



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2017
8:30-10:00am

Facilitator:	Karen Tjapkes		
Meeting Attendees:	<p>Karen Tjapkes (Legal Aid of West MI), Julie Cnossen (Arbor Circle), Erin Branchoff (City of GR), Rebecca Rynbrandt (City of Wyoming), Shannon Bass (Community Member), Jeffrey King (Community Rebuilders), Denny Sturtevant (Dwelling Place), Laurie Craft (GR Community Foundation), Hattie Tinney (GR Housing Commission), Kwan McEwen (GR Urban League), Deborah Armstrong (ICCF), Beverly Ryskamp (Network 180), Christina Soulard (Salvation Army), Erin Crison (Wellhouse GR)</p> <p>Not Present: John Wynbeek (Genesis), Tom Cottrell (YWCA), Lisa Cruden (Family Promise), Lauren Van Keulen (311), Connie Bohatch (City of GR), Matthew VanZetten (Kent County MI)</p> <p>Also Present: Wende Randall (ENTF), Cheryl Schuch (Family Promise), Deanna Rolffs (ICCF), Ruth Franciszka (NAEH Exchange Program), Jim Talen (Coalition), Jesica Vail (Coalition), Bree Butler (Coalition)</p>		
Time Convened:	8:33 AM	Time Adjourned:	9:59 AM

Approval of Minutes		March 17, 2017	
Motion by:	Laurie Craft	Support from:	Christina Soulard
Amendments	Add to the discussion on LIHTC the reason Denny abstained from housing discussion and left the room, what were his potential conflicts of interest. Correct the date.		
Conclusion	Motion passed, minutes approved		
Approval of Agenda		April 21, 2017	
Motion by:	Julie Cnossen	Support from:	Erin Branchoff
Amendments	Item 6c was added to agenda: ENTf/CoC MOUs		
Conclusion	Motion passed, agenda approved		
Approval of Consent Agenda		April 21, 2017	
Motion by:	Beverly Ryskamp	Support from:	Denny Sturtevant
Amendments			
Conclusion	Motion passed, consent agenda items approved		
Petitions and Communications		Christina Soulard/Lisa Cruden	
Discussion			
<p>A) Family Shelter Email Update with Christina Soulard: Funding has helped getting families connected to better resources. It is expected that diversion efforts will help in the coming months.</p> <p>B) Diversion Update with Kwan McEwen:</p>			



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2017
8:30-10:00am

<p>Grand Rapids Urban League is the fiduciary, they were awarded \$150,000 from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. The group will meet with other foundations in May to raise an additional \$250,000, the total program cost is \$400,000. Pilot is expected to be started in mid-June.</p>	
<p>Presentations: Summary of CoC/ENTF Preliminary Agreements</p>	<p>Denny Sturtevant</p>
<p>Discussion</p> <p>The group working on this has found that it is optimum to have an MOU between the CoC and United Way. United Way currently provides staffing support, planning, etc. An MOU between the CoC and United Way would describe the relationship between the two organizations and give United Way the responsibility to handle staffing evaluations and ensure the staff responsibilities are able to be carried out. It is also desired to have an MOU between the CoC and the Salvation Army. The goal will be for a change to be made to the charter. Today was just a presentation of the summary of work completed so far.</p>	
<p>Conclusions</p> <p>It is important to note that no major structural changes are recommended. Furthermore, all changes that are proposed will be given to the Executive Committee to approve first.</p>	
<p>Strategic Plan: Steering Section Review</p>	<p>Jesica Vail</p>
<p>Discussion</p> <p>Areas of the Strategic Plan for the Steering Council to carry out include multiple action items that entreat Steering to seek out additional permanent housing resources. Most critical and difficult in this effort is to identify more Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). Staff provided data to demonstrate that a fair amount of PSH within the County is not prioritizing homelessness or using Coordinated Entry for referrals. This may be an easier place to start increasing housing inventory, as the rent/leasing assistance is already covered, and only support service funding may be needed. Based on 2016 numbers, of the total amount of PSH, 42% are available for HAP referral. Two projects will be beginning to take HAP referrals which will shift the no HAP referral number from 58% to 24%. Those not taking HAP referrals do not receive HUD funding. These numbers reflect the housing that is reported to HUD in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). They show HUD the amount of PSH that should be available to our system for housing, however we know that a significant portion is not. There was discussion if those housing units should be removed from the HIC count. There are other ways of receiving housing without going through HAP or being in the HMIS system. One important question may be what numbers should be reflected on the report that goes to HUD.</p> <p>It is important to note that predictions should not be based on a high turnover rate. Basing predictions on a high turnover rate could indicate individuals or families who will need to come back for services more than once and would result in a less than accurate reflection of need.</p>	



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2017

8:30-10:00am

Other types of PSH are also available in the community that are not included in the HIC, and outreach efforts may be made in the future to connect with these properties to ask if they would take referrals from HAP in vacant units.

Building a partnership with these properties could be very beneficial.

HUD would like the HIC to include all properties in the community that serve anyone experiencing homelessness regardless of funding source.

A possible solution to increasing PSH would be to leverage support services that could be paired with housing properties that give rent support to house homeless individuals and families.

There are groups that might not be homeless but desperately need housing, such as individuals with disabilities. Many PSH units are designed for these populations and the property managers may have no interest in expanding to include people who are homeless. If they would, HAP could refer people to those units who were both homeless and have a disability.

For network180, it is time to review the system and answer important questions about how services are set up. Network180 needs services immediately, when individuals come out of the hospital the need for housing is immediate. They aren't able to run individuals through multiple systems, however there may be space to build collaboration there

Additional learning may be gained by speaking with communities in other cities that have successfully increased PSH capacity and reduced chronic homelessness.

The CoC should contact hospitals in the area and invite them to be a part of the discussion.

There is a need to grow PSH stock without excluding groups that can't qualify for PHA or HVC housing. An individual in HUD funded scattered site housing who no longer needs the intensive PSH program, can receive a move up voucher to move them out of the PSH program without having to change their housing and open up a new space in the PSH program. When people needing new housing assistance after projects closed (SRA, Home at Last), space was able to be made for many of them in HUD funded scattered site PSH because there were no restrictions on who they could house. However, this means that our most open, flexible PSH just filled many units with high vulnerability individuals that are less likely to move on from the project soon. This can have the effect of reducing the units available by turnover in the projects over the coming years.

Next steps will be to convene a group of PSH providers, service providers and related providers such as Disability Advocates, the local hospital and health care providers, and PHAs. Interested members from this group are Denny, Beverly, Jeffrey, Hattie, and Erin Crison.



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2017
8:30-10:00am

Youth Homelessness 100 Day Challenge Opportunity	Jesica Vail
Discussion	
<p>Technical assistance was offered to the CoC from HUD to help build our response to youth homelessness.</p> <p>The CoC was also invited to apply to compete in a national 100-day challenge towards ending youth homelessness. A group contracted through HUD will be selecting 10 cities to take the challenge and GR has been invited to apply. There are opportunities associated with this challenge. HQ was tasked with doing research on what this challenge could mean for GR and what other cities who have completed the challenge have gained. CoC can set the goals for the challenge and set the time frame. Unfortunately, funding is not included in the challenge but other positive outcomes such as increased publicity could result. The group talked about using the challenge to also highlight other priority work, such as end chronic homelessness among youth in the county.</p>	
Conclusions	
<p>MOTION to support the application to the 100-day challenge made by Laurie, seconded by Shannon. All in favor, motion passed.</p>	
Update on Infrastructure Funding	Jesica Vail
Discussion	
<p>MDHHS is reconfiguring their ESP funding which currently supports more than a quarter of HAP's budget. MDHHS states that the activities of HAP will no longer fall within the scope of the funding source. Jesica, Karen, Christina, and Betty Zylstra are meeting in Lansing next week to discuss options and seek assistance in finding new funding options. The group hopes to work collaboratively as partners with the state to address the issue, but will pursue other options as necessary. Executive has been leading these discussions and will keep Steering updated on progress.</p>	
Committee Structure Updates	Jesica Vail
Discussion	
<p>Executive agreed that each year committees should re-elect or support a chair person. Additionally, each committee should identify a vice-chair and secretary as well. These are planned to be announced at the June Coalition Membership meeting.</p>	
Other Matters	Jesica Vail
Discussion	
<p>Research into previous HUD scoring and potential areas for improvement: There has been further investigation into HUD scores. A national representative was contacted but it seems further follow up will be needed to receive a clarified and detailed explanation of scores. The next step is to contact a representative or senator.</p>	