

La Crosse Collaborative to End Homelessness

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

Meeting Minutes May 16, 2017

Present: Tristine Bauman (Catholic Charities), Kevin Burch (Catholic Charities), Kael Clemmerson, Joe Guevara, Sue Bennett (La Crosse County Health Dept), Abigail Jeffers (Salvation Army), Chandler Miller (Salvation Army), Derek Johnson (Salvation Army), Chandra Cox (Couleecap), Kim Cable (Couleecap), Mark Schimpf (Catholic Charities), Amy Gerold (Great Rivers 211), Darren Dannhoff (Family and Children's Center), Kristina Bechtel (La Crosse County), Melanie Hamel (YWCA), Becky Koske (Couleecap)

1. Balance of State Update:

- a. Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Applications have a deadline coming up. Timeline and ranking criteria for applications were presented.
- b. The Point in Time (PIT) count will take place in the early morning hours of July 27th. For La Crosse, we will be meeting in the northside Perkins parking lot at 3:30 am.
- c. The Balance of State is holding meetings on Thursday and Friday of this week discussing Permanent Supportive Housing and Transitional Housing standards that are due to approval soon.
- d. ETH funds, which includes rapid re-housing and emergency shelter, could be late coming in this fall. This could leave gaps in payment for prevention and rapid re-housing.

2. 100-Day Sprint Update:

- a. The latest 100-Day Spring kicked off with an action at the end of April and is targeting the chronically homeless population. There are 49 documented chronically homeless individuals in our community.
- b. The goal is house 20 chronically homeless individuals.
- c. The City of La Crosse has agreed to set up a contract for funding 9 TBRA vouchers to help house those in Tent City.
- d. Housing programs have a priority for housing chronically homeless and we're looking for family units that could be flipped into one-bedroom. There is also a need to increase access to services for this population (e.g. mental health, AODA)

- e. Funding has been secured to hire a manager for the collaborative and 2 part-time outreach workers.
3. Update on Tent City:
- a. Teams have continued to do weekly check-ins and handing out flyers to help inform people about the situation as well as asking people about their plans for the closure to help send them in the direction of shelter and services.
 - b. Last day of Tent City is May 31st and help is being provided for moving out. Storage is available at Wesley United Methodist Church and Kael Clemmerson has also agreed to provide some temporary storage.
 - c. Teams are making it clear that camping anywhere else isn't a good option and police will be ticketing for illegal camping (\$124.00).
 - d. Police Department has helped develop a diversion plan for illegal camping tickets and we're handing out information on that program. Program can be accessed at PD and service agencies.
 - e. On May 31st, Salvation Army is hosting a cook-out with games, live music, and raffle prizes.
4. Homeless Connect Update:
- a. Taking place on July 27th from 11:00am-4:00pm at the La Crosse Center.
 - b. Volunteers and food are scheduled. Applications for donations are being sent out.
 - c. Contract with La Crosse Center is set. Set-up will be largely like last year.
 - d. In terms of services, Mayo Clinic will not attend this year. However, nurses, footcare, haircuts, pet therapy, messages, and showers will still be provided. Baymont Suites is providing towels and washcloths.
 - e. Marketing will ramp up in the month or so before the event with flyers being posted and interviews.
 - f. On July 26th from 4:00pm-6:00pm at the Warming Center, there will be a sandwich making session. We have to make 200 sandwiches, so help is needed!
5. Landlord/Community Conversations:
- a. As part of 100-Day Sprint, working on issues with landlords. There will be two landlords conversations taking place in the next 2 weeks, both in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at City Hall. May 25th from 7:00pm-9:00pm. June 1st from 10:00am-12:00pm.
6. Agency Updates:

- a. Couleecap has funded the Work n' Wheels program and applications can now be submitted. The program covers 75% of repairs, up to \$1000. The repairs can't exceed half the value of the car. Client must be working and demonstrate ability to pay 25% of repairs. Provides access to around \$4500 in loan funding with \$400-\$600 of down payment.

Submitted by:
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Catholic Charities

