



CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2017

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Karen Tjapkes		
Meeting Attendees:	Jeffrey King (Community Rebuilders)*, Lisa Cruden (Family Promise)*, Karen Tjapkes (Legal Aid)*, Beverly Ryskamp (Network 180)*, Christina Soulard (Salvation Army)*, Erin Crison (Well House)*, Tom Cottrell (YWCA)*, Christina Swiney (Access of West MI), Niki Adams (Access of West MI), Sherrie Gillespie (ACSET CAA), Arielle Goodson (Bethany Christian Services), Donald Eikenhout (Cherry Health), Johanna Schulte (City of Grand Rapids), Jennifer Grostic (Degage), Alonula Trammell (Dwelling Place), Liz Keegan (FHCWM), Pat Murray (Flat River Outreach Ministries), Wanda Couch (GR Hope Community), Erin Wiczorek (GR Hope Community), Kim Cain (Have Mercy), Mary DeYoung (HQ), Johnny Melendez (Health Net of W MI), Emily Stroka (Kent County Housing Commission), Casey Gordon (Kent ISD), Sarah Blystra (Kentwood Public Schools), Stephanie Gingerich (Linc Up), Denise Price (Reliance CCP), Tara Aday (Safe Haven), Tim Beimers (Salvation Army), Lynne Bosma (Salvation Army), Talor Musil (Salvation Army), Betty Zylstra (TSA), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Jesica Vail (Coalition Staff), Bree Butler (Coalition Staff), (*denotes Steering Council member)		
Time Convened:	9:30 am	Time Adjourned:	10:19 am

Approval of Minutes		February 23, 2017	
Motion by:	Tom Cottrell	Support from:	Christina Soulard
Discussion	None		
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passed		
Presentations			
Discussion			
A) ServeGR.com Presented by: Heather Colletto Due to technological needs, this presentation has been rescheduled for the June meeting.			
B) Hygiene Drive Presented by: Talor Musil Statewide hygiene product drive in 20 different cities throughout Michigan. For the Grand Rapids Area it is a project/platform to raise awareness around the need for health and hygiene items for anyone experiencing homelessness. There are two drop off sites in Grand Rapids. Heart of W MI United Way on 118 Commerce Ave and Biggby Coffee on 146 Monroe Center St NW			
C) Double Up Food Bucks Presented by: Emily Schichtel Double Up Food Bucks is a program that is run by a partnership of both public and privately owned organizations. This is a federally and privately funded program. This program provides snap participants with a 1 to 1 match for fruits and vegetables up to \$20 a day. Kent County has six grocery stores that participate in the program which are all Spartan/Nash family			



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stores. There are also farmer's markets that participate as well but the farmer's market season is listed on the flyer as being June 1st through October 31st. Double Up Food Bucks is hoping to increase participation this year with those that qualify for the program. When used at the farmers markets the produce must be Michigan grown to qualify but the grocery store locations have expanded that to include all fruit and vegetables no matter the location. More information is available on line at: www.DoubleUpFoodBucks.org.

Updates

Discussion

A) HUD CoC Program Funding Process

Presented by: Jesica Vail

HUD funding brings one of the largest funding sources to the CoC. Because HUD funding is one of the most steady and stable sources of funding, it is critical to the CoC and useful for Permanent Supportive Housing and long term services.

HUD funding is a multi-stage process starting with registration. This year registration involves a new Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). The amount of HUD funding awarded is not changed from the previous year's amount. Any additional funding would come from bonus projects, currently no bonus projects are anticipated for the upcoming year.

It is generally anticipated that the funding process will begin roughly one month after registration. This could easily change, the latest anticipated schedule had the due date set for August.

B) Veteran Homelessness Goal

Presented by: Jeffery King

About a month ago, the application to have the community recognized for reaching "functional zero" was submitted to US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), which has a committee that reviews the applications to determine if a community has or hasn't effectively ended Veteran Homelessness. The application was accepted and a mandatory 30-minute conference call was completed. The decision is still pending.

C) Member Updates

Network 180 Update regarding Public Mental Health Funding by Beverly Ryskamp.

There is a complex bill being presented that would privatize public health funding. If the funding shifts to private, that would mean a significant amount of funding would be lost that normally goes to housing projects and flexible spending. Network 180 is currently advocating to keep public funding.

HUD & MSHDA Budget by Jesica Vail

An Email was received from the Michigan Poverty Law Program regarding housing choice vouchers through HUD. It explained that PHAs will stop issuing vouchers across the state to meet federal spending limits. From MSHDA, expecting 2017 to look like 2016 funding although due to rising costs this flat amount will be a deficit. MSHDA Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) will not be administered to new households in the near future. MSHDA HCVs are especially useful for rural areas and this decision could really impact those communities.

HQ Youth Housing Update by Mary DeYoung

HQ led the community effort in applying for the Youth Demonstration Project which we did not win an award in, but we were invited to apply to take part in the 100-day end youth homelessness



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challenge. Youth are not exempt from experiencing chronic homelessness. Due to the benefits of taking part in this challenge, an application has been submitted.

Legal Aid Update by Karen Tjapkes

Legal Aid will be moving locations in about a month to 25 S Division. The office will be closed to the public the week after Memorial Day for moving day. Email and phones will be available for legal emergencies during this time. Phone numbers and emails are going to remain the same.

Legal Aid has a tax clinic, they don't file refunds, but can help with disputes with the IRS.

Fair Housing Update by Liz Keegan

The next book club opportunity will be on May 11th. The book being discussed is "Evicted – Poverty and Profit in the American City" by Matthew Desmond.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Link information in an email to CoC Members (HUD)	Jesica and Bree	
Network 180 advocacy email shared	Jesica and Bree	
Housing choice voucher language emailed	Jesica and Bree	