



**Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County CoC
Youth Committee
MEETING NOTES**

April 24, 2020
9:30-10:15

Partner Updates	
Discussion	
<p><u>CoC</u> Working with City and County to ensure that isolation and quarantine procedures are in place for those who are experiencing homelessness who do not have a safe space to do so on their own.</p> <p>Additional funding coming into the community from multiple sources. Steering discussed prioritizing MSHDA ESG funds for families and youth. Working with City and county on ways to use funding for prevention measures and bring on additional housing vouchers.</p> <p><u>HQ</u> Still physically closed but staff are connecting with youth. They will be starting a virtual schedule for members and can help work through issues such as unemployment, stimulus checks.</p> <p><u>Covenant House</u> Steven DePolo is on board as director of development. Youth at covenant house voted to abide by stay home order. Staff are slowly introducing additional males as rooms become available. Second floor is available for a quarantine space if needed. They hope to begin to open the female floor as stay-at-home orders are lifted. The school is closed, but remote learning is continuing. Enrollment is available online.</p> <p><u>Arbor Circle</u> The Bridge was closed for some time but has since reopened with space for 6 youth. They are accepting new assessments, temp checks and screenings are being done each day. Street outreach is operating virtually in most cases. They are happy to take referrals, call the hotline. Case management services go up to age 21, street outreach goes up to age 24.</p> <p><u>Mel Trotter</u> Lots of moving pieces. Staff are trying to practice social distancing and are doing temp checks and screening. They are partnering with community orgs to help with de-intensifying space. The youth shelter is still onsite, they are working to keep it as normal as possible for youth. 2 beds are available.</p> <p><u>Salvation Army</u> Currently 134 youth on byname list, 50 are families, 2 are chronic. 101 unsheltered, 33 sheltered. TSA can cross reference to ensure that any youth in shelter is on a by-name list. Is there a way to categorize unsheltered on the list for easy connection to street outreach? TSA can do a break down. MTM has been having youth call in to take assessment and get connected to resources.</p> <p>Anecdotal concern that pregnant and parenting youth are staying in cars – has been focus by Family Promise to get families into hotels. As funds become available for sheltering, this could be a conversation with the family side to ensure there is collaboration. There may be an opportunity to approach private funders to ensure that funds are available for sheltering and housing youth.</p>	



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Family Life Center in Allendale, had some availability for pregnant and parenting youth at last report. Contact (www.familylifecenterhome.org, info@familylifecenterhome.org, 616-895-8336)

3:11

Their focus has been supporting youth and alumni. Most youth lost employment, so working to make sure they have support for essential needs. In addition, they are trying to provide rental assistance for youth who recently moved out and are no longer employed. They have not been accepting applications.

Next Steps

Discussion

What should we be focusing on for the next 4 weeks?

- Concern that mental health and social wellness will be hard. What are youth specific supports that we can provide? (hotels, funding, others). Knowing that resources are over-extended, it is important to update youth and ensure that we are connecting them to something.
- Concern around youth who are unable to be reached. As schools re-engage, staff are not able to connect with some youth. It may be a good place to start by looking at what we are seeing and what we are not.
- Reports that food is the biggest need and it is difficult for youth to get to pantry sites.

Conversation around ways to cross reference ways for contacting youth and getting them access to resources. HAP working to get the youth function zero list up to date and coordinate resources. Currently, all resources are at capacity. Advocacy work needed to increase housing resources for youth. Old National may have funds related to providing services in response to COVID. Need for advocacy can go to Executive and Steering.

Announcements:

WMCAT has a list of resources in the community.