



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

May 22, 2020  
9:30-10:30

Facilitator:	Drea McKinney		
Meeting Attendees:	Melissa Ware, Max Barrigear, Drea McKinney, Becky Diffin, Joe Kiser, Finn Marcks, Carolyn Allen, Melanie Wiersma, Lauren VanKeulen, Anna Diaz, Kendra Avila, Ardrace Morris, Tiffany Clarke, Regina Archie, Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Robach		
Time Convened:	9:30	Time Adjourned:	10:30

**Introductions**

**Review of Agenda**

Discussion

**Voices of Youth Count**

Discussion

Joe Kiser works in Community Outreach at Old National Bank. He is a senior at GVSU and has to do an internship with 100 hours of service. During May, he picked up VoYC planning process for 2020 and has been setting up the infrastructure of a planning committee and will be inviting Youth Committee and community members to participate.

Conversation around what this may look like in a time of COVID-19 and the scope of the count. Suggestion to use the count to connect youth to resources, particularly those who are currently on the by-name list (there are currently 32 homeless youth on the list). Courtney noted that it has been difficult to connect youth as there are very few resources opening. The veteran count used HMIS data as a basis to get started. Conversation around the count and modification due to COVID-19. There is potential for this to be successfully executed virtually, but a virtual count may not collect numbers that fully reflect the crisis. Agreement that a robust count would be important and will help raise awareness of the number of youth experiencing homelessness.

How do we connect with youth to help with planning? Max will try to connect with YAB members. For outreach to youth throughout the community, a youth count Facebook page/other social media could be used to share information. Potential for an informational VoYC page and then private Facebook group for youth experiencing homelessness to share information and resources with one another.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

**COVID-19 Committee Focus and Response**

Discussion

CoC updates – isolation center is Fulton Care Center at Fulton Manor. MSHDA ESG-CV allocation is around \$540,000. Another round will be coming, but unsure of timeline. There have been no announcements regarding the YHDP and CoC Program Competition.

Mel Trotter YES shelter is open, census varies. They have computers available for youth and are trying to connect them to HQ. Women have been moved back on-site. Female youth are able to go to MTM, are able to occupy apartment-style space.



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<b>Agency Updates</b>		
Discussion		
<p>Bethany Youth Services – received a foundation grant for youth with experience with the foster care system to help connect to resources. Please connect with Tiffany (<a href="mailto:tclarke@bethany.org">tclarke@bethany.org</a>)</p> <p>Community Rebuilders – continuing to work remotely. Are opening RRH programs and have moved to a non-congregate approach for sheltering.</p> <p>Arbor Circle – Street Outreach &amp; case managers are available for virtual and some select face to face appointments. Please reach out to Melissa (<a href="mailto:mware@arborcircle.org">mware@arborcircle.org</a>) or call 616-451-3001.</p> <p>HQ has 2 hours of office hours for mail distribution. Check out their FB page for updates.</p>		
<b>Adjournment</b>		
Motion by:	Max Barrigear	Second: Casey Gordon
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.	