



## CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

October 25, 2018

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Lisa Cruden		
Meeting Attendees:	Lisa Cruden, Nancy Oliver, Laurie Craft, Shandra Steininger, Erin Banchoff, Kenya Brown, Shannon Bass, Richa and Ginny, Nickole Glass, Cassidy Dykstra, Trenea Allen, Pam Hoekwater, Wanda Couch, Robin Acton, Domineca Dault, Adrienne Goodstal, Kayla Doyle, Molly Wiersma, Hattie Tinney, Kim Lucar, Laura Oesch, Felicia Clay, Laura VanKeulen, Liz Keegan, Kendra Avila, Chris Romero, Shanelle White, Megan Hamann, Cheryl Schuch, Darrell Singleton II, Arielle Goodson, Deanna Rolffs, Patti Peiffer, Ashley Smiley, Beverly Ryskamp, Sherri Vainavicz, Gayle Witham, Alonda Trammell, John Wynbeek, Tammy Yeoman, Anna Diaz, Nina Bowser, David Gantz, Susan Cervantes, Ashlynn Couturier, Amanda Sterzick, Amy DeMott, Casey Gordon, Rebecca Venema, Denise Price, Rebecca Diffin, Maureen Kirkwood, Connie Bohatch, Michael Towns, Kari Sherman, Emily Stroka, Kwan McEwen, April LaGrone, Maria Moreno-Reyes, Emily O'Brien, Tim Beimers, Stephanie Gingerich, Brad Miller, Julie Johnson, Johanna Schulte, Annemarie Valdez, Kate Parr Staff: Wende Randall, Emily Schichtel, Brianne Czyzio		
Time Convened:	9:30	Time Adjourned:	10:45

<b>Approval of Minutes</b>		<b>From August 23, 2018</b>	
Motion by:	Kenya	Support from:	Adrienne
Discussion			
Amendments	Adjournment Time needs to be changed.		
Conclusion	Approved		
<b>Ready By 5</b>		<b>Annemarie Valdez, Kate Parr</b>	
Discussion	<p>Annemarie and Kate from First Steps Kent presented the Ready by 5 proposal that will be on ballot on November 6. This proposal comes out of the community's goals that babies are born healthy and that kids develop healthily. From a gap analysis last November, they found there are thousands of kids under the age of 6 in Kent County not receiving vital services. This is because there is not enough capacity for every child to receive the services they need, even with the numerous organizations who are in the community. Research found that early intervention matters. Quality early childhood programs lead to lower health care costs, lower K through 12 costs, and a more productive workforce. Most significant gaps in the community are in 2 and 3 year old children. The proposal is a 0.25 mil that will raise \$5.7 million a year for 6 years. One thing the money will be used for is programs that help children get ready for kindergarten through supporting parents.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
<b>Residential Rental Application Fees Ordinance</b>		<b>Connie Bohatch</b>	
Discussion	<p>Connie presented the rules surrounding the collection and return of application fees changed with this ordinance. Prospective tenants now need a written disclosure statement that explains criteria for grading applications, how to contact those grading the application, and a written notification of denial</p>		



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that explains the denial. Informational meetings will be held in the community, starting Monday, with other organizations present to answer questions. The sessions will be on October 29, November 1, and November 15. These information sessions will inform residents of their rights, and the ways to report violations. In addition, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission approved funding for rental assistance. Cheryl Schuch suggested if any agencies have relationships with Rental Property Owners Association (RPOA), it would be helpful to have them at the meeting to help with relationship building. Nancy Oliver and Robin Acton agreed that connecting with RPOA on the affordability issue is important. It was suggested that it may be helpful to present to RPOA because some families would be stable renters if landlords would lower rents a little. Nancy asks that everyone keep in mind that with the housing market right now, the maximum amount of the vouchers does not fully cover the rent.

	Person Responsible	Deadline
<b>Michigan Special Education Mediation Program</b>	<b>Patti Peiffer</b>	
Discussion		
<p>Patti gave an overview of her organization, Michigan Special Education Mediation Program. They just launched their new name - Special Education Mediation Services. They provide mediation for educational purposes, facilitation, and workshops/training.</p> <p>Their program is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free: it is paid for through government funding</li> <li>- Fast: there is usually resolutions within 30 calendar days</li> <li>- Effective: there is a resolution for families and schools in about 90% of the cases.</li> <li>- Neutral: they are not advocates but they work with advocates.</li> <li>- Confidential: they only report whether a mediation was held and whether it was successful</li> </ul> <p>Patti would love to come to organizations to fully explain the program. Contact her at: <a href="mailto:Patti.peiffer@mikids1st.org">Patti.peiffer@mikids1st.org</a>.</p>		
	Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact Patti if you would like a presentation	All	
<b>Presentation of Member Duties</b>	<b>Lisa Cruden</b>	
Discussion		
<p>Lisa presented a HUD document that outlines what the CoC program is, and what members are/would be responsible for. Brianne Czyzio will send this document to CoC members. In addition, some people will be hearing from the nominations committee soon, please consider joining Steering Council. In addition, Lisa asks everyone to think on whether everyone who needs to be in the room is here. If there is someone you feel should be present, please invite them.</p>		
	Person Responsible	Deadline
Send link out to CoC members	Brianne Czyzio	
<b>National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week</b>	<b>Anna Diaz</b>	
Discussion		
<p>Anna presented that National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is November 10-18. The Ending Veteran Homelessness Committee is hosting a Veteran Connect event on November 9, from 9</p>		



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to 4. They are partnering with community collaborators at 6 deployment sites including the American Legion in Cedar Springs, Fountain Street Church, and the American Legion on Wilson. The deployment sites will screen everyone who comes in, and then access what benefits are available to veterans. In addition, there will be food pallets available. The goal is to make sure every veteran who comes in will be quickly assessed and move them to housed. They are looking for partners, fill out flyer if your agency is interested. If any agencies are doing something for National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, please email Brianne with information so it can be shared.

	Person Responsible	Deadline

### Emergency Shelter/Motel Program Nancy Oliver

#### Discussion

Nancy presented that Steering Council has formed an emergency taskforce to come together and brainstorm short-term and long-term solutions to family homelessness. The taskforce is meeting tomorrow (10/26) from 12-2pm. Nancy thanked Wende for convening the taskforce. Nancy shared that in the last year, this community increased the dollar amount to over \$130,000 to shelter families, but the need is still too great. Currently, there are 32 shelter rooms in this community for families who are literally homeless, but this is not enough. Nancy called on the community to come together to decide on a plan to address homeless families and create a system that helps move families to a more permanent housing situation. Lisa shared that there around 100 families on the current waitlist and encouraged anyone with ideas, resources, or space to come to the meeting. Cheryl further clarified that the meeting is targeted to looking at emergency shelter capacity for families to get families in a safe space. Anna wanted to clarify that there are more than 32 beds for families; there are 32 rooms that are flexible on the bed space, meaning there are close to 124 beds. Nancy echoed that the meeting tomorrow will focus on immediate need and then look strategically at how to meet the long-term need.

	Person Responsible	Deadline

### Voices of Youth Count Update Emily Schichtel

#### Discussion

Emily presented that the Voices of Youth Count was conducted on October 3. This was the first count conducted in Kent County. There is a Youth Committee meeting tomorrow to debrief event. As of now, there is not much data to share, but the hopes some data will be available at the December meeting. She also highlighted that it was a collaborative effort and thanked the partnering agencies.

	Person Responsible	Deadline

### Recommendation to Update the governance Charter Lisa Cruden

#### Discussion

Lisa presented the three motions on the table to be voted on today:

- a. Motion to amend Governance Charter to include Youth and Veteran Action Boards.
  - i. Eligible Members: 63
  - ii. Voting Members: 38



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. "Yes, I vote to approve": 38</li> <li>iv. "No, I vote to not approve": 0</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Motion to amend Governance Charter to fill the existing vacant Steering seat as a permanent seat for a Youth Action Board member               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Eligible Members: 63</li> <li>ii. Voting Members: 38</li> <li>iii. "Yes, I vote to approve": 38</li> <li>iv. "No, I vote to not approve": 0</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Motion to amend Governance Charter to fill one future vacant Steering seat as a permanent seat for a Veteran Action Board member               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Eligible Members: 63</li> <li>ii. Voting Members: 38</li> <li>iii. "Yes, I vote to approve": 38</li> <li>iv. "No, I vote to not approve": 0</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	Person Responsible	Deadline
<b>HUD Application Update</b>		<b>Wende Randall</b>
Discussion		
<p>Wende shared that the application was sent in on September 17, she expects a response anytime between now and the end of January. There was great feedback from the application process. Paul is currently working on a comparison between last year's score and this year's self-score.</p>		
	Person Responsible	Deadline
<b>Agency Updates</b>		
Discussion		
<p><u>Genesis</u>: John Wynbeek presented that they in the process of completing the St. James development. There will be 52 units of affordable housing, 13 for special needs, 8 of which have Grand Rapids housing vouchers. Currently, they are in the preleasing phase, and have many more applications than units. Dwelling Place will be doing the property management. John asks that you encourage others to apply.</p> <p><u>Fair Housing Center</u>: Liz Keegan shared that their conference is Thursday April 25, at Amway downtown. In addition, the Fair Housing Rights for Seniors will be Thursday, November 1 at the Area Agency for Aging. She encourages everyone to attend and share the event.</p> <p><u>Grand Rapids Housing Commission</u>: Hattie Tinney shared that the Section 8 waiting list will be opened Nov 5-19 by online portal. If you would like additional information, contact Hattie at: <a href="mailto:htinney@grhousing.org">htinney@grhousing.org</a></p> <p><u>3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District</u>: Richa shared that he and Ginny are supporting Cathy Albro. She is a retired educator who at one point, lost her business and her home. She would be someone the CoC can engage with.</p> <p><u>Wyoming Housing Commission</u>: Rebecca Venema shared that they received mainstream vouchers, so 35 new slots will open in January of 2019.</p>		



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Steering Council: Lisa Cruden shared that December meeting is an opportunity for new Steering members. CoC members will hear from nominations committee soon. Also, CoC members will be getting an email to renew their membership for next year.

**Adjournment**

**Next Meeting: December 13**