



**Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County CoC
Coordinated Entry Committee
MEETING NOTES**

March 2, 2021
2:00-3:00

Meeting Attendees:	Tom Cottrell, Christina Slofstra, Gayle Witham, Brian Bruce, Samantha Westhouse, Jameela Maun, Sherrie Gillespie, Justin Aurich, Cathy LaPorte, Berniz Terpstra, Julie Kendrick, Emily Schichtel, Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Czyzio Robach		
Time Convened:	2:02	Time Adjourned:	2:58

Introductions			
Approval of Minutes		February 16, 2021	
Motion by:	Samantha Westhouse	Support from:	Berniz Terpstra
Discussion			
Amendments			
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes		
Debrief from Washtenaw County Presentation			
Discussion			
<p>Reflection on the presentation from Washtenaw at the last meeting which was helpful for group members around case conferencing and FUSE. Members feel that this will be an important initiative that will also dovetail nicely with the FUSE initiative. Sam shared that it would be important for the community to define what case conferencing means and desired results – can the individual at least get connected to a supportive resource while waiting for a housing resource.</p> <p>Seemed that part of their work was looking at system health, coordination, and responsiveness as compared to a case-by-case discussion. Gayle shared that for the veterans group, they are able to move through veterans quickly as a process has been established which has been very effective. In her experience, it was important to have someone who facilitates the conversation, moves it along, and focuses on resources/next steps.</p> <p>Courtney shared that the CoC recently decided to participate in Built for Zero’s cohort this spring. During the next meeting, there can be an overview Built for Zero (BF0) and discussion on what it may mean for CE and the committee. There are several case conferencing models, in general it seems that there are different meetings for different subpopulations. BF0 may be able to provide guidance in determining how to develop model and strategy for our community.</p>			
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Include Built for Zero on next meeting’s agenda		Brianne	
Implementation for Families			
Discussion			
<p>Sam shared that there has been changes to some of the questions in the assessment, but they have been able to work to resolve any issues smoothly. At HAP staff have noticed that they are immediately able to connect families to a resource (a solutions specialist) instead waiting. For families in need of shelter, solutions specialists are able to make referral directly to shelter.</p>			



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After-hours response: a few tweaks may need to happen to make an immediate connection to Community Housing Connect. Shelters, HAP, and Community Rebuilders (CR) will discuss.

HAP set up a workflow for families fleeing domestic violence (DV). Families will be referred to DV shelters for an assessment. If it is determined that are not fit for the DV space, DV staff can connect with emergency space at Family Promise.

Since this process has been implemented, members feel that we are at a good point to get feedback for families who have gone through the process (survey or focus group). This could be a good way to do a client walk-through. Sam will convene a small group to discuss.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Convene small group to collect feedback from families	Sam Westhouse	

Implementation for Singles

Discussion

As the process for families is in place, it is time for the committee to plan for implementing CE policies for single adults. For the Community Housing Connect (CHC) tool, Courtney asked about the relationship between Community Rebuilders and HAP as Coordinated Entry lead. If questions need to be changed in the tool, it shouldn't take too long for CR staff to make changes after requested.

Conversation around the VI-SPDAT as it is the current tool use for prioritization for single adults. The group has previously discussed this tool as inequitable, and the VI-SPDAT team is working to develop new tool that could be used in the future. Members noted that CHC is an assessment tool in and of itself. If the committee were to decide to use it, it would be important to pursue conversations with MSHDA around funding requirements to ensure this change would not impact the Pay for Performance measures and other funding. Victoria asked about this in a recent monitoring visit and heard that MSHDA may be looking at metrics based on whatever tool communities decide to use. Courtney suggested a meeting for as mid-April due to other funding things taking place in the state. It would be helpful for providers to advocate that our community is moving forward with what is best for community. If you are interested in joining conversation, connect with Courtney

It would be important to identify how many providers would be on CHC with solutions specialists and a workflow for how CHC would link to the HARA. Jameela to reach out to Jeff to bring the number of solutions specialists back to the group. It would be important to get an idea of volume as well.

Also, would want to discuss the process for street outreach and those experiencing unsheltered homelessness as these folks are not likely to call a line or connect through online portal. Currently, outreach staff are serving in a role similar to solutions specialists. A small group can connect and discuss a process/workflow. There are likely are lessons from Monroe projects. Participants include Gayle, Community Rebuilders, others.

For shelters, there needs to be additional conversations around what it looks like to connect with CHC and solutions specialist since the initial contact for many singles may be the shelters.



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Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6th which is during Spring Break, staff will confirm if the committee need to reschedule due to low attendance.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Put together meetings re: workflow for street outreach and shelter perspective	CoC Staff	
Connect with MSHDA & MDHHS re: prioritization tools and funding requirements	Courtney	Mid-April