



Steering Council Meeting Agenda
May 21, 2021 ▫ 8:30 – 10:30 am ▫ Zoom

1. Call to Order/Introductions
 2. Approval of the Agenda*
 3. Approval of April 16, 2021 Minutes*
 4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (Limit 3 minutes ea.)
 5. Approval of Consent Agenda*
 - a. Steering Calendar
 - b. ESG Financial Assistance Report
 - c. Committee Updates
 - d. Budget Report: Statement of Activity
 - e. Data Reports: Shelter Counts Emergency Shelter Counts Before and During COVID-19
 6. Petitions and Communications
 7. Budget Review*
 8. Isolation Update
 9. City of Wyoming Ordinance Update
 10. Coordinated Entry Request for Redesign
 11. Data Analysis Committee Request – *more information included with the Committee Updates*
 12. Statement on Encampments*
- Feedback Session will begin at 9:25am, remaining discussion items will be tabled at this point--*
13. Strategic Planning Feedback Session – Mission Matters
 14. Any other matters by Steering Committee Member(s)
 15. Public Comment on Any Matter (Limit 3 minutes ea.)
 16. Adjournment

Next meeting: Friday, June 18th, 2021, 8:30 – 10:30am



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - **DRAFT**

April 16, 2021

8:30-10:30

Facilitator:	Karen Tjapkes		
Meeting Attendees:	<u>Steering members present:</u> Karen Tjapkes, Casey Gordon, Tom Cottrell, Cheryl Schuch, Dreyson Byker, Susan Cervantes, Elizabeth Stoddard, Scott Orr, Heather Bunting, Lauren VanKeulen, Alonda Trammell, Erin Banchoff, Pilar Meyer-Dunning, Rebecca Rynbrandt <u>Steering members absent with notification:</u> Victoria Sluga, Amanda Tarantowski, Melissa Barnes, Adrienne Goodstal, Hattie Tinney <u>Steering members absent without notification:</u> <u>Community Members:</u> Tammy Britton (City of Grand Rapids), Wende Randall (ENTF) <u>Staff:</u> Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Czyzio Robach		
Time Convened:	8:32	Time Adjourned:	9:58

Approval of Agenda			
Motion by:	Tom Cottrell	Support from:	Alonda Trammell
Discussion			
Amendments	Add Isolation (#8b)		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Approval of Minutes		March 19, 2021	
Motion by:	Cheryl Schuch	Support from:	Tom Cottrell
Discussion	A budget review was listed as an action item for this month. Courtney indicated that the budget is currently being updated by Finance and will be reviewed next month.		
Amendments	Last month's agenda was shifted mid-meeting, the minutes will be adjusted to reflect chronological order of the meeting.		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Public Comment on Any Agenda Item			
Discussion			
None.			
Approval of Consent Agenda			
Motion by:	Rebecca Rynbrandt	Support from:	Casey Gordon
Discussion			
Amendments			
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Petitions and Communications			
Discussion			
None.			
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
New Steering Member Introductions			
Discussion			



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - **DRAFT**

April 16, 2021

8:30-10:30

Dreyson Byker is filling the role left by Thomas Pierce. Dreyson shared that he has been connected with those experiencing homelessness for the past several years and excited to be at this table.

Pilar Meyer-Dunning will be filling The Salvation Army's held seat on Steering Council for now. Cathy LaPorte has departed The Salvation Army and they will not be filling the Housing Services Director position.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

General CoC Updates

Discussion

Coordinated Entry Policy Implementation

The committee has been working to implement the policies focusing first on families as they are a smaller population. There have been some difficulties with referrals as all solutions specialists are able to complete referrals. For example, families staying in shelter may be more able to access resources over those who are more vulnerable in other populations because of their connection with a solutions specialist. Creating separate processes for different populations should help resolve this issue.

There are different initiatives under way in the community that will likely align – FUSE, Built for Zero, Family Functional Zero. As these roll-out, the CoC will likely have to consider re-structuring the Coordinated Entry (CE) Committee. Cheryl agreed and indicated that research shows different processes for different populations as well as placing shelter outside of the CE system is effective. With different population workgroups it would be important to have one body overseeing the data and policy of the system.
(Scott left the meeting)

Isolation

Kent County's contract with a hotel for isolation ends today. Courtney has discussing next steps with Kent County staff. Mel Trotter has offered a location for isolation, but this will not be ready until the end of May. Courtney requested that the County extend their contract for 1 month to accommodate this space, but the County has not shared a decision yet.

There seems to be philosophical differences in the role of the County and shelters in isolation as a COVID mitigation and public health measure. Cheryl indicated that shelter leaders have spent numerous hours on issues related to isolation when many households who utilize the isolation location are not connected with the homeless or shelter system. Anecdotally, families accessing the location reported they were either coming from the health system or were doubled up with another household and asked to leave while contagious. It would be helpful to have a conversation around roles and responsibilities of all partners after a long-term, strategic solution is identified. Cheryl shared that many counties have purchased a location specifically for isolation.



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - **DRAFT**

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Kent County is lead entity for reimbursements of FEMA funds for isolation, quarantine, and non-congregate shelter for those who are high-risk. The County has yet not been reimbursed which impacts the non-congregate shelter space for families. If there is not approval by the County to cover those households, non-congregate space for families will be greatly reduced this summer. If FEMA extension is approved, the non-congregate shelter space could be extended through December. Some FEMA funds have begun to roll out across the country. Conversation around the CoC advocating at the federal level for the release of these funds. The county is the one receiving these funds, but the CoC should help support advocacy efforts around these funds. Agencies working directly with those in isolation would be best equipped to speak to the impact. Those in health care systems could also be powerful allies as isolation impacts where they can send patients. The Red Cross has expertise in providing shelter but only responds to 'natural disasters'. They may be able to share best practices and could help with evaluation and development of a plan.

Cheryl suggested discussing funds for family shelter from the American Rescue Act with the Family Shelter Task Force. Courtney indicated that the role of this group may be shifting, but the members of this group could strategize around this topic.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
MSHDA CERA Funds		
Discussion		
<p>The process to access these funds is up and running. Gustavo Perez has been brought on board as the Program Manager for these funds. There will be a meeting next week to walk community partners through the process. Staff are working to address an issue with the website issue not loading correctly. The hotline number, 877-ERA-KENT, will go live on Monday.</p> <p>KCCA and TSA have staffed up significantly. The SOURCE and Hispanic Center will also have case workers onsite. Kent County is beginning to make payments and marketing materials developed by HWMUW marketing staff will be released next week as well. Courtney may be able to get a summary of these activities. The Salvation Army has translation available in over 100 languages through their hotline.</p> <p>MSHDA application portal is now available. It has not been translated into Spanish, but MSHDA has indicated they are working on this. With the portal, communities will have access to reporting and demographic information, but we are not sure exactly what data will be available. Since it is early in the process, there is not yet data on the average amount of assistance. Because folks can receive additional assistance and can receive funds for utilities, it will likely be higher than the EDP average.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Strategic Priorities and Goals		
Discussion		
This is a standing agenda item to review action items.		



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - **DRAFT**

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Previously, Steering had discussed ESG report helpful for identifying where there may be funding gaps. The small group has not been able to meet yet, but conversation will continue.

Courtney indicated that some areas where prevention is funded with ESG dollars, the CoC may want to consider reallocating some funds to RRH as there is a substantial amount of funds available for prevention with more funding likely coming in the next few months. This will be discussed later. Casey asked to discuss RRH effectiveness in keeping households stabilized after the funding runs out prior to making this decision. Support for having further strategic conversations around this topic. This could be a chance to look at national models focusing on case management in RRH as well as looking into how to support households effectively.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Other Matters from Steering Council members		
Discussion		
<p>Mission Matters Update: An update was provided in the consent agenda and the Mission Matters team will be attending the May Steering Council agenda. The team has completed several interviews and received great response from surveys. From the interviews and survey results, they have identified significant themes, a set of core values, and are refining a mission. They will be presenting at the full CoC meeting on Thursday, the 29th. The team is also drafting a set of action areas that can be worked on moving forward. Areas include alignment with the Housing Stability Alliance, evaluating relationship with ENTF, evaluating the Coordinated Entry lead, and evaluating the staffing structure.</p> <p>Isolation update: Kent County just indicated that the contract for isolation is extended through the 19th and they are looking to extend further.</p> <p>CDBG: Susan shared that Kent County received 8 applications and they are in the review process. She thanked all who applied.</p> <p>Elizabeth shared that the Fair Housing Workshop Series is on April 22nd. They are excited for the virtual series this year. More info and registration: http://www.fhcwm.org/lws</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Public Comment on Any Item		
Discussion		
None.		
Adjourn		
Motion by:	Susan Cervantes	Support from: Erin Banchoff



GRAND RAPIDS/WYOMING/KENT COUNTY
STEERING COUNCIL ANNUAL CALENDAR
Updated August 2020

January

Steering Committee Orientation
Executive Officer Elections
Point in Time Count
Draft Budget Presentation
Steering Council Annual Conflict of Interest
Forms Completed

February

City of Grand Rapids Emergency Solutions Grant
Application
Strategic Plan Update
Reallocation Discussion
Budget Approval

March

Data Quality Committee Report
Strategic Plan Progress Review
CoC and ESG Mid-Term Monitoring

April

LIHTC Developer Presentations to Steering
(October Round)
Point in Time Count Submitted to HUD
Budget Review

May

Strategic Plan Annual Review
Nomination Committee forms

June

Steering Council Funding Process Review
Governance Charter Recommended Changes to
CoC membership
Open Call for New CoC Members
PIT Data Released

July

NAEH Annual Conference
System Performance Measures Review
Strategic Plan Update

August

HUD CoC Program Funding Vote (Anticipated)
System Performance Measures Reported to CoC
CoC, Fiduciary, HARA MOU for ESG Execution

September

Data Quality Committee Report
MSHDA Emergency Solutions Grant Application
HUD CoC Program Application Due (Anticipated)
PIT Planning Begins

October

LIHTC Developer Presentations to Steering
(April Round)
Governance Charter Review, including ENTF
relationship affirmation & Fiduciary MOU

November

Strategic Plan Progress Review
Staff Evaluations Initiated by Fiduciary
Strategic Plan Update

December

Steering Council elections (at CoC meeting)
Staff Evaluations Concluded by Fiduciary
Budget Preparation Begins

ESG Financial Assistance Report - DRAFT REPORT

Reporting as of 4/15/2021

Recipient/Subrecipient	Grant Term	Total Grant Amount	Direct Financial Assistance Amount	Activities Funded	% of Grant Term Complete	Total Amount Spent	% Spent	Special Population(s) Served (if applicable)
MSHDA								
ESG - Community Rebuilders	10/1/2020 - 9/30/2021	\$176,000	\$151,360	RRH	50%	\$6,647.29	4%	
ESG - The Salvation Army	10/1/2020 - 9/30/2021	\$170,351	\$26,000	Outreach, Prevention, RRH	50%	\$32,911.56	19%	
ESG-CV - Community Rebuilders	1/1/2021 - 9/30/2022	\$181,722	\$128,678	RRH	19%	\$0.00	0%	
ESG-CV - Family Promise	1/1/2021 - 9/30/2022	\$412,800	\$0	Shelter	19%	\$208,933.60	51%	Families
ESG-CV Mel Trotter	1/1/2021 - 9/30/2022	\$129,834	\$0	Shelter	19%	\$54,220.47	42%	
ESG-CV - Pine Rest	1/1/2021 - 9/30/2022	\$103,200	\$0	Outreach	19%	\$21,014.43	20%	
ESG-CV - The Salvation Army	1/1/2021 - 9/30/2022	\$188,688	\$89,927	Prevention, RRH	19%	\$0.00	0%	
City of Grand Rapids								
ESG - Community Rebuilders	7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021	\$123,960	\$72,000	RRH	75%	\$71,776.09	58%	
ESG - Grand Rapids Urban League	7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021	\$94,300	\$69,000	Prevention	75%	\$71,065.26	75%	
ESG - The Salvation Army	7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021	\$82,354	\$57,854	Prevention/ Eviction Diversion	75%	\$37,415.43	45%	
ESG-CV - The Salvation Army	1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021	\$511,428	\$358,028	Prevention/ Eviction Diversion	25%	\$64,649.01	13%	Third Ward

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Recipient/Subrecipient	Grant Term	Total Grant Amount	Direct Financial Assistance	Activities Funded	% of Grant Term	Total Amount Spent	% Spent	Special Population(s) Served (if applicable)
City of Grand Rapids								
ESG-CV - Arbor Circle	11/1/2020 - 12/31/2021	\$59,488	\$0	Outreach	40%	\$8,892.00	15%	
ESG-CV - Degage Ministries	11/1/2020 - 12/31/2021	\$65,000	\$0	Shelter	40%	\$29,213.00	45%	
ESG-CV - Mel Trotter Ministries	11/1/2020 - 12/31/2021	\$200,000	\$0	Shelter	40%	\$196,557.00	98%	
ESG-CV - Community Rebuilders	11/1/2020-7/31/2022	\$460,302	\$0	Shelter	24%	\$28,776.50	6%	Geographically Targeted
ESG-CV - Community Rebuilders	11/1/2020-7/31/2022	\$1,548,000	\$897,840	RRH	24%	\$40,049.86	3%	Geographically Targeted
Kent County								
ESG - <i>information not available</i>								
ESG-CV - <i>information not available</i>								

Notes

*City of Grand Rapids payment requests are generally monthly and performance reports quarterly.

Data Analysis Committee –

The Data Committee continues to work with Daniel Gore to present accurate, useful data on a quarterly basis – i.e.; see Dashboard on COC website,

Recommendation: Minutes of April 13, 2021- Excerpt:

"Conversation around reframing the conversation based on data around how the homelessness system serves people of color. Courtney suggested creating a report that includes who is coming into the system, how they are being served, and how they exit the system. This could be displayed in story-telling graphics in a report that speaks to some of the successes over the past few years.

Agreement to bring a recommendation that Steering Council to discuss contracting the necessary funds for the CoC to issue a racial equity report.

It was suggested that CoC deliberately engage folks with lived experience and grassroots and advocacy groups to explore systemic issues and review report data from other communities and nationally highlighting systemic inequities, particularly criminal history. This could lead to conversation around the role of the CoC in advocacy and education around these issues throughout the community.

(2) Agreement to recommend reviewing national reports data and then discussing education.

Lee will include both recommendations in the committee report to Steering in May."

Ending Veterans Homelessness Committee and Veterans Action Board –

- The Ending Veteran Homelessness Committee work groups continue to meet monthly and the EVHC larger committee meets quarterly.
- Veteran Action Board individual interviews and orientations were held this past quarter. A larger group orientation to the EVHC for new VAB members will be held at the end of May.
- The VA has come out with new guidance on ERA funds and SSVF assistance. Veterans should be supported in accessing or applying for ERA funds before utilizing SSVF financial assistance.
- The EVHC reviewed the joint statement issued by the VA and HUD on their commitment to end Veteran homelessness. The statement announced that both VA and HUD will "prioritize this effort at the highest levels," and affirmed that it would lead with evidence-based Housing First principles.
- The EVHC received several new members who are scheduled for committee orientation. The Engagement & Resource workgroup continues to work on outreach strategies to the larger Kent County community, to bring on additional community members to join the EVHC efforts of maintaining functional zero designation.
- New funding is available through CARES funds to VA medical centers for Veterans participating in HUD VASH. Funds can be utilized for items/services to meet immediate needs to enhance safety and housing stability.

- The national VA office announced positive changes for FY2021 HUD VASH eligibility. Eligibility is expanded to include homeless Veterans whose military discharge status had previously made them ineligible – specifically those with “Other than Honorable” discharge status. This is new guidance from the VA and the local HCHV is working on establishing these changes and will provide updated information on how it will impact services locally within the upcoming months.
- Public facing dashboards on community level data and USICH criteria & benchmarks remain available and updated monthly.

Outreach Workgroup –

- Outreach Map: Workgroup members discussed creating an updated Google map for the Outreach map that has layers that can be edited by year to assist in PIT counts, as well as Outreach collaboration.
- Open Housing Programs: Members discussed ways agencies can collaborate on supporting participants who have been connected to housing programs such as Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing with providing Homeless verification letters, utilizing ID services at Degage and AYA drop-in (for youth), and finding ways to support with locating affordable housing.
 - Mel Trotter Outreach, HAP, HOT, AC outreach and Street Reach are able to write homeless verification letters. Individuals staying at shelter can get one written by shelter staff.
- Vaccinations Update: Multiple agencies in the community are providing vaccinations for people experiencing homelessness.
- General Updates: With warmer weather, Outreach staff expect to see an increase in encampments to be popping up.

Youth Committee –

Not available at this time

CoC FYTD April Statement of Activity

	Admin (HWMUW)	MSHDA ESG	GR CDBG	Wyoming CDBG	HUD - CoC Program Funds	Kent County CUNP-HMIS Match	HMIS (Sal. Army)	TOTAL Actual	Annual Budget	Budget adjustments for CoC	Updated Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	% Remaining	Notes
City of Wyoming CDBG	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,305	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,305	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 695	14%	
City of GR CDBG	-	-	13,671	-	-	-	-	13,671	20,000	(4,000)	16,000	2,329	15%	
HUD Planning	-	-	-	-	156,680	-	-	156,680	175,334	4,000	179,334	22,654	13%	
Salvation Army HMIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	61,755	61,755	78,412	-	78,412	16,657	21%	
Kent County CUNP	-	-	-	-	-	12,256	-	12,256	18,224	-	18,224	5,968	33%	
MSHDA ESG - Passthrough	-	136,759	-	-	-	-	-	136,759	244,478	-	244,478	107,719	44%	1
HWMUW	7,691	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,691	16,885	-	16,885	9,194	54%	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 7,691	\$ 136,759	\$ 13,671	\$ 4,305	\$ 156,680	\$ 12,256	\$ 61,755	\$ 393,117	\$ 558,333	\$ -	\$ 558,333	\$ 165,216	30%	
Personnel Costs	\$ 2,334	\$ -	\$ 12,373	\$ 3,927	\$ 99,632	\$ 6,601	\$ 3,775	\$ 128,642	\$ 189,954	\$ -	\$ 189,954	\$ 61,312	32%	2
Professional Fees	1,100	-	-	-	38,750	1,500	55,000	96,350	67,458	10,822	78,280	(18,070)	-27%	3
Community Inclusion Activities	-	-	-	-	123	-	-	123	13,322	(8,322)	5,000	4,877	37%	
Supplies/Equipment/Printing	-	-	-	-	1,178	-	509	1,687	600	-	600	(1,087)	-181%	
Copying	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600	-	600	600	100%	
Conferences/Travel	-	-	-	-	655	-	-	655	5,365	(4,100)	1,265	610	11%	4
Meetings	-	-	-	-	350	-	-	350	1,200	-	1,200	850	71%	
Technology (meeting service subscription)	-	-	-	-	912	-	-	912	1,000	-	1,000	88	9%	5
Parking/Transportation	131	-	159	-	1,742	609	71	2,712	4,825	-	4,825	2,113	44%	
Grant Passthrough	-	131,483	-	-	-	-	-	131,483	234,998	-	234,998	103,515	44%	1
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	908	216	-	1,124	-	1,600	1,600	476	N/M	6
Indirect	4,126	5,276	1,139	378	12,430	3,330	2,400	29,079	39,011	-	39,011	9,932	25%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,691	\$ 136,759	\$ 13,671	\$ 4,305	\$ 156,680	\$ 12,256	\$ 61,755	\$ 393,117	\$ 558,333	\$ -	\$ 558,333	\$ 165,216	30%	
Revenue Over(Under) Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		

Fund Balance @ 10/31/20 8,000
 Strategic Planning Costs -8,000
Fund Balance @ 04/30/21 -

Notes:

- Passthrough grant
- CoC budgeted staff time:
 - 1 FTE - Courtney - CoC Coordinator/ Program Manager (84% HUD Planning, 11% City of GR CDBG, 3% City of Wyoming CDBG, 2% HMIS)
 - .77 FTE - Brianne - Administrative Assistant (CoC- 74% HUD, 13% GR CDBG, 13% CUNP)
 - .20 FTE - Wende - Program Director (41% HUD, 16% GR CDBG, 11% Wyoming CDBG, 18% HMIS, 14% HWMUW). Revised to .10 FTE
 - Staff Total 1.87 FTE. Revised to 1.77 FTE

Note: Brianne is a full time employee, who spends 77% of her time on CoC and 23% of her time on ENTF administration.

3. Professional fee budget includes:

HMIS Consultant fee + Travel expenses \$66,000
 Strategic planning (HUD Planning) \$9,780

4. Conf/Travel budget includes:

HMIS travel amd mileage & HUD Planning conference expenses

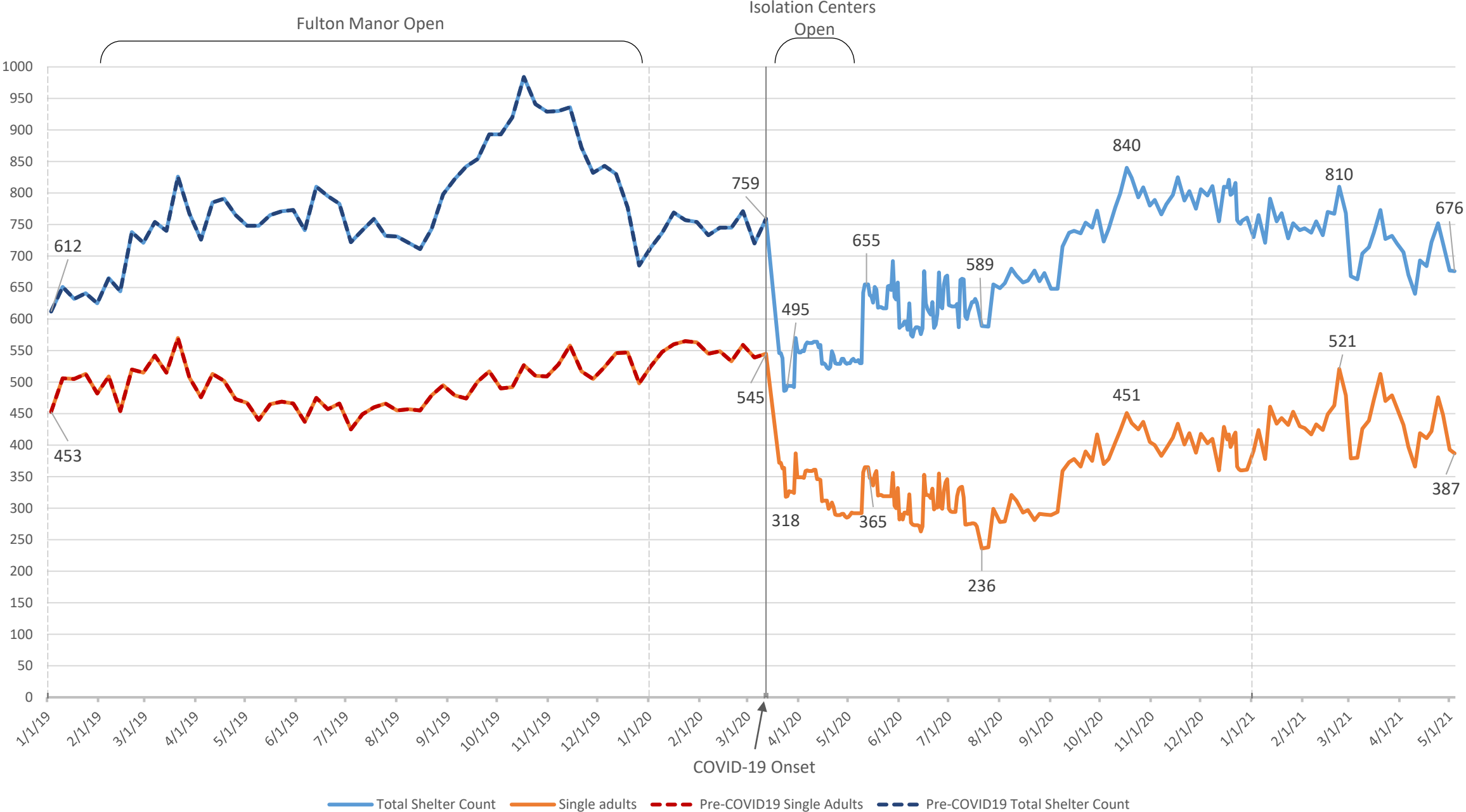
5. Technology budget includes:

Meeting service subscription-Go To Webinar

6. Misc actual expenses: PIT count expenses

Emergency Shelter Counts Comparison: Before and During COVID-19

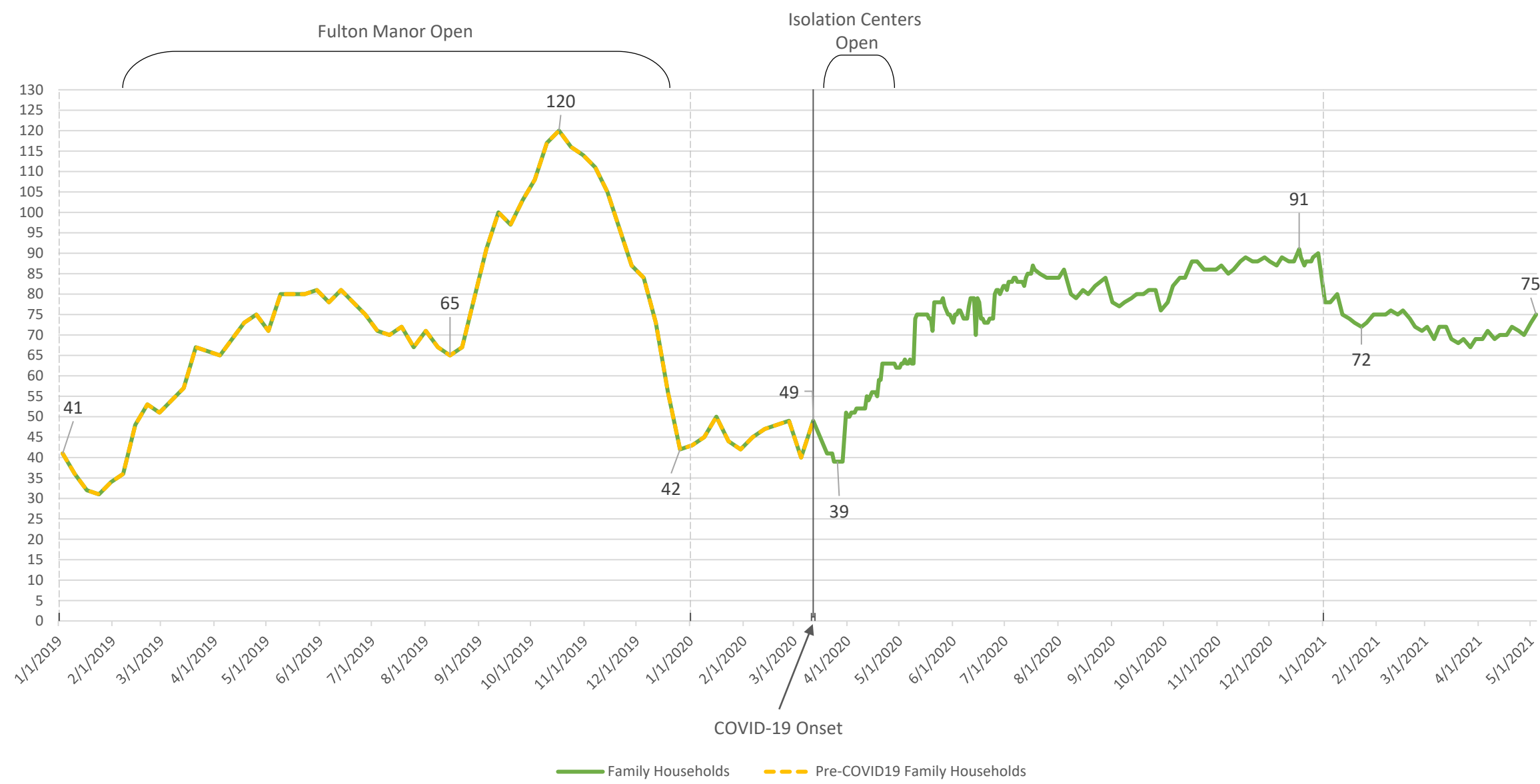
Number of individuals in emergency shelter – 1/1/2019 to 5/4/2021



¹All emergency shelter data pulled from Kent County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
²Data does not include currently information from organizations who do not use HMIS, staff continue to work to include this data.

Emergency Shelter Counts Comparison: Before and During COVID-19

Number of family households in emergency shelter – 1/1/2019 to 5/4/2021



¹All emergency shelter data pulled from Kent County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
²Data does not include currently information from organizations who do not use HMIS, staff continue to work to include this data.

	HWMUW fye 6.30.21 (forecast)	HWMUW fye 6.30.22 Proposed Budget	YOY \$	YOY%	Notes
City of Wyoming CDBG	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0%	
City of GR CDBG	20,000	20,000	-	0%	
HUD Planning	190,304	201,927	11,623	6%	Increased HUD funding
Salvation Army HMIS	73,685	82,355	8,670	12%	Lighter spend in 20/21, pushed to 21/22
Kent County CUNP	17,382	19,000	1,618	9%	
HWMUW	20,708	17,000	(3,708)	-18%	Fund bal used for strat plan, not renewable
MSHDA ESG	371,319	595,851	224,532	60%	MSHDA ESG + CARES Act in 21/22
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 698,398	\$ 941,133	\$ 242,735	35%	

Personnel Costs	\$ 155,030	\$ 204,486	49,456	32%	See below
Professional Fees-HMIS	88,600	71,250	(17,350)	-20%	Gore consulting + HMIS coverage for 3 mos
Professional Fees - Other	40,000	16,924	(23,076)	-58%	Strategic planning implementation 21/22
Strategic Planning - from reserves	8,000		(8,000)	-100%	
Community Inclusion Activities	683	5,000	4,317	632%	
Supplies/Printing/Copying	724	370	(354)	-49%	
					Professional development (\$3,005 HMIS, \$5,500
Conferences/Travel/Training	1,450	8,505	7,055	487%	HUD Planning)
Meetings	350	505	155	44%	
Technology	912	2,027	1,115	122%	Technology for remote environment
Parking/Transportation	2,497	3,528	1,031	41%	2 Parking passes
Miscellaneous (PIT Count)	1,074	1,298	224	21%	PIT Count Expenses
Grant Pass Thru	356,483	573,870	217,387	61%	Assumes 4.0% admin on MSHDA grant
Indirect	42,595	53,370	10,775	25%	CARES Act Admin + Increased HUD grant
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 698,398	\$ 941,133	\$ 242,735	35%	

6.0%

Personnel Costs	21/22 Budget	
CoC Director	90,596	Full Time CoC
HMIS Support	46,553	HMIS Support - Full FTE, start 10/1/2021
CoC Associate	57,160	CoC Associate -Full FTE
ENTF Director @ 10%	10,177	ENTF Director @ 10%
	204,486	

Match Funding New Funding Cycle (21.22)

City of Wyoming CDBG
City of GR CDBG
HUD Planning
Salvation Army HMIS
Kent County CUNP*
HWMUW

Matching Funds Available	HUD	HMIS	
5,000	5,000		
20,000	20,000		
19,000		19,000	
17,000	17,000		
\$ 61,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 19,000	

Match Needed	51,713	22,615	
Matching Funds Excess/(Shortfall)	\$ (9,713)	\$ (3,615)	\$ (13,328)

Match plan:

AYA collective in-kind for YAB facilitation \$3,000 (est)
Built for Zero participation fee \$10,000 (pgm through Mar 2025 = \$2,500/year)
Steering Council in-kind donation (@ \$27.20/hour)
Note: NPTA grant \$5,000 (to be used for current year 20.21 match)



May 14, 2021

Via email

Commissioner Mandy Bolter
Administrator Wayman Britt
300 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Dear Commissioner Bolter and Administrator Britt,

The Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness, also known as the Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County Continuum of Care (CoC) is requesting that Kent County stay the course in ensuring there is sufficient isolation space available for individuals who have no safe place to isolate after receiving a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

We recognize the leadership which the Kent County Health Department provided during the onset of the pandemic and the continued expertise they have provided for both shelter and housing providers that are involved with the CoC throughout the duration of the past year. Kent County stood up and staffed an isolation facility at the peak of the pandemic and partnered with agencies in our community to develop more suitable and cost-effective plans to keep isolation space available once the peak subsided. We truly have appreciated their effort and support during this challenging time.

Currently, the challenge that presents itself before us is the contracted isolation facility is scheduled to close at the end of May with the last intake scheduled for May 19th. However, people are still testing positive and are in need of isolation space. Recently, the isolation census averages 3-5 per week.

We, also, recognize that there have been philosophical differences in understanding the various partner roles and responsibilities of isolation during a pandemic, which we are open to discussing with Kent County leadership. However, we feel it is important to note that not everyone in need of an isolation space is an individual who would otherwise be staying at a shelter in Kent County. The isolation facilities have been a critical resource to the healthcare systems and for people who present COVID positive with no safe place to isolate because they are living in a doubled-up situation and have been asked to leave the residence while they isolate due to fear of household transmission. The ability for hospitals to refer individuals to the isolation facility allows hospital beds to remain for individuals that truly need it. The risk of transmission increases without a safe place to isolate as people may be forced to stay in unsafe

situations, like a vehicle or encampment, or they may choose to not disclose their positive test results for fear of displacement.

The shelter providers have engaged in a partnership with Kent County at the current facility and have fulfilled the following roles:

- Providing and distributing three meals per day along with snacks, OTC medication, and hygiene items.
- FT staff acting as the site coordinator. This role includes distribution of food and essential items, liaison with hotel staff, contracted medical staff, and contracted security staff, and discharge planning.
- Contracted security staff - 3rd shift 7 days per week.
- Transportation for individuals discharging from isolation.

They desire to continue this partnership and have identified a location, on a smaller scale, which will cost less than \$100,000 for the remainder of the year in comparison with the current contract at the hotel which equates to the same amount or more per month.

We are requesting that the County provide continued leadership during this public health crisis by providing the following services:

- Funding to contract with the newly identified isolation facility owned by Mel Trotter Ministries.
- Maintain the contract with Life EMS for transportation to the isolation facility.
- Maintain the contract with Maxim or similar agency for intake screening.

The shelter providers concurrently will maintain appropriate COVID-19 mitigation strategies including weekly COVID testing and holding bi-weekly vaccination clinics. These proactive measures will help to ensure the lowest risk possible of transmission.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and eagerly await your response. Due to the immediate need for continuity of isolation space, we hope to hear from you by the end of the day on May 18th. We would also be open to meeting to discuss this matter further.

Thank you for your continued leadership,

Courtney Myers-Keaton
Director, Continuum of Care

cc: Karen Tjapkes, Board Chair, Continuum of Care
Lauren VanKeulen, Vice Chair, Continuum of Care



Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness

Statement on Encampments

Ending homelessness means people are housed in healthy, safe environments, and protected from the elements and unsanitary and other potentially life-threatening conditions. The Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness, which operates as the regional Continuum of Care (CoC), supports solutions to ending homelessness using a housing first approach. The CoC's strategic priorities are to increase access to permanent housing resources, reduce the number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and decrease the overall average length of time a person is homeless. The CoC understands limited housing resources, including limits on emergency shelter space, and systemic and situational barriers may lead to the establishment of, or increase in, encampments. There are various reasons a person may stay in an encampment, and the CoC supports an individual's choice in determining solutions to ending their homelessness.

Health and safety concerns may arise at an encampment that pose significant risks to individuals and the community when unsanitary and blighting conditions exist. The CoC works to connect individuals experiencing homelessness, including those staying in encampments, to housing resources through coordinated, trauma-informed engagement, care, and referral services. This is done in partnership with agencies that conduct street outreach with persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Street outreach staff build relationships and rapport with unsheltered individuals in an effort to better meet their unique needs. Outreach providers engage closely with community partners and systems to ensure unsheltered individuals are prioritized for housing resources as they become available, while developing individualized housing plans to facilitate long-term housing stability.

The CoC is committed to actively engaging with area municipalities to respond to the needs of persons living in encampments. The CoC stands ready to partner with municipalities to provide its expertise in trauma-informed care, leveraging connections to persons with lived homeless experience, and providing safe, timely, appropriate, and community resource-affiliated engagement and referral services for persons experiencing homelessness before the clearance and closure of an encampment.

The CoC serves as a bridge between our neighbors experiencing homelessness and local municipal public safety services, social service providers, and health agencies to support continuation of services to homeless individuals, safeguard established relationships, and ensure services are not paused or severed due to displacement.