 - A vote will be held at the April 17th membership committee that will decide the recommendation of the CoC as the BOS by-laws as they relate to board composition. Changes and input can be submitted right up to the vote in May by the BOS.
 - An amendment will likely be introduced that will prevent multiple board members from the same agency.
 - It was noted that the pro/con list for the composition options was largely based on input from CoCs. Option 3 represents the most significant change and would not be consistent with other similar bodies across the country.**Option 1: No Change**
 - It is a challenge for a board member to take into account input from multiple CoCs, especially when their opinions may differ. Board members may have trouble acting if the input they receive is highly conflicted.
 - In current composition, it is possible for local voices to not be heard on important issues.
 - Smaller number of board members helps the board be more efficient. Board is concerned with state-level issues (e.g. policies, funding) that affect the entire BOS, it is not focused on local level issues.
 - Even with current board composition, major votes are still done by BOS board, and then voted on by local CoCs. However, not every issue voted on the by the BOS board comes before the membership committees at the CoC level.

-There is concern with the current composition, that the representation may not be proportional (e.g. rural regions having same number of reps as more population regions).

Option 2: Five Regions

-This option creates a fifth region, not necessarily any more board members than option 1.

-Less hung votes for election of board members.

-Many board members are from organizations that are funded, increasing board members, especially from other settings, will help diversify the board and get more people vested in the work.

-It is noted that we shouldn't try to fix something that isn't broken in the first place. Coulee CoC is still getting its funding.

-This measure could be a good middle ground that establishes the ground for bigger change to the board later. However, by-laws, as a rule, shouldn't change very often.

-This option doesn't allow for local, grass-roots input, which is a founding principle of the BOS.

-More voices on the board would respect local innovation and local forces.

All members of CoCs in the BOS can submit feedback on all issues before the board.

-By adding more board members, there is a risk to decision making. However, more discussion and careful contemplation is typically helpful.

Option 3: Each LC Has 1 Board Member

-Wide variety of voices. This could help foster discussion, diversify viewpoints, and amplify local issues.

-Setting monthly board meetings with a large group may prove to be a challenge.

-The intent of this measure is to introduce more diversity and give more voices to local CoCs, and the intent matters more than the size.

-Active members would be rewarded, but this may also push less active CoCs into action.

-More local voices may distract from state-level focus of the BOS board.

-This measure would set forth a challenge to smaller CoCs to be more active and engaged. They won't be able to just let the larger CoCs dominate the conversation.

Voting Logistics

-Vote will happen in person at the next membership committee meeting on April 17th. All materials relating to the vote, including these minutes, will be emailed to the CoC distribution list.

-Consensus was reached that the votes will be one per agency, or one per department in the case of La Crosse County and other similar bodies.

-Agencies that are unable to attend the April 17th meeting will be able to email their votes to Mark and he will bring those votes to the meeting.

4. EHH Grant from State – Determination of a lead agency
 - Kim Cable introduced the topic. EHH grant (formerly ETH) needs a single lead agency. Traditionally, there were two lead agencies for the grant – the rural areas were lead by Couleecap and La Crosse was lead by the YWCA. In a meeting of the relevant agencies, a vote was held and the result was that the YWCA would be the lead agency for the new EHH grant. A vote was brought before the membership committee as to whether they supported the YWCA being the lead agency for the EHH grant. YWCA was supported as the lead agency in a unanimous voice vote.
5. Agency updates
6. Upcoming agency presentations
 - a. April - Aptiv
 - b. May
 - c. June

Submitted by: Mark Schimpf – Catholic Charities