

WI BOS Board of Director's COVID-19 Meeting

April 9, 2020

GoTo Webinar 4:00-4:34 pm

1. The meeting was called to order by Lisa Haen at 4:02 pm.
 - a. Members Present: Mike Bonertz, Kim Cable, David Eberbach, Kathleen Fisher, Angela Friend, Michelle Friedrich, Lisa Haen, Mary Jacobson, Jessica Locher, Tara Prah, Millie Rounsville, Wendy Schneider, Chandra Wakefield
 - b. Members Excused: Noel Halvorsen, Casey Levrich, Ed Wilson, Jeanette Petts Michael Etheridge Cheryl Detrick, Michelle Arrowood, Jessica Mudgett, Dana Baumgartner, Duana Bremer
 - 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.)*

Tara asked about any available FEMA funding. Carrie is on the Board on the set-aside funds for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). Phase 37 funding is going to be coming out soon. An additional \$200 million was added to the \$130 million normally allocated to address the COVID 19 Pandemic through EFSP. Aside from that, Carrie has heard nothing about FEMA funding.

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

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) Call with HUD, DEHCR, and the CoCs including Mike Basford

- Release of waivers & clarification of ESG waiver request (must come from the state)
- Likely will not see moratorium on cooperatives
- Part of the Governor's ask was to waive the unemployment 1 week waiting requirement. Seems like legislature agrees. We will see.
- Issue of WHEDA closing to new vouchers is still a problem and on the table
- Looking into food stamp issue – there were federal requirements placed on food stamps by the Trump administration (drug testing and work req) – unclear if they apply to this expanded funding
- No HOME funds at this point, no expansion of TBRA

b) Call with DHS and American Red Cross

- Starting on Friday, I will be focusing efforts on COVID 19 contacts to collect information. This info goes to the Governor's office, Interagency Council, FEMA, DHS, etc.
- DHS has been getting asked about need and were trying to figure out how they were going to assess it. I will be their point of contact.
- There is an "ask form" I will include in Friday's email for communities to fill out. It is about the current need, not stock piling supplies. No guarantee.
- It will also include tracking the number of people who are unsheltered vs. sheltered vs in housing that have tested positive to COVID 19.

c) CARES Act ESG money

- Different way of allocating the funds – what do you need? Rather than "you have 200,000 how will you spend it"
- Bring new people to the table
- ESG requirements remain – everything except match and habitability for shelters. We are hoping that habitability requirement for ESG was an oversight in HUD's waivers and will be coming out with HUD's next set of waivers.
- Plan for 6 months. It might be 1 year. But look at it as 2 different situations – current crisis vs. future crisis

d) Question from Kim – With the timeline ending so soon what happens if you do not spend the allocated money by 9/30. DECHR is currently looking at need first then they will do an allocation based that need. There is an understanding that the crisis will not resolve in six months. There will be two waves initial grant out requests for the current crisis then future crisis.

- e) Millie asked if the CARES Act will require the state to revise the consolidated plan – they are working on that right now to make sure they have to do the substantial amendment and hearing.
 - f) Brief discussion about Facebook and what we should be posting regarding COVID-19. Kathleen agreed to post information if people send some to her.
5. Meeting was adjourned at 4:34 pm
- a. Motion to adjourn made by Dave Eberbach
 - b. Second made by Kathleen Fisher
 - c. No further discussion
 - d. All in favor
 - e. Motion carries

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Haen, Secretary

