

## WI BOS Board of Director's COVID-19 Meeting

April 30, 2020

GoTo Webinar 4:00-4:48 pm

1. The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Fisher at 4:06 pm.
  - a. Members Present: Duana Bremer, Kim Cable, Kathleen Fisher, Angela Friend, Michelle Friedrich, Lisa Haen, Casey Levrich, Jessica Locher, Tara Prah, Millie Rounsville, Wendy Schneider
  - b. Members Excused: Michelle Arrowood, Dana Baumgartner, Mike Bonertz, Cheryl Detrick, David Eberbach, Michael Etheridge, Noel Halvorsen, Hannah Hamberg, Mary Jacobson, Jeanette Petts, Jessica Mudgett, Chandra Wakefield, 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.)*

There are currently no grants or contracts to discuss.

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. Duana asked for clarification about evictions questioning if private Landlords cannot evict at this time or if it is only some landlords that receive federal money. Carrie reported that no landlord can post an eviction or go into a unit and they must back off completely until the end of the Stay at Home Order. Today another order was issued that stipulates no late fees may be imposed during this time for nonpayment of rent. The federal government also indicated if a property ever received any federal funds and/or the person is in a COC or ESG funded project they cannot be evicted until the end of July and even after that they have to give a 30 day notice providing an opportunity to fix the issue.

*The Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care's mission is to end homelessness by supporting local coalitions throughout Wisconsin.*

- b. BOS staff are developing a fact sheet to help clarify the eviction orders that are currently in place. This will be released next Friday in PDF and Word form.
  - c. Millie and Duana are getting a lot of evictions in their areas so a one-page document in PDF or Word would be helpful.
  - d. There is currently a document that legal action sent with questions and answers.
  - e. It would be helpful if there was information for landlords, clients and providers to distribute.
  - f. Rice Lake and Polk County has decided to ignore the Governors Stay at Home Order.
  - g. Today was one of the largest spikes in Wisconsin for COVID-19 as was Minnesota. The more resources we can give the better.
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. FEMA currently only wants data about the positive COVID-19 cases not the suspected cases for people who have symptoms and are being instructed to quarantine. Carrie is going to add a column to the chart she sends out every Friday for Local Coalitions to begin to report those persons that are suspected to have COVID-1.
  - b. Documenting people who are suspected to have COVID-19 is concerning because the symptoms are associated with other illnesses. Doctors are telling people they are likely have COVID-19, to quarantine and they are not testing. Concern is with putting out data that might not be valid. Carrie will define that “suspected” means having COVID-19 symptoms and being told to quarantine by a doctor. We will begin to request this information each Friday in addition to the COVID-19 positive question that is sent to each Local Coalition COVID-19 contact.
  - c. Brief conversation about people experiencing COVID-19 related homeless as a result of someone testing positive. People are doubled up and being asked to leave by family and friends concerned about exposure, people are experiencing loss of employment, elderly parents pushing out people, etc. We will begin to request this information each Friday in addition to the COVID-19 positive question that is sent to each Local Coalition COVID-19 contact.
  - d. Carrie will work on adding a column on the HIC to track monthly COVID-19 positive people in all programs listed on the HIC/PIT.
  - e. Funding allocation for the CARES ACT EHH funding may be completed based on the 2020-2021 funding allocation. DEHCR is currently working on the

allocation. Carrie will follow-up after this call to rearticulate her concerns about the funding allocation.

- f. Carrie Discussed the State Shelter Subsidy Grant (SSSG) with DEHCR. This is a funding source based on shelter nights which will be reduced as a result of the COVID-19 reduction in shelter nights. There is \$500,000 additional funding for next year and the funding decision should adequately match the current situation that we are in not be based on an antiquated allocation process. We hope there is an accommodation made for the COVID-19 Pandemic. The current SSSG allocation formula favors large shelters which makes funding difficult for the small rural community shelters.
  - g. Carrie is continuing to send out Friday emails with a lot of resources and using clear headings, to make it is easier to navigate through all of the information.
  - h. The Mega-waiver is for 19-20 and 20-21 funding not for the ESG CARES Act funding. Carrie has requested that DECHR create a fact sheet for the ESG Waivers for distribution to providers.
  - i. Tuesday morning Governor Evers is bringing together the Interagency Council for the first time in 2020.
5. Meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm
- a. Motion to adjourn made by Lisa Haen
  - b. Second made by Duana Bremer
  - c. No further discussion
  - d. All in favor
  - e. Motion carries

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Haen, Secretary

