

## SWC Homelessness Coalition Meeting Minutes: April 19 , 2017



### Attendees:

Brian Slinkman- NextHome Partners / landlord  
Diane Sennholz- NCCAP  
Sue Sippel- The Family Center  
Lacey Piekarski- Wood Co Human Services  
Lonnie Selje- Helping Hands Gospel Mission  
Sarah Siegel- UW Extension  
Chuck Bradbury- First Baptist Church  
Kayla Klish-Wisconsin WorksF2  
Emily Stieve- United Way of Inner Wisconsin

### Introductions/ Agency Updates:

NextHome Partners/ landlord- First time attending the meeting

NCCAP- Working on writing the ETH Grant, wants to know how we think we are doing with our coalition and if there is something more we can be working on? Is there more that we should be trying to do?

Looked to the group for feedback:

- tough topic but we have become better at coming together
- we have resources for prevention and immediate services
- sometimes it is hard to think in just the south Wood County area- is there any thought to going county wide? May be good to collaborate once in a while but general consensus that there are different resources and needs in north and south Wood

The Family Center- Had a situation where a woman was brought in by police requesting to go to the shelter and then started to have a mental health crisis. Woman requested to go to Norwood voluntarily. Staff at the Family Center weren't sure of the resources available for those with mental health concerns. Law enforcement here no longer does the mental health assessments. Have to work with Crisis Intervention, there is also the Adult Legal Crisis Line. Lacey is going to reach out to Katie at Wood Co Human Services to see if she would be able to come to an upcoming meeting as several at the table have come across this and it would be helpful to know the correct resources and steps to assist these individuals.

Wood Co Human Services- Restructuring some new areas, will be taking over the Edgewater facility in Port Edwards. Moving this month to the River Block Building- many services will be accessible in one location now.

Helping Hands Gospel Mission- Have expanded services to county wide.

UW Extension- Starting Rent Smart class next week, curriculum has been reorganized- 3 classes within the series...ex: week 2 covers how to communicate with your landlord.

First Baptist Church- wants to be more informed around this topic.

WI Works Program- first time attending today's meeting.

United Way- Financial Stability Coalition has organized a Money Smart Week which is kicking off this Saturday! Flyer will be attached with the meeting minutes, these are free events for everyone in the community- please help spread the word, there are posters up, there'll be face book updates, please like and share and come to some of these events.

United We Can- June 14 at Witter Field. This is organized by the South Wood County Hunger Coalition. Put together a team to create a sculpture or join us for a fun night filled with awareness around food concerns that members of our community face.

#### Business Items:

As a follow up, Dianne with NCCAP will be facilitating meetings beginning with next meeting. Look for an email from her for an agenda.

2017 Meeting dates & times- there were several requests by previous email to review the meeting dates & times for the remaining 2017 coalition meeting. The group came to a consensus to meet on the third Wednesday, every other month, from 11-12:30 at the NCCAP Conference Room (business office is off of 8<sup>th</sup> Street behind Pizza Hut.)

#### 2017 Meeting dates:

June 21, August 16, October 18 and December 20.

#### Visioning Process Updates:

Road Map- There were several edits suggested and Emily will review those and send out an electronic copy to coalition members. REMINDER: This is meant to be an INTERNAL resource only.

Emily is keeping track of what agencies/staff are utilizing the resource, please email Emily if you are using this. WR Housing Authority and Wood Co Human Services are the only agencies that have replied feedback of using the document. Discussion around where the document will be housed, for now United Way will house the document.

Data Sub-Committee- Info Graphic is complete! Where do we want to put it? How do we want to share this information? Suggestion to share with other coalitions in the community- can we put it on the United Way website and possible look to have it as a face book post later after United We Can event? November is Homeless & Hunger Awareness month-> at our next meeting the group wishes to explore what could be done with the Hunger Coalition for awareness in November.

Water Sub-Committee- Quite a bit of discussion around lack of shower/laundry resources for the homeless especially during the winter months. The group thought it'd be more efficient to have this as a subcommittee- Lonnie, Emily, Lacey and (will also look to ask Heather Lisitza) volunteered to be in the group.

Other: Lacey and Lonnie presented a document that Marathon Co United Way compiled, "Affordable Housing Availability Form" which lists landlords and realtors to contact for housing available at \$550.00. The coalition is interested in creating a resource form like this to use in our county.

Discussion around barriers that those who are homeless may be facing: past history with evictions, credit score (or lack of credit for those who are young and starting off on their own), criminal history.

Discussion around another new barrier – new ordinance that was passed in Wisconsin Rapids- Nuisance Ordinance- if the police are called more than 3 times within a 90-120 day period, the landlord will have to pay the police cost

Discussion around how to provide more awareness about this new ordinance to those who are looking for housing...maybe some information to include in curriculum for Rent Smart classes

FSET- offers training for employment but they are always looking for other material they can cover with clients- housing could be one of these topics...Case managers are asking for help to find permanent housing. Housing Authority is seeing increased waiting lists as funding has been cut and available funding may not be available until July.

Agencies at the table have contacted 2-1-1 but sometimes there are new staff and they aren't familiar with 2-1-1 so they are calling agencies that are unable to assist in certain situations.

Discussion around how we can provide more awareness...Going to an upcoming Landlord Association meeting and providing information about Section 8 Housing- Brian said he would reach out to a contact for the local association. Also if there would be an opportunity to hold a focus group with the community landlords to get feedback about what their concerns are and if there would be some way to possibly figure out some sort of middle ground. There are some landlords that work with specific agencies around the table to rent to those who may have some barriers.

Who is at the table for the coalition?

Some who have been to meetings in the past but no longer attending

School Districts: WR, Nekoosa and PE

Law enforcement

Mental Health Coalition

Meeting dismissed.

**The next Homelessness Coalition meeting will be on Wednesday, June 21 from 11-12:30 at the NCCAP office conference room.**