



Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County CoC

Youth Committee

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

June 26, 2020

9:30-10:30

Facilitator:	DL McKinney		
Meeting Attendees:	DL McKinney, Becky Diffin, Li Kaplan, Erin Benson, Kendra Avila, Finn Marcks, Casey Gordon, Ben Kaiser, Joe Kiser, Leora, Carolyn Allen, Regina Archie, Stacia Hoeksema, Anna Diaz, Melissa Ware, Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Czyzio Robach		
Time Convened:	9:04	Time Adjourned:	10:15

Introductions			
Review of Agenda			
Discussion	None		
Amendments			
Review of Minutes		May 22, 2020	
Motion by:	Casey Gordon	Second:	Li Kaplan
Discussion	None		
Amendments			
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Reflection on Current Events			
Discussion			
Moment for reflection and silence			
VOYC Update			
Discussion			
<p>The smaller planning group has had several conversations over the past few months to discuss past counts and this year's count. They came to the conclusion that VOYC will not be possible to conduct in 2020, primarily due to COVID. To continue momentum and energy, the group decided to shift to raise awareness to the broader community and produce a youth resource guide. The hope is that this will be a county-wide focus.</p> <p>The group needs community members as well as youth engagement to help with planning process and provide input. Recognize that many professionals will be paid to participate and collaborate, want to ensure any youth participating are compensated as well. If there are other organizations that you think would align with this work, please reach out to Joe, Kendra, or Li.</p>			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
Connect those interested with VOYC planning with Joe (kiserjo@mail.gvsu.edu)			
Arbor Circle Townhall			
Discussion			
Arbor Circle team has been discussing ways to raise awareness around the experiences of youth experiencing homelessness. They will be hosting an online townhall for education and advocacy where youth and agencies can share what is going on in the community.			



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Suggestion to tie into VOYC, particularly in the education area in the townhall around how the community is counting and engaging with youth.

The next planning meeting on Thursday, July 2 at 1:00pm. Connect with Ben Kaiser if interested.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Youth Functional Zero List

Discussion

As of today, a total of 94 are on the youth function zero list. 72 are unsheltered, 22 are sheltered. Concern that this list continues to grow. The problem may be that there is not enough shelter or housing resources for youth. Suggestion to offer other resources to support needs.

Arbor Circle has had some success connecting youth to host homes informally and have been able to quarantine youth prior to moving into host situation. If you have youth who has someone they can potentially stay with, connect with Arbor Circle. Host home program is available for those under 21.

Grand Rapids Housing Commission Foster to Youth Independence Tenant Protection vouchers are available for up to 36 months and are specific for youth ages 18-24 exited or exiting the foster care system. Youth will be referred by DHHS and WMPC. Will be discussing process for bringing youth into the program, if you are interested in joining this conversation, please connect with Courtney.

Also, it would be helpful to focus on how we as a community can bring more resources in. With different funding opportunities coming into the community, suggestion to advocate to at the CoC level with the need to meet this gap.

Anna shared some learnings from their work with veterans. They established a time each week to review the list to identify what may be impacting changes in numbers. They also had solution specialists walk alongside the veteran to provide support and mitigate barriers while they were waiting for resources.

It would be helpful to see a breakdown of data, with total number, average # of new calls, and prior situation/reason for homelessness. Erin will send out youth data to the group on a weekly basis.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Community Partner Updates

Discussion

- **Salvation Army** hired a new outreach worker.
- **HQ and 3-11 are merging!** DL will keep the group updated over the next few months. Merge means that there will be two people sitting on the committee leadership from the same organization. Please connect with DL, Kendra, and Courtney if you would like to have further conversation as a committee around this.



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- **Arbor Circle** street outreach is returning to in-person outreach. They also have capacity for supportive services, access these services through street outreach or connecting with Melissa Ware.

Adjournment

Motion by:	Erin Benson	Second:	Li Kaplan
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