

West Central Homeless Coalition
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING

Members in Attendance:

Benjamin's House: Lori Zahrbock
Bridge to Hope: Jamie Gibson
Center for Veterans Issues: Angela Friend
Chippewa County Housing Authority: Jessica Oleson-Bue
Community Referral Agency (CRA) – Cheri Moats
Embrace: Kendra Carillon
Family Support Center: Jeni
St. Croix County Dept. Health and Human Services: Bob Rohret
Salvation Army Grace Place: Duana Bremer
Stepping Stones of Dunn County: Heidi Hooten
Turningpoint for Victims
of Domestic and Sexual Violence: Amy Berg
United Way St. Croix Valley: Allison Sauter
United Way of Wisconsin: Jessica Neumann
West CAP: Tim Mather; Missy Pridgen; Erica Schoch

Guests in Attendance:

Balance of State: Leigh Polodna
Division of Energy, Housing, and
Community Resources (DEHCR): Robyn Thibado
Interagency Council on Homelessness: Michael Basford
THUG (Truly Humble Under God) Life Ministry: Sara Rank

I. Welcome and Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves.

- Erica Schoch reported West CAP is enrolling for Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing and TBRA program. She welcomes referrals.
- Bob Rohret reported that St. Croix County recently received ARPA funding to contract with Onyx to supplement the first month rent for people in recovery and sober housing. In addition, St. Croix County has received funding for professional positions that could go to Grace Place or other locations to work with people who may be dealing with mental health or substance abuse challenges, including recovery housing. The goal is to assist people on site. They will be hiring professional staff to do this and have funding available for this initiative for the next three years.
- Most crisis shelters noted they are full with wait lists. CRA noted they are following COVID protocols and are not currently full.
- Robyn Thibado reported the Governor will be issuing a press release announcing additional funding available for shelters this winter. DEHCR is working with DHS on recovering housing initiative to provide rental assistance to people who are going into recovery housing. DEHCR will roll that out in early 2022. Mike Basford added this funding will be administered through SSSG and DCF.

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II. Approval of September 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

- Jessica Oleson-Bue moved to approve the September 21, 2021 meeting minutes.
- Lori Zahrbock seconded.
- Motion carries.

III. Coordinated Entry Update and Clarity Update

Erica Schoch did not have an update. Missy Pridgen has resigned her position.

IV. Youth Homelessness Intervention Grant Update

Jessica Neumann reported the state has been awarded a grant of approximately \$7M to address youth homelessness. WCHC will need to appoint a representative to work with the BOS on this project. This individual would be part of the planning process to determine where and how the funds will be allocated. The BOS will be hiring someone to coordinate this planning process throughout the state. Duana proposed the Coalition consider forming a sub-committee for youth homelessness.

V. Report from Balance of State Representative

Jessica Neumann reported the new structure for membership dues was approved at the BOS quarterly meeting. Each Coalition used to pay \$250, regardless of grant awards received. To create equity, Coalition dues will now be based on the percentage of grants received. WCHC is second in the state for grant funding received. Dues will be due in July 2022. Jessica reported there was a speaker who shared about Coordinated Entry. It is going well. Jessica was unable to attend the state board meeting.

VI. Action Planning Team Progress Reports and Updates

- **SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES: INCREASE EMPLOYMENT INCOME and SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES – INCREASE NON-EMPLOYMENT INCOME** - Duana noted it may be useful to schedule additional training on entering earned and unearned income into Clarity.
- **SOLICITING AND CONSIDERING OPINIONS** - Jessica Neumann reported she, Lori Zahrbock, and Kelly Christianson have identified data collection points they would like from members. Lori will send Jessica the link for a Google Drive for members to complete on a monthly basis. Data to be collected monthly includes the number of clients served through TBRA, Rapid Rehousing, Emergency Shelter, Hotel/Motel Vouchers, Support Services, and Rental Assistance, as well as those seeking these services and unserved. They are requesting participants complete this prior to monthly WCHC meetings. The team will create quarterly press releases. The committee is requesting agencies share this information in our areas.

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VII. Update on EHH Guidelines for 2022

Erica Schoch will send an e-mail if there are changes to the EHH guidelines.

VIII. VOTE: Term Limits and Meeting Frequency

MOTION:

- Erica Schoch moved that the Coalition amend the charter and change meeting frequency from every other month to monthly.
- Heidi Hooten seconded.
- Motion carries.

MOTION:

- Erica Schoch moved that WCHC amend the charter to reflect that members must attend eight of the 12 monthly meetings to remain an active member.
- Jessica Neumann seconded.
- Motion carries.

MOTION:

- Jessica Neumann moved that WCHC amend its charter to reflect that meetings will be held virtually unless the groups votes to meet in person.
- Erica Schoch seconded.
- Motion carries.

IX. VOTE: Appoint Officers of West Central Homeless Coalition

MOTION:

- Jessica Neumann moved that Erica Schoch be appointed WCHC Chair; Heidi Hooten be appointed Vice-Chair; and Tim Mather be appointed Secretary, beginning with the meeting in January, 2022.
- Cheri Moats seconded.
- Motion carries.

X. Other Items

The BOS is requiring an updated action plan with additional measures for success. Duana asked if all shelters are tracking employment and non-employment income in Clarity/other databases. Amy Berg noted that domestic violence shelters cannot request income information of our clients. Cherie Moats agreed. Jessica Neumann led the group in a discussion about potential measures for focus.

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MOTION:

- Heidi Hooten moved that WCHC update the Action Plan to include the following new measures:
 - Open Invitation for New Members
 - Addressing safety needs of DV, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors
 - Public Housing Authorities
- Jeni seconded.
- Motion carries.

XI. Adjourn

MOTION:

- Jessica Neuman moved to adjourn the meeting.
- Erica Schoch seconded.
- Motion carries.

Next meeting: January 18 at 1:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Amy Berg