NCCoC meeting minutes for April 25th, 2023

Present via Zoom: Katie Schumer, Tracy Rieger, Diane Sennholz, Chandra Wakefield, Sue Sippel, Ted Merwin, Theresa Anthoney, Kim West, Katie Rosenberg, Leigh Polodna, Juli Birkenmeier, Amber Tomaszewski, Kim West, Mary Vang, Melissa Walsh, Rene Schulz, Jeff Hancock, Tina Steinkamp, Jessica Katcher, Melissa Walsh, Tammy King, M. Meyede, Debbie Meye, Deanna Kloster, Sherri Waid, Pam Anderson, Tina King, Lisa Deemer, Mary Jorgensen, Lynn Ross, Rock Larson, Jessica Jinski, Zoe Monk, Jake Prichard, Adam Groskreutz, Beth Larsen, Vicki Kowalski, Emily Mueller, Wayne Sorenson, Shannon Johnson, Karen Diaz, Lisa Fike, Kathleen Buckli, Jessica Bartelt

**Presentation on Racial Disparity found in data pulled from the NCCoC** – Leigh shared that the data found in the NCCoC’s region mirrored what was found throughout the Balance of State.

**Action Plan 2.0**  -- Katie briefed the Coalition on what is happening with case conferencing. We are doing better, but still need to make sure our entered data is correct. Looking at the presentation from Leigh we need to work on making sure that all data is entered into HMIS for a client. Several areas that showed “data not collected” could affect funding in the future. The coalition will work on System Performance Measures, and will be expanding beyond just data from Coordinated Entry.

**Year round Catholic Charities Warming Center and Day Center -** Jeff Hancock, Director of Wausau Operations, conveyed the Warming Center in Wausau (located in the Community Partners Campus) is now open 365 days a year for overnight stays. This is a no barrier shelter and can house 25 guests per night and 35 guest during extreme weather situations. Beginning May 1st, 2023, Catholic Charities will provide administrative oversight to the Day Center operating out of the Open Door. Bob Grady is the paid staff at Open Door and the rest remains volunteers. The Day Center is open 5 AM to 11 AM and 1 PM to 6 PM Monday through Friday and is open 5 AM to 2 PM on Saturdays and Sundays.

Both the Warming Center and Open Door are looking for volunteers.

**New No Wrong Door Agency** – Melissa briefly explained CW solutions can now screen clients and refer to the NCCoC’s prioritization lists. They currently do not use Coordinated Entry to fill all of their programs, but can certainly now help other agencies fill housing programs. CW solutions currently runs four housing programs for youth and families.

**Updates from the Coalition:**

Mary Vang with **Wisconsin Rapids Housing Authority –** Their Section 8 waiting list is now open and is currently short (about 3 months out). On-line applications are encouraged as well as e-mail. April 25th there is a Wood County Cultural event happening at the McMillian Library from 6 to 8 PM to engage the community to discuss culture in a broad fashion. During the first week in May (May is Hmong Heritage Month) there will be many in person as well as virtual events celebrating the Hmong culture. There is a free event at the Pacawa Park May 6th, 2023.

Rock Larson with **Wood County Veterans Dept --** Rock announced there is more outreach and recovery workers providing help with mental health and substance abuse issues to veterans. Case conferencing is happening once a month with organizations serving veterans and including ICA and Center for Veteran Issues.

Leigh Polodna with the **Wisconsin Balance of State** announces quarterly meeting this May is still via Zoom and free. First in person conference (since 2/2020) will be in February of 2024.

Sue Sippel, Executive Director of **The Family Center** in Wisconsin Rapids announces she is retiring and the plan is to stay on for three months after hiring a new ED to assist with transition. Possibly through fall of 2023. A family event ‘Touch a Truck’ is happening in Grand Rapids. It’s a fund raiser.

Amber Tomaszewski with **Marathon County Social Services** informs the Coalition that the whole department is officially moved to its new location within North Central Health Care, near the Marathon County Health Department.

Kim West from **HAVEN** is helping with the transition of the new executive director Julie Schulz. She has noticed in working as an advocate, it is getting more difficult to determine if clients are involved in a current DV situation. HAVEN bilingual program is currently not operating.

Wayne Sorenson and Katie Schumer mention **Mary’s Place** in Wisconsin Rapids is on schedule to open mid-June. Mary’s place is not a shelter and there is an application process. They are able to help both families and individuals. They have a huge volunteer need for May 31st and June 3rd to get things cleaned up and move in ready.

Tracy Rieger, with **Wausau PD** said street outreach is going well. 23 people have been housed and 100% are still housed. She has a brochure available with dates, times, and locations she is at during the week.

Future meeting dates: July 25th, October 24th, January 23rd 2024