

## SWC Homelessness Coalition Meeting Minutes: February 15 , 2017



### Attendees:

Rock Larson- Wood Co Veterans Office  
Janie Garcia- NCCAP  
Diane Sennholz- NCCAP  
Sarah Siegel- UW Extension  
Chia Khang- NCCAP  
Beth Reque- Wood Co Human Services  
Lacey Piekarski- Wood Co Human Services  
Sue Sippel- The Family Center  
Betty Phillips- ADRC-CW  
JoAnn Grode- Wisconsin Rapids Housing Authority  
Emily Stieve- United Way of Inner Wisconsin

### Introductions/ Agency Updates:

FSET Program- Covers 9 counties, FoodShare Employee and Training. Changes to AODA exemption, waiting for more information in regards to the policy change.

Wood Co Independent Living Program- For kids in foster care ages 17 ½ - 23. 36% of this population are homeless or couch surfing.

UW Extension- Wallet Wise Services- also follow up and provide financial coaching, currently working with the Job Center. Rent Smart Class curriculum has been updated, hoping to begin working with landlords. April 22-29, helping to host Money Smart Week- will offer free events to everyone in the community, kicking off the events will be at the Children's Festival where kids can decorate piggy banks, panel discussions about credit and retirement, presentations and a kids coloring contest will also be occurring throughout the week. Once the event poster is complete, will be looking to those at the table to help promote this event.

NCCAP- New committee in Marathon County around youth homelessness.

Wisconsin Rapids Housing Authority- HUD funding , regulatory freeze right now so no new updates at this time

Veterans Services- May have education funds for kids in the Independent Living Program.

ADRC- no updates at this time

Family Center- Had made a decision not to double up families in the rooms in the shelter, concerned that they would have to turn people away and possibly not serve as many. Served more in 2016 than 2015. Served the same number of families from 2015-2016 (there were more kids in the families in 2016.)

Help for the Homeless- Drive is February 19- early March. 10 locations to drop off non-food donations- toiletry items...ShopKo, Walgreens, Paper City Savings, Coldwell Banker and some area churches. Everything collected will remain in SWC. SWEPS and the Family Center will share what is donated.

United Way of Inner Wisconsin- Power of the Purse- Tuesday, March 7 at Bulls Eye Country Club. 5-7PM. Tickets are \$25 in advance, can be purchased online: [www.uwiw.org](http://www.uwiw.org) or at the United Way office. Tickets are \$30 at the door. Event will feature hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, a silent purse auction, and an opportunity to network and learn more about United Way of Inner Wisconsin's Women United and its initiative "Learning for Life."

There will be a variety of different purses to bid on. We encourage women to attend and bring along a friend for an enjoyable evening and help the community at the same time! Proceeds from the event will support issues that affect women and children, including the "Learning for Life" initiative which ensures that all third graders are reading at a proficient level. The program matches children with reading mentors once a week.

2018 Funding Application now available online: [www.uwiw.org](http://www.uwiw.org). Changing to a 2 year funding cycle

Those programs which address Education and Health will apply this year for 2018-2019 funding.

Those programs which address Income and Safety Net Services (Food and Emergency Shelter) will receive a one year continuation grant for 2018 – same allocation as 2017. These programs will then apply in winter of 2018 for 2019-2020 funding.

Agenda Items:

Data:

Numbers served-

Emily shared numbers served in 2016 and numbers served so far for 2017. If you are aware of someone at one of the organizations on the spread that may be able to help provide data (that isn't already being received on a regular basis) please let Emily know.

So far for 2017, there were 42 people served vs. 35 that were reported in 2016. Of those who provided data, there were reported 661 people in south Wood County that were assisted in 2016.

Agencies listed on the data sheet: NCCAP, The Family Center, WRPS, Nekoosa School District, Port Edwards School District, WR Housing Authority, Helping Hands, and Veteran Affairs.

PIT:

Diane provided a summary of the January PIT count

Number of homeless found in Marathon County- 4, Merrill- 0, Wood Co-0. The volunteers expanded search areas to include more rural areas.

Project Connect- Lunch at the Salvation Army in Wausau the day after the count (invite those who they met during the count to attend) had 62 people attend- many were families with children. In addition, there were counts done at shelters and there were 79 individuals staying at shelters the night of the PIT count.

Some of those who were homeless were found in cars, at a 24 hour gas station and one 62 year old man was under the bridge in Wausau.

Visioning Process Update:

Road Map- Emily will resend to the group as there were some unsure if they had received it back in December with the meeting minutes.

- ➔ Emily would like to keep track of where the guide is shared and with what staff, please email her this information.
- ➔ CCCW is now Community Link, Inc. If there are any other edits, please get to Emily by the **end of February** so the updated Road Map can be shared and utilized.

Data Sub-Committee: Dawn, Sarah, and JoAnn

Sarah reviewed the State of the Homeless info graphic, only information that we are waiting on is information for the Salvation Army. Sarah has been in contact with them and will get information to Emily once received. The group reviewed the info graphic for any other edits and Emily will have Angie make those adjustments.

- ➔ Just like with the Road Map, Emily wants to keep track of how many and where the info-graphic is distributed
- ➔ Edits for the Info graphic need to get to Sarah, Dawn, or Emily by **the end of February** so we can begin distributing and utilizing this great tool
- ➔ Cost of printing needs to be discussed at the next meeting

2017 Meeting dates and locations:

United Way of Inner Wisconsin will continue to facilitate the meetings for 2017. Current meeting time isn't ideal for everyone. NCCAP has offered to host meetings in their conference room at their office on 8<sup>th</sup> street.

April's meeting will remain scheduled for: Wednesday, April 19 from 11-12:30 in the FSET conference room.

Remaining 2017 meetings: Last Monday every other month from **1:30-3:00pm**

**June 26      August 28      October 30 (Will discuss meeting date for December at this meeting)**

Other:

Who else should be at the table? Those attending agreed that the schools need to be at the table as they provide information. Who else? W2 program, local law enforcement, SWEPS, Churches, landlords

It was shared that some of the above suggested have come to meetings in the past...will work to try to get the above organizations at the table.

Landlords have gotten and get burned, Sarah is in talk with one landlord about possibility of something for those take the Rent Smart class.

Eau Claire has a landlord liason- the position was funded by a grant but unsure of how to sustain that

FSET is looking at having a forum around housing with the population they serve, will let us know when and the feedback they receive.

Discussion went into why these individuals are homeless, some this may be how it has been for them their entire life – but there are some who even if they have resources, don't follow through.

Discussion went to life skills classes...UW Extension is exploring this.

What can be done as a preventative measure so there isn't so much in a crisis situation. Idea that the coalition could help utilize Rent Smart class to help with preventable education. The kids in the Independent Living Program could possibly benefit from this.

Goals for 2017-> the coalition will work to bring more to the table that help serve those who are or are close to becoming homeless

->utilizing community resources and helping to provide preventative education so there are hopefully less crisis/emergency homeless situations

->explore options for access to showers and laundry

Water: Emily asked the group if there would be any interest and trying to see what options there may be for homeless to have access to a shower and laundry facility...if they are applying for a job, currently other than the campgrounds in the summer and hotels that they may stay in, there isn't a place for people to have access to a shower and get their clothes cleaned

-need to reach out to the school districts about this as they may have something in place for families that they serve

-not an "easy fix" as there are a lot of components to this problem

- There isn't enough awareness in the community that this is an issue
- Location, liability, paying for the water, towel and toiletry supplies, laundry supplies and equipment
- Backgrounds of those who may benefit from utilizing the service (safety factor)

- Who would oversee this?
- How would there be access? (Open only certain hours, who would be responsible for managing the location?)

**Next SWC Homelessness Coalition meeting will be on Wednesday, April 19 from 11-12:30 in the FSET conference room at the Centralia Center.**