



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

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

April 16, 2021

8:30-10:30

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

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.

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.

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.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Strategic Priorities and Goals

Discussion

This is a standing agenda item to review action items.



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2021

8:30-10:30

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

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.

Isolation update: Kent County just indicated that the contract for isolation is extended through the 19th and they are looking to extend further.

CDBG: Susan shared that Kent County received 8 applications and they are in the review process. She thanked all who applied.

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>

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Public Comment on Any Item

Discussion

None.

Adjourn

Motion by: Susan Cervantes

Support from: Erin Banchoff