



**GRAND RAPIDS/WYOMING/KENT COUNTY  
CoC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES**

December 12, 2019  
9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Casey Gordon		
Meeting Attendees:	<p>Casey Gordon (Kent ISD), Hattie Tinney (GR Housing Commission), Stephanie Brock-Knoper (City of Wyoming), Felicia Clay (GR Housing Commission), Randall Leneau (Volunteers of America), Tammy Yeomans (Kent RICC), Laura St. Louis (Disability Advocates), Adrienne Goodstal (Mel Trotter), Cheryl Schuch (Family Promise), Lisa Cruden (Family Promise), Johanna Schulte (City of Grand Rapids), Todd Furlong (Salvation Army), Dave Gantz (Pine Rest), Victoria Sluga (Pine Rest), Kathy Besaw (Genesis), Julie Kendrick (Degage), Bob Neinhuis (Degage), Drea McKinney (HQ), Becky Diffin (YWCA), Wanda Couch (GR Housing Commission), Trenessa Allen (GR Housing Commission), Alexandria Nix (GR Housing Commission), Allie Wenk (GR Housing Commission), Amber Jones (Hope Network), Kari Sherman (GR Urban League), Kwan McEwen (GR Urban League), Ameer Paparella (North Kent Connect), Domenica Dault (Mel Trotter), Mary Engle (Mel Trotter), Maria Moreno-Reyes (GR Urban League), April LaGrone (GR Urban League), Joshua Harris (GR Urban League), Amanda Tarantowski (network180), Emily Schichtel (HWMUW), Wende Randall (ENTF), Sherrie Gillespie (KCCA), Gayle Witham (VA), Marisela Benites (Covenant House Academy), Ashelei McDaniel (Covenant House Academy), Erin Banchoff (City of Grand Rapids), Dreyson Byker (community member), Rebecca Long (Dwelling Place), Denny Sturtevant (Dwelling Place), Jess Zarik (Dwelling Place), Jennifer Brozowski (HealthNet), Laurie Craft (GR Community Foundation), Latrisha Sosebee (Dwelling Place), Stephanie Gingerich (LINC UP), Jeffrey King (Community Rebuilders), Vera Beech (Community Rebuilders), Tim Beimers (Salvation Army), Shannon Bass (community member), Maurice Townsend (Motown Square), Deanna Rolffs (ICCF/Design Group International), Veronica Arvizu (ICCF), Berniz Constanza Terpstra (ICCF), Emily Bridson (City of Kentwood), Rashida Mitchner (Godwin Heights), Anna Solomon (Safe Haven)  <u>Staff:</u> Courtney Myers-Keaton, Sierra Salaam, Brianne Czyzio Robach</p>		
Time Convened:	9:36	Time Adjourned:	10:53

<b>Call to Order and Introductions</b>			
Casey Gordon called the meeting to order and asked attendees to share their name and organization.			
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>		<b>October 17, 2019</b>	
Motion by:	Lisa Cruden	Support from:	Shannon Bass
Discussion			
Amendments			
Conclusion	All in favor by acclamation with dissent		
<b>FUSE Presentation</b>			
Discussion			
Denny Sturtevant and Jess Zarik presented on Dwelling Place's FUSE project. FUSE is an acronym for Frequent User Systems Engagement. This is a project focused on addressing the needs of those within the Heartside neighborhood to improve economic conditions by treating behavioral health issues.			



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FUSE hopes to shift the frequent use of emergency services to preventative and wraparound services. Housing, case management, and other services will work to provide a stable environment for frequent users and decreases the taxpayer cost by reducing police, fire, EMS, and emergency room use.

FUSE is a national initiative by Corporation for Supportive Housing to address gaps in the system for frequent users. Corporation for Supportive Housing has implemented this project in approximately 30 cities throughout the country. The goal is to focus on the top 50-100 users of services and provide housing and wraparound services. The project will bring community partners together to ensure that gaps in services for frequent users are filled. Dwelling Place has been working with community partners throughout the planning process. The FUSE team will be working with community partners to determine how to define a frequent user for this community. They have not determined the number of frequent users yet, but estimate it is between 50 and 100. To do so, they have been working closely with DHHS to develop a process for data-sharing on the local level ensure that privacy concerns with HIPPA and HMIS are met.

In other communities, CSH has seen that those with highest need may not be in HMIS or receive a SPDAT score. Reasons for this are varied, but other communities reported that barriers are often around access. Denny expressed that coordination is important to ensure that all frequent users receive services. Current local partners include health systems, mental health partners, law enforcement agencies, service agencies, Downtown Development Authority, and others. They have been extremely encouraged by the partnerships with the health systems and law enforcement agencies.

Dwelling Place is facilitating the implementation of this project but hopes that this will become a community project over the coming years. They will have a kickoff meeting in January, the date will be shared with the CoC once it is set.

To learn more, visit [csh.org/fuse](http://csh.org/fuse) or contact [Jess Zarik](#), FUSE Coordinator, or [Denny Sturtevant](#), CEO.

## Steering Council elections

Discussion

Hattie Tinney, member of the Nominating Committee, announced that there are 7 Steering Council seats up for election. Nominations were solicited from CoC membership via email. She asked for any additional nominations from the floor. No nominations were submitted. CoC members filled out paper ballots. Ballots were collected and counted outside of the room.

Newly elected or re-elected Steering Council members are: Tom Cottrell, Casey Gordon, Thomas Pierce, Cheryl Schuch, Victoria Sluga, Amanda Tarantowski, Lauren VanKeulen

## MSHDA Housing Choice Voucher

Discussion

Courtney shared updated data from MSHDA regarding the number of households currently on the Housing Priority List, the number added, and the number pulled from the list. Courtney encouraged



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members to reach out to Community Housing Advocates if there are questions around accessing the vouchers.	
<b>Fulton Manor Update</b>	
Discussion	
<p>Fulton Manor was a one-year project that is scheduled to end at the end of this year. Staff are working with partners to ensure that all families exit to a stable destination. There are about 30 families in Fulton Manor right now. The goal is to identify a place where they feel settled by Christmas. Family Promise is partnering with Salvation Army, Community Rebuilders, Mel Trotter, and landlord advocates to get families into housing. Mel Trotter added family shelter rooms to provide access for 5 more families. North Kent Connect also recently opened a 5-bed shelter program increasing access for families.</p>	
<b>Warming Centers &amp; Cold Weather Information</b>	
Discussion	
<p>Courtney provided an overview of Mel Trotter’s Code Blue policies as well as warming center locations. During Code Blue, Mel Trotter will not turn any guests away if they come in after curfew. In addition, guests that previously were barred have the bar lifted. For those looking for assessment, Salvation Army HAP will be closed if Grand Rapids Public Schools is closed, but the on-call number will be available.</p> <p>Wende announced that the Kent County Health Department and the Emergency Management team are working with community partners to develop a plan to ensure clear communication across agencies in emergency events.</p>	
<b>Dashboard Preview</b>	
Discussion	
<p>The Data Analysis Committee has been working with Daniel, the HMIS Administrator to create a dashboard with community data. Courtney provided a preview of the dashboard. These numbers include only those who enter into a resource in HMIS. Numbers do not include the DV population or those who access the system but do not receive a resource. The dashboard provides an overview of system indicators, as well as information on participant engagement, length of time homeless, positive outcomes, and demographics. Once finalized, this will be added to the CoC’s website.</p>	
<b>Agency Updates</b>	
Discussion	
<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> Courtney provided attendees with a draft RFP for the strategic planning process. The current strategic plan has been extended until April of 2020. To develop a new strategic plan, Steering Council discussed a phased approach which would include a vision and values conversation followed by the development of actionable goals. Courtney asked members to read through the RFP, discuss priorities they would like to see coming out of strategic planning, and provide feedback on the RFP.</p> <p><b>Degage:</b> Degage is working with Census 2020 efforts to ensure that all community members are counted in the upcoming census to bring resources into the community. He encouraged those who want more information to <a href="#">connect with him</a>.</p>	



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**Mel Trotter:** Their Annual Christmas luncheon will be December 20<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 1:15pm at Mel Trotter.

**Disability Advocates:** They are in the process of planning Disability Awareness Day in March. Laura is looking for help with planning the program, please connect with her ([laura.s@dakc.us](mailto:laura.s@dakc.us)) if you are interested in helping with planning.

**LINC UP:** They will be working together with Motown Square on an affordable assisted living project in Madison square. The location is on Hall between Lafayette and Cass. They are looking to provide about 60 units.

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