

WI BOS Board of Director's COVID-19 Meeting

April 16, 2020

GoTo Webinar 4:00-4:48 pm

1. The meeting was called to order by Lisa Haen at 4:03 pm.
 - a. Members Present: Duana Bremer, Kim Cable, David Eberbach, Michelle Friedrich, Kathleen Fisher, Angela Friend, Lisa Haen, Mary Jacobson, Casey Levrich, Jeanette Petts, Millie Rounsville, Chandra Wakefield
 - b. Members Excused: Michelle Arrowood, Dana Baumgartner, Mike Bonertz, Cheryl Detrick, Michael Etheridge, Noel Halvorsen, Jessica Locher, Jessica Mudgett, Tara Prah, Wendy Schneider, Ed Wilson
 - c. Members Unexcused: None
 - d. Staff Present: Carrie Poser

2. Grants/Contracts approvals – *(the Board has given permission to Carrie to pursue funding opportunities that are coming out to benefit LC's during the COVID pandemic. Carrie will bring information before the Board for the purposes of voting on any awards and contracts we receive as a result of her efforts. Prior to the start of our first meeting (April 2nd) Carrie will develop a Google document to track these opportunities and every Director will receive a link so you will be able to keep yourself up to date on all of the working opportunities. If a contract will be voted on, we will send out the contract and the accompanying consolidated application prior to the meeting for you to look over.)*
 - a. There are currently no grants or contracts to discuss.
 - b. Carrie provided an update for EHH. Grand total requested by Balance of State was approximately 12.9 million. There is 12.7 million available to the BOS, Milwaukee, Dane and Racine Counties. This was a very different way of allocating money.
 - c. Carrie has a call with DECRH at 11 am tomorrow morning.
 - i. Any questions should go to Carrie prior to her phone call tomorrow.
Carrie will ask the following questions:
 1. Will the funding be retroactive?
 2. When is the start and end date for the money?
 3. What is the decision of the admin component?
 - ii. Additional questions from Board members:

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1. Any separation in HMIS – CARES versus Current money
2. Are we still facing the potential decision that the money will go to Dane, Milwaukee and Racine?
 - d. Please send any additional questions to Carrie prior to 11 am on 4/17/2020.
 - e. There will be a required webinar for Leads to clarify the difference between 2020-2021, CARES-ESG funding.
 - f. FEMA – Wisconsin can write for FEMA funds once the state is declared a state of disaster. The funding does not cover the cost of case management. The funding can cover the cost of an emergency not homeless. Example – non-congregate shelter award in California for the first time. They are using HMIS as a data source and Wellsky has the disaster functionality that can be turned on to capture the required data. There is a 90-day motel stay under the FEMA funding. More flexibility with FEMA disaster funds motel vouchers than EFSP funding for motel vouchers.
 - g. There is a meeting in two weeks for the EFSP set-aside funding. Carrie sits on that board.
3. Crisis in Communities conversations – *(this portion of the meeting is for Directors to discuss any crises that are occurring in local coalitions. This is an opportunity to brainstorm solutions. If you are having some kind of crisis in your community, please come prepared to talk about it. There may be residual effects of closed housing authorities or new encampments or whatever.)*
 - a. Kathleen reported they had a huge uptick in calls for homeless assistance – about 5 to 10 a day. They were a typical congregate shelter and now they are using all Emergency Motel Vouchers which will run out of money soon.
 - b. Brief discussion about SAMHSA money for motel vouchers which no one have heard about.
 - c. Lisa and Duana expressed they are having the same issues with increased requests for shelter and motel vouchers. Lisa reported that KHDS received a response from their initial request to the Otter Bremmer Fund for emergency motel vouchers and they are in the second phase of the funding request.
 - d. Kim briefly discussed TEFAP funding. They are getting consistent food deliveries and pantries are brimming. Case managers should be able to get a proxy to be able to pick up and deliver food to clients. They are picking up premade meals to

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people experiencing food insecurity. Food Share increases have already gone into effect. If people were not getting the full allotment of Food Share for their household size, they should be receiving that full amount now. The DHS Website should have a list of all of the TEFAP Providers in the State and the Providers can provide a list of the food pantries in your area. Making outlets more accessible to people to avoid increased homelessness.

- e. Millie – DHS Website not helpful. Suggested to reach out to the EHH Leads maybe or Kitty or Johnathan Bader would have that on a spreadsheet. Carrie will reach out to Jonathon and request the TFAP list to distribute to the BOS membership.
4. Outside noise – (*Carrie will report on national news related to homeless services. I.E. HUD, or DHS, or the crisis calls she is on daily with FEMA & United Way, or others.*)
- a. The Stay at home order was extended until May 24, 2020. Carrie will send out the memo tomorrow. Moratorium on an Executive Order should only be extended if the legislation acts and chooses to extend it. You can apply for energy assistance at any time. The one week wait period for unemployment will be lifted so hopefully people will be able to get their unemployment checks.
 - b. Meredith is sending information out to the membership to make sure people continue to serve clients as required. If you have questions and want information on how other agencies are operating programs in different areas, please reach out to Meredith.
 - c. COC funds cannot be used to purchase cellphones for clients.
 - d. Continue to be express frustration with WHEDA. Concern that they will continue to remain closed through the extended Stay at Home Order.
 - e. CDBG Entitlement communities – now is the time to go to the table regarding CDBG. Superior – Northwest Community Action Agency received \$50,000 for motel vouchers and \$250,000 for rental assistance.
 - f. Brief discussion about Stimulus money that is coming soon. Kathleen posted this on the BOS Facebook page last week. Carrie is looking into if the stimulus money is going to be counted as income
 - g. Food Share question was asked regarding a waiver about work requirements and drug testing and are those requirements in place with the increase in Food Share money.

5. Meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm
 - a. Motion to adjourn made by Kim Cable
 - b. Second by Lisa Haen
 - c. No further discussion
 - d. All in favor
 - e. Motion carries

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Haen, Secretary

