

# La Crosse Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

## **Meeting Minutes March 22, 2017**

Present: Liz Evans (United Way); Teresa Silcox (YWCA of La Crosse); Ruthann Schultz (YWCA of La Crosse); Darren Danhoff (Family & Children's Center); Shirley Schmeckpepper (citizen); Doug Schmeckpepper (citizen); Darek Johnson (Salvation Army of La Crosse); Jim Bagniewski (Shelter Development); Chandler Miller (Salvation Army of La Crosse); Abigail Jeffers (Salvation Army of La Crosse); Tennille Spears (Salvation Army of La Crosse); Kristina Bechtel (La Crosse Co. ISRS); Tina An (UW Green Bay student); Kayla Guepfer (Viterbo University Nursing Student); Sue Bennett (La Crosse Co. Health Dept.); Becky Koske (Couleecap); Molly Betts (Couleecap); Chandra Cox (Couleecap); Tristine Bauman (Catholic Charities); Anneliese Skoda (La Crosse Co. ISRS); Teresa Byland (La Crosse Co. Justice Support Services); Regina Siegel (La Crosse School District); Melanie Hamel (YWCA of La Crosse); Kim Cable (Couleecap)

1. Tennille Spears from the Salvation Army gave a presentation on their Change Program.
  - a. Prevention Program
  - b. Intended to keep people in housing vs. facing eviction. Prevents homelessness.
  - c. 90 day program
  - d. Works with unstable families
    - i. Case Management Services (every other week to 1x per month)
    - ii. Information and Referral
    - iii. 1 month of rental assistance payment
    - iv. Typically work with families for 90 days, but some have stayed in for up to a year.
    - v. Work with CCCS, work on credit counseling and budgeting
    - vi. Interact with schools when necessary
    - vii. Completely grant funded
    - viii. Currently supporting 15 families, but can also help with singles
2. Tent City Update:
  - a. The La Crosse Collaborative is working with City Hall and the Mayor's office to come up with a plan for Tent City
    - i. Lots of ideas on the table, discussions moving forward
    - ii. WE have room for people in shelter right now!
    - iii. People/groups are supporting people to stay in tent city and we need to focus our efforts locally on a plan
    - iv. Free storage for personal belongings at the Methodist Church
  - b. People feel that additional dumpsters and garbage cans are needed
  - c. Some folks don't want to come in to shelter, what then?
3. Nominations for leadership of Collaborative
  - a. Chandra Cox from Couleecap offered to lead a nomination committee
  - b. Other volunteers for the committee:
    - i. Molly Betts
    - ii. Tristine Bauman
    - iii. Sue Bennett
    - iv. Abby Jeffers

4. Homeless Connect Update:

- a. Tristine Bauman and Becky Koske are co-chairing this committee
- b. Next meeting is today and after each Collaborative Meeting
- c. Committee Members:
  - i. Chandra Cox
  - ii. Becky Koske
  - iii. Tristine Bauman
  - iv. Sue Bennett
  - v. Tennille Spears
  - vi. Jim Bagniewski
  - vii. Darren Danhoff
  - viii. Teresa Byland
  - ix. Gerald Sieren
  - x. Paul Mitchell
  - xi. Alex Burg
  - xii. Joel Miller

5. Agency Updates

- a. Catholic Charities and ILR are teaming up to offer Housing Clinics every Monday from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Franciscan Hospitality Center
  - i. People can get assistance in applying for housing
  - ii. Understanding tenant rights/advocacy
  - iii. Other housing topics
- b. YWCA of La Crosse
  - i. Melanie Hamel- New Housing Director.
  - ii. Teresa Silcox – New case manager for Ruth House/Transitional Housing

6. Art Project

- a. Kim and anyone else working with group from UW-La Crosse to do some type of creative art, photo, or poetry project.
- b. Next meeting is right after this meeting.
- c. We will form a committee to work on this.

Submitted by:  
Kim Cable  
Couleecap