



CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 2020

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Casey Gordon		
Meeting Attendees:	Casey Gordon (Kent ISD), Cheryl Schuch (Family Promise), John Wynbeek (Genesis), Adrienne Goodstal (Mel Trotter), Allison Greene, Amber Troupe (DHHS), Berniz Terpstra (ICCF), Cathy LaPorte (TSA), Dave Gantz (Pine Rest), Dreyson Byker (Community Member), Elizabeth Stoddard (Fair Housing Center), Alonda Trammell (Dwelling Place), Emily O'Brien (TSA), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Gayle Witham (VA), HOT Team representatives, Hattie Tinney (GRHC), Jeffrey King (Community Rebuilders), Jenn Boerman (GRHC), Johanna Schulte (City of Grand Rapids), Julie Cnossen (Arbor Circle), Kaelin Hopson (Volunteers of America), Karen Tjapkes (Legal Aid), Kathy Besaw (Genesis), Kendra Avila (AYA), Laura St. Louis (Disability Advocates), Lauren VanKeulen (AYA), Leora Bain (GLIDE), Maureen Kirkwood (HealthNet), Monica Light (FROM), Nicole Ayers (Senior Neighbors), Nicole Palmerton, Niki Perkins (Access), Rebecca Rynbrandt (City of Wyoming), Nicole Schalow (MSHDA), Sherrie Gillespie (KCCA), Stephanie Brock-Knoper (City of Wyoming), Susan Cervantes (KCCA), Tammy Yeomans (Kent RICC), Tammy Britton (City of Grand Rapids), Tanesha Jordon (Safe Haven), Tom Cottrell (YWCA), Victoria Sluga (Pine Rest), Wanda Couch (GRHC), Wende Randall (ENTF), Aaron Estrada (Mercy Health) Staff: Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Czyzio Robach		
Time Convened:	9:35	Time Adjourned:	11:01

Approval of Minutes		October 22, 2020	
Motion by:	Tammy Yeomans	Support from:	Tom Cottrell
Discussion			
Amendments	None.		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes		

Steering Council Elections

Discussion

Each December, the CoC elects new Steering Council members. This year there are 5 Steering members who have terms ending at the end of the calendar year. Nominating Committee solicited nominees from the community and prepared a slate of interested members:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Melissa Barnes	Kent Services Director	InterAct of Michigan, Inc
Adrienne Goodstal	Vice President of Community Engagement and Advocacy	Mel Trotter
Wafa Haddad	Founder and CEO	Noors Heaven of West Michigan Services
Karen Tjapkes	Director of Litigation	Legal Aid of West Michigan
Alonda Trammell	Director of Support Services	Dwelling Place



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Hattie Tinney, Nominating Committee member, also called for nominations to be submitted from the floor. Dr. Heather Bunting who practices family medicine at Wege clinic and serves as a physician in the Community Partners Medical Clinic was nominated by Adrienne Goodstal. The nominee gave her approval before being nominated.

Voting members received a voting link via email to submit their votes.

Results:

Melissa Barnes, Adrienne Goodstal, Karen Tjapkes, Alonda Trammell, and Heather Bunting were elected to serve a 3-year term on Steering Council.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Community Solutions - Built for Zero

Discussion

Courtney Myers-Keaton provided an overview of Built for Zero. It is an initiative of communities across the nation who are working to reach an end to homelessness. It uses a data-driven and system-wide approach for reaching functional zero. It would likely begin by working towards ending veterans and chronic homelessness, then move on to other populations. Joining this initiative would require a 3 year commitment from the CoC. The Chamber of Commerce is willing to provide the funding necessary to for participating in this cover participation. Staff are asking CoC membership to consider supporting the CoC in moving forward with the next Built for Zero cohort, which begins in March as this will be the last cohort that focuses on CoCs. Last week, Steering Council discussed asking the full CoC for a vote in December instead of waiting until the February which may be too late to express interest.

The work occurs in cycles – first determining who the community we will look at data to meet goals, then will moving into an action cycle where workgroups will be meeting to discuss and implement practices with TA support. This would likely mean shifting the work of some CoC Committee work to encompass this work as appropriate.

Conversation around how this initiative would impact the community. Many attendees indicated that the initiative sounds promising but would want to hear from other communities that have gone through the program before making a final decision.

Cheryl Schuch moved that staff seek get feedback from other Built for Zero communities on their experience and bring this feedback to Steering Council to evaluate and decide whether to pursue the opportunity. Maureen Kirkwood provided a second. Cheryl suggests collecting feedback on the level of engagement and support required, whether they feel it has been beneficial, how this initiative has fit with other local initiatives. City leadership has expressed support for this initiative.

In favor: 31, Opposed: 2, Abstain: 3, Motion passes.



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Resources and Links:

- Website: [Built For Zero - Community Solutions](#)
- Built for Zero overview: [Built For Zero Collaborative - 11-23-20.pdf - Google Drive](#)
- Built for Zero methodology overview: [BuiltforZero 101 - 11-23-20.pdf - Google Drive](#)
- [Sample Service Agreement](#)
- [Introduction Slides](#)

If you have additional comments or questions regarding Built for Zero, please connect with Courtney (cmyers-keaton@hwmuw.org).

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

CoC Updates

Discussion

Winter Planning and Response

Staff recently develop a flyer with warming center information. This information will be shared with widely over the next few days. Many locations that have served as warming centers in the past are not this year due to COVID which is concerning as the weather continues to get colder. The CoC has been tracking the number of folks staying in shelter throughout the pandemic. These numbers show a decrease in the warmer months and then risen again as it has gotten colder.

Mel Trotter, in partnership with the City of Grand Rapids, Guiding Light, and Purple East, is opening an overflow shelter space at 250 Ionia. This space will hold up to 100 individuals, mostly men. Meals will be provided in the evening as well as breakfast. Showers, case management, staffing will be available on site. They anticipate the space will be available for the next 5 months to provide extra space during the winter months. CoC staff have been coordinating with the City of Grand Rapids and HOT Team. After the overflow shelter has been opened, the City is planning to post notice in Heartside Park and will be asking folks to move along. After at least 48 hours, they will then remove any remaining tents from the area.

The CoC has received questions around whether this shelter will meet the need. At this point, they are not sure, but will continue to keep an eye on the data. In addition, organizations are working to ensure there is outflow from shelter to open spaces for households when they are in needed. The eviction moratorium is slated to end on December 30th, which could lead to a large influx of those who has been able to remain housed through protections provided in the moratorium. Cheryl Schuch of Family Promise noted that family numbers are increasing even though they typically decrease this time of year due to the holidays. They are also hearing from families who are currently doubled up but are at risk of becoming displaced.

Cathy LaPorte shared that Salvation Army is currently holding reservation list for Eviction Diversion funds as case management capacity is limited towards the end of the program.



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January PIT Count:

HUD Guidance allows for communities to modify how 2021 point-in-time (PIT) counts are conducted due to COVID-19. The outreach workgroup has decided to do a head count this year due to safety concerns. Beginning on December 29th, the group will be meeting weekly to plan for the count. If you are interested in participating, please connect with Brienne (brobach@hwmuw.org)

Funding Updates:

There has not been updates from HUD regarding the CoC Program Competition or the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP). Eviction Diversion Funding ends on December 30th.

The CoC will be releasing an RFP for MSHDA ESG-CV2 funds for Rapid Re-Housing and emergency shelter. Questions regarding this funding should be sent to Courtney (cmymers-keaton@hwmuw.org). Prevention funding from this allocation will remain with the HARA for staffing required in the allocation and coordinated prevention efforts occurring throughout the community.

Committee Updates:

- Youth Committee: the group had planned to do a youth count this fall, but due to COVID pivoted to awareness campaign. They received neighborhood match fund to engage with youth with lived experience to help develop the campaign. You can like and follow their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Kent.Youth.Awareness>. If you have resources for youth you would like them to share, connect with Kendra (kavila@ayayouth.org)
- Data Analysis Committee recently reviewed the interim strategic priorities and goals and developed a plan to review disaggregated data in early 2021.
- Coordinated Entry Committee is working to implement the policies adopted by Steering Council in the fall. They are planning to present the new process to the full CoC in February.

Strategic Plan:

Courtney reviewed the [interim strategic priorities and goals](#) that were adopted by the full CoC in October. Since October, timelines and responsible entities have been assigned to action areas.

In addition, the CoC has contracted with Mission Matters to engage in a strategic visioning and planning process. Mission Matters has national experience with strategic planning with collaborative organizations. Staff are beginning to work with Mission Matters staff to finalize the process and anticipate that opportunities for feedback will be shared widely in February 2021.

Data Reports:

Review of emergency shelter data and Coordinated Entry reports from Q2 and Q3 2020. In addition, staff at HAP and the CoC are monitoring call volumes coming into HAP.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Breakout Groups: Increasing Participation of those with Lived Experience		
Discussion		



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Has been on our radar for some time. Have 2 action boards but have seen engagement drop due to COVID. Staff are hoping to brainstorm ideas how to best engage. Breakout groups discussed this topic and submitted feedback to staff.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Organizational Announcements and Updates		
Discussion		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICCF waitlist is open for housing at 215 Franklin through today. More info at : https://www.facebook.com/iccf.org/posts/10157866603663358. They are also hosting a holiday basket food drive on Friday at 4:00-7:00. Info here: https://www.facebook.com/events/167960988378321 - Utility assistance is available – please encourage folks to reach out to their utility provider and DHHS if they have utility need to prevent them from being shut off. - KCCA has now through Dec 30th for households that need assistance with devices and internet connection. Connect families with KCCA. - KCCA TEFAP Distribution on January 7th, please spread the word to clients. - City of Wyoming: The City of Wyoming will be issuing an application next week for our CDBG-CV first round of funding. A total of \$125,000 is available to qualifying projects within the City with the first release of CDBG-CV funding. Online meeting for those interested first week of January. For the purposes of this open application process, minimum targets for funding allocation include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o \$40,000 for Rental Assistance activities o \$25,000 for Rapid Rehousing activities o \$20,000 for Homeless Hotel Reimbursement o \$15,000 Food Bank activities 		
Adjourn		
Motion by:	Tom Cottrell	Support from: Kaelin Hopson