



CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2017

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Karen Tjapkes		
Meeting Attendees:	<p>Tom Cottrell* (YWCA), Laurie Craft* (GRCF), Kwan McEwen* (Grand Rapids Urban League), Christina Soulard* (The Salvation Army), Denny Sturtevant* (Dwelling Place), Hattie Tinney* (GR Housing Commission), Karen Tjapkes* (Legal Aid), Matthew VanZetten* (Kent County Housing Commission), John Wynbeek* (Genesis NPHC), Sherri Vainavicz (2-1-1), Kayla Morgan (3:11 Youth Housing), Lauren Van Kuelen (3:11 Youth Housing), Christina Swiney (Access of W Michigan), Niki Perkins (Access of W Michigan), Sherrie Gillespie (ACSET CAA), Karen Leppek (Area Agency on Aging), Arielle Goodson (Bethany), Donald Eikenhout (Cherry Health Services), Marsha Hazen (Cherry Health Services), Jeff Snyder (Comcast), Tammy Yeomans (Community Member), Anna Diaz (Community Rebuilders), Jennifer Grostic (Degage Ministries), Lynn Locke (Disability Advocates of KC), Stephen Wooden (Dwelling Place), Cheryl Schuch (Family Promise), Madelaine Clapp (FHCWM), Dawn Broene (FROM), Erin Wiczorek (GR Housing Commission – Hope Community), Felicia Clay (GR Housing Commission), Wanda Couch (GR Housing Commission- Hope Community), Jason Skalandis (Grand Rapids Pride Center), Larry DeShane (Grand Rapids Pride Center), Dione Ford (Grand Rapids Urban League), Kimberly Brown (Grand Rapids Urban League), Will Osoeun (Grand Rapids Urban League), Mary DeYoung (HQ), Christina Pavlak (Health Net of West MI), Alison Schuyler (Heartside Ministry), John Carman (ICCF), Amy Demott (IKUS Life Enrichment Services), Mark Logan (Kent County DHHS), Casey Gordon (Kent ISD), Sarah Blystra (Kentwood Public Schools), Stephanie Gingerich (LINC Up), Adrienne Goodstal (MTM), Cherie Elahl (North Kent Community Services), Dave Gantz (Pine Rest – Street Reach), Denise Price (Reliance CCP), Becky Mills (Safe Haven), Emily O’Brien (The Salvation Army), Betty Bylston (The Salvation Army), Lynne Bosma (The Salvation Army), Rachel Taplin (Senior Neighbors), Megan Emigh Lorenz (The Other Way Ministries), Sheena Threatt (True North Community Services), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Mike Boyd (VA Central Office), Erin Crison (Well House), Rebecca Venema (Wyoming Housing), Jesica Vail (Coalition Staff), Bree Butler (Coalition Staff) (*denotes Steering Council member)</p>		
Time Convened:	9:34 am	Time Adjourned:	10:28 am

Approval of Minutes		December 15, 2017	
Motion by:	Tom Cottrell	Support from:	Christina Soulard
Discussion	None		
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	Motion Passed		
Presentation: New Work Requirements for Food Assistant	Mark Logan (DHHS)		



CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2017

9:30-11:00am

Discussion

Overview: People considered to be “Able Bodied Adults” (Aged 18-49) must meet a work requirement to qualify for food stamps.

-Group composition is established first, once group composition is established then non-eligibility factors are looked at, and then financial eligibility.

-A new change is that if there are assets that equal over \$5000 then that group is not eligible. It is important to note that 1 home and 1 car is not included in the tally of assets.

-Earned income of every person in a group is considered. Shelter, utilities, daycare (out of pocket), child support expense, and disability or medical expenses are subtracted from earned income.

Kent County unemployment rate was low enough that Kent County is no longer exempt from the able-bodied work requirement. There are different ways to fulfill the requirement, they are as follows:

1) Work at least 20 hours per week.

2) Fulfill 20 hours per week of job and education training through Michigan Works.

3) Complete a certain amount of community service per week at a non-profit.

-After 3 countable months in a 3-year period of not meeting the work requirements, an “able body adult” is no longer eligible for benefits. There are exemptions from being deemed ineligible, the biggest category is having a disability.

-This requirement mostly affects single adults or couples without children.

NOTE: For community service, the number of hours is determined by dividing the individual’s household monthly food assistance benefit by Michigan’s Minimum Wage.

Internet Essentials

Jeffrey Snyder (Comcast)

Discussion

Internet Essentials is a broadband internet program for low income households.

This 6 year program has serviced 3 million Americans to date. Benefits include:

-Free installation of wifi and internet

-10mbps connection

-New computer for \$149 with Microsoft Office and Norton Antivirus installed

-Free wireless router

-Free Internet training available in traditional classroom setting or online

-Same internet service that everyone gets and the rate will stay \$9.95/Month

To be eligible the requirements are as follows:

1) Must live somewhere Comcast service is available

2) Cannot have been a Comcast customer within 90 days

3) No debt owed to Comcast from a previous account (if debt is over 1 year old Comcast will waive)

4) Have students who are living in your home who are eligible for lunch assistance. In a district where 40% or more students are eligible for free or reduced lunch assistance, every student at that school qualifies for this program.

5) Living in any type of public housing (Do not have to have a child who is a student)

6) Information Pamphlet is available in many different languages to reach people who need it.



CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2017

9:30-11:00am

Comcast is currently running a senior program pilot.

LIHTC Proposal

Denny Sturtevant (Dwelling Place)

Discussion

- Dwelling Place is putting together a plan to create housing on the west side of the city, the Harrison Park Family Housing Initiative. (Later renamed the Pine Avenue Apartments and the Harrison Park Apartments) It is important to keep families in this area because of the Challenge Scholars program.
- Harrison Park Apartments will have 45 two and three-bedroom affordable rental units to provide high-quality housing for families with incomes under 60% of the area median income. 12 of these units will be dedicated to survivors of domestic abuse.
- Pine Avenue Apartments will have 23 three-bedroom affordable rental units to provide high-quality housing for families with incomes under 60% of the area median income. 6 of these units will be dedicated to survivors of domestic abuse.
- Two chosen locations are close to a bus stop and Harrison Park Elementary School where you have to be enrolled to take advantage of the Challenge Scholars program.
- Eligibility for this housing will require filling out vouchers at the Grand Rapids Housing Commission or YWCA and are first come first serve.
- Development application planned to be submitted April 2017.

HUD Funding Process in 2017

Jesica Vail

Discussion

- CoC received feedback from HUD about most current score.
- HUD was able to give a timeline for 2017 funding process.
- Registration will open in Late February – Early March. The first step once registration is open is to compile a spreadsheet of all grant.
- NOFA expect opening in May with a closing date in August. Amounts rewarded in December.

Conclusions

Everyone involved in the HUD funding process need to have this on their radar as registration will be opening soon.

Diversion Updates

Kwan McEwen

Discussion

Community Diversion is a team of 8 partnering agencies to design and implement a diversion plan for families who need it.

- Diversion is a tool that is used when families are seeking shelter – the point is to divert the family from having to enter a shelter by either helping them stay where they are or finding them new housing.
- This diversion program would lift a substantial burden from the shelter system and is expected to be up and running June of 2017.

Conclusions



CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2017

9:30-11:00am

Any agency that is interested in joining this movement is still free to and welcome to do so.	
Veteran Homelessness	Anna Diaz
Discussion	
<p>As of December 2016 – Kent County is nearing functional zero. Numbers were gathered, data collected, and information put in HMIS. A compiled report of program success and numbers was given to Mayor Bliss and to the VA. The hope is to be able to officially submit the report this month (February) once Mayor Bliss and the VA approve. Report states that 364 Veterans have been housed, 46 are currently actively pursuing housing, and there are 4 Veterans newly homeless. There will always be new cases of Veterans needing housing – currently there is more housing than Veterans so services are available right away to any Veterans that apply for assistance.</p>	
Conclusions	
Recognition of the great work that has gone into this effort to house veterans.	
Agency Updates	Karen Tjapkes
Discussion	
<p>Fair Housing and PRFC Events are coming up: On April 27, 2017 both the Annual Fair Housing Luncheon and the Partners for a Racism Free Community Forum will be taking place.</p> <p>Michigan Housing Locator is back up and running at michiganhousinglocator.com. The site will no longer calculate rent Reasonableness.</p> <p>HQ has restarted 4th Friday tours, anyone is welcome to come from 12-1pm and learn about HQ.</p>	