**West Central Homeless Coalition**

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday 5/19/20 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Go To Meeting

1. **Attending:** Alyssa Wichmann (Inclusa), Amy Berg (Turningpoint), Angela Friend (CVI), Brianne Berres (Catholic Charities), Casey Levrich (Minneapolis VA), Duana Bremer (The Salvation Army Pierce, St. Croix, Barron Counties), Heidi Hooten (Stepping Stones), Jamie Gibson (The Bridge to Hope), Jeni (Family Support Center), Jessica Oleson-Bue (Chippewa Co. Housing Authority), Kelly Christianson (United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley), Lori Zahrbock (Benjamin’s House), Ginny Ormsby (Northwoods Homeless Shelters), Corin Tubridy (West CAP)
   1. **Updates:** CVI received an Emergency Housing Assistance grant through 9/30/20. They can provide motel vouchers for up to 45 days. Minneapolis VA has 5 new HUD-VASH vouchers; there are 10 vouchers available currently. They have been approved to get an additional case manager. Grace Place, Serenity Home, and Bridge to Hope have space available in their shelters. Family Support Center received a grant from Marshfield Clinic to provide motel vouchers. CCHA received an additional 8 Mainstream Vouchers. Chippewa Co. TBRA has awaiting list. UWGCV is administering EFSP funds for Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties. UWGCV extended the current funding for a year due to COVID-19.
2. **COVID-19 Updates**
   1. **Gaps:** finding supplies. Suggestions – Sanitizer from local distilleries and Woodman’s, masks from Feed My People
   2. **Challenges:** Waiting for funding – CDBG, ESG-CV, CSBG; Paperwork is challenging to do when not seeing people in person. The VA is not doing any in-person home visits until at least 7/1/20. CVI does not know when they will return to the office.
   3. **What is going well:** FSC is providing client services over the phone and with Zoom. Salvation Army asked for masks on their Facebook page and received a lot of N95 and cloth masks.
   4. **Other Updates:** Sojourner House is reviewing their exit plan from Hobbs Ice Arena. They are also looking at a new space for their shelter because they are serving many more people.
3. **EHH Planning**
   1. **Funding Priorities:** Emergency shelter continues to be the biggest priority for ESG funds. Rapid Re-Housing is a required project to fund, however we have a lot of CoC funding for RRH. Grace Place’s Homeless Prevention program appears successful, so it was agreed we should fund it again. Discussion about funding outreach. No one wanted to take money from Emergency Shelter to fund it. The coalition agreed to apply for special allocation funding for an outreach worker to serve all seven counties. The coalition voted on how to divide funding between projects. 11 votes for keeping the funding the same as last year, 0 voted to increase prevention over last year, 2 abstained.
   2. **Allocating funds among similar projects:** Five agencies are applying for Emergency Shelter funds, one agency is applying for Prevention funds, and one agency is applying for RRH funds. Unanimous vote to use the same metrics as last year to allocate funding among shelters.
4. **Coalition Governance** 
   1. **Election of Coalition Officers**
      1. Chair: Corin Tubridy (unanimous yes)
      2. Vice Chair: Brianne Berres (unanimous yes)
      3. Secretary: Amy Berg (unanimous yes)
   2. **Election of Director:** Brianne Berres and Alyssa Wichmann expressed interest in the position. Corin will send an email to all members asking if anyone else is interested in the position. The vote will be held via email.
   3. **Review Coalition Charter:** no changes were suggested upon review.