



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2020

8:30-10:30

Facilitator:	Casey Gordon		
Meeting Attendees:	<p><u>Steering members present:</u> Amanda Tarantowski, Casey Gordon, Kwan McEwen, Susan Cervantes, Elizabeth Stoddard, Erin Banchoff, Cheryl Schuch, Karen Tjapkes, Victoria Sluga, Rebecca Rynbrandt, Thomas Pierce, Cathy LaPorte, Scott Orr</p> <p><u>Steering members absent with notification:</u> Adrienne Goodstal, Alonda Trammell, Lauren VanKeulen, Tom Cottrell</p> <p><u>Steering members absent without notification:</u> Brianna Lipscomb, Hattie Tinney, Shontaze Jones, Shannon Bass</p> <p><u>Community Members:</u> Anthony Barker, Eunice Link, John Peterson, Craig Patterson, Laura St. Louis, Sara Osborn, Greg Mustric, Heather DeKorte, Sara Osborn, Wende Randall</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Czyzio Robach</p>		
Time Convened:	8:35	Time Adjourned:	10:33

Approval of Agenda		August 21, 2020	
Motion by:	Elizabeth Stoddard	Support from:	Erin Banchoff
Discussion	The City of Grand Rapids was not able to identify a presenter for the Homeless Outreach Team, this item will be a discussion not a presentation.		
Amendments	Include Eviction Diversion funding (item c under General CoC updates)		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Approval of Minutes		June 19, 2020	
Motion by:	Cathy LaPorte	Support from:	Erin Banchoff
Discussion			
Amendments	Reference the City of Grand Rapids Homeless Outreach <i>Team</i> , not <i>Taskforce</i> . In MSHMIS Governance ensure acronyms are spelled correctly and include the draft letter for MCAH and MSHDA as an action item for Daniel Gore.		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Public Comment on Any Agenda Item			
Discussion	None		
Approval of Consent Agenda		August 21, 2020	
Motion by:	Cathy LaPorte	Support from:	Cheryl Schuch
Discussion			
Amendments			
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Petitions and Communications			
Discussion	None.		
City of Grand Rapids: Homeless Outreach Team			
Discussion			



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The City of Grand Rapids has created a Homeless Outreach Team, comprised of fire and police department personnel. Courtney has been in conversation with City staff to ensure there is coordination with this team and the outreach workgroup. The primary purpose of this team seems to be engagement, but they are also filling an enforcement role. Victoria noted that from Pine Rest Street Reach, the concern is that outreach staff may be perceived as enforcement, potentially damaging trust and relationships built over time. Members affirmed the importance of increasing housing resources in the community for successful exits from homelessness.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

LIHTC Presentations

Discussion

Woda Cooper

Craig Patterson, Heather DeKorte, and Greg Mustric were in attendance to share information around 2 potential LIHTC projects. The first is on the Westside in Grand Rapids at 585 Stocking NW, the former Arsulowicz Brothers Mortuaries and adjacent parking lot. They are looking at 2 sites on Stocking for 2 4-story buildings under the same management for a total of 57 or 58 units combined. Both would have on-site parking. They anticipate requesting 20 HCV units set aside for PSH and will be targeting those who are chronically homeless. The support services lead agency will be Community Rebuilders. Property management will be by Woda Management and Real Estate. They do not currently have an estimate in the occupancy number for each unit, they can provide these figures to the group. Cathy asked how they anticipate working with tenants to prevent evictions. They indicated that they have been working on eviction prevention measures and aids to tenants, particularly during this time.

The second project is on the southeast side of Grand Rapids at 3555 Lake Eastbrook Blvd. This project, known as Bradley Commons, will have 54 units on 4-stories with parking available on site and is adjacent to business area and public transit. They anticipate 19 units would be PSH with a target of those experiencing chronic homelessness, working with the coordinated entry system for referrals. Case management would be available onsite. Community Rebuilders would be the lead agency for supportive services and property management would be through Woda Management and Real Estate.

Woda Cooper will provide a written project summary for both projects.

Hope Network: Eastpointe Commons

Tony Barker, John Peterson, and Sara Osborn attended to share more about Hope Network's project, Eastpointe Commons. This project would be a renovation of the existing Fulton Manor buildings for 129 units. KMG Prestige would serve as the property management company and conversations are currently underway to determine lead agency. They anticipate 36 PSH units with best practices in place including housing first and a harm-reduction approach. They plan to screening tenants in through the CE system with target populations of chronic individuals or families within the top 10% of the Housing Priority List. They are also interested in exploring options for data matching with state



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and local priorities. The team anticipates asking for a letter of support from this body in the upcoming months.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Provide project description for the Woda Cooper projects presented today.	Craig Patterson and team	

Anticipated Upcoming Funding

Discussion

CoC Program Competition

Staff are still awaiting an update from HUD on this year's program competition. The Grant Inventory Worksheet was recently released and the full amount for the consolidated CE grant at HAP was included, indicating that the Annual Renewal Demand will likely not be impacted.

MSHDA ESG-CV2

No timeline has been announced but anticipate an announcement in September or October. Staff asked Steering to discuss priority areas to so an RFQ can be released, if applicable, after funds are released. Recognition there is not an understanding of all funds coming into the community and what the need may be this fall and winter. Currently there is reduced capacity in shelters. During winter, Mel Trotter typically increases their capacity and to ensure no one is staying outside, but they have indicated previously that this winter be difficult given distancing requirements.

Cheryl noted it would be important to consider capacity for administering the funds and flexibility in funding based on need. She also noted the importance of ensuring housing resources are available for households. Karen noted that rental assistance for security deposits, application fees, and moving costs would be important, if costs are allowable. Multiple members reported hearing of landlords, particularly large management companies, who are seeking to terminate leases instead of working with funding options available. Given this, funds to cover arrears to help households get into housing have been important and would continue to be important. Cheryl suggested strategic conversations with RPOA and landlords.

****Quorum was lost at the end of this discussion item. Members in attendance agreed to discuss the remaining agenda items, but not move forward with votes or decisions.****

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

General CoC Updates

Discussion

Isolation Update

Kent County is developing plans for isolation. A few units are available through Community Rebuilders. Longer-term conversations are still underway, but no plan has been established. Continuous testing among shelter guests has halted as there is no isolation location identified in case of a positive test result. Cheryl noted that communities throughout the state have isolation plans developed and feels this should be a priority for Steering.



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Meeting Guidance

Draft virtual guidance was shared in packet. Given current situation, staff and Executive are recommending that all committees hold virtual meetings through January 2021 with re-evaluation at that time. Steering members should send any feedback on the document to CoC staff.

MSHDA Eviction Diversion

Salvation Army is working to help expend these funds. The initial intake will be switching to 2-1-1 to help clients complete the application over the phone. TSA is maintaining communication with landlords and coordinating with KCCA. \$3000 cap on these funds is in place for most households. Staff have been seeing households with high arrears. With questions, reach out to Cathy (Catherine.laporte@usc.salvationarmy.org)

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Strategic Visioning Discussion

Discussion

This topic will require a vote. Executive has discussed what this could look like moving forward given the desire consultant who can work through process facilitation. Staff recommend not move forward with any consultant at this point, which leads to the group needing to determine whether to re-issue an RFQ during a time when many have very limited capacity. Casey recognized concerns with lack of forward progress but noted that ensuring Steering's commitment to the process would be important. This topic will be discussed at the September Steering Council meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Current Strategic Plan

Discussion

A [rough draft of priorities is available here](#), Steering members can provide input on priorities or actions directly to Courtney. Staff will also gather input from the full CoC during next week's meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Governance Charter Changes

Discussion

Tabled due to time.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Budget/Local Match

Discussion

Tabled due to time.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Updates from Steering Council members

Discussion



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Public Comment on Any Item	
Discussion	
<p>ENTF is in the midst of a strategic design and implementation process. Wende requested time to present on the plan during the September Steering or October full CoC meeting.</p> <p>Legal Aid – they have increased staff dedicated to unemployment matters, please send community members who have unemployment hold-ups to Legal Aid.</p> <p>KCCA – recognized the City of Holland for passing LGBTQ+ protections in housing policies.</p>	
Adjourn	