



**Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County CoC  
Youth Committee  
MEETING MINUTES**

March 26, 2021  
9:30-10:30

Facilitator:	Kendra Avila		
Meeting Attendees:	Kendra Avila, Li Kaplan, Casey Gordon, Paige Putans, Erin Benson, Melissa Ware, Lindsey DeShelter, Patrick Buhay, Becky Diffin, Crystal Kitten, Marcelle Marcelletti, Samantha Westhouse, Tiffany Clarke Staff: Brianne Robach		
Time Convened:	9:35	Time Adjourned:	10:15

**Introductions**

**Approval of Agenda**      **March 26, 2021**

Motion by:	Erin Benson	Support from:	Marcelle Marcelletti
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Discussion

Amendments      None

**Approval of Minutes**      **February 26, 2021**

Motion by:	Crystal Kitten	Support from:	Erin Benson
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Discussion

Amendments      None

Result      All in favor, motion passes.

**Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers Update**

Discussion

Paige spoke last month about the Fostering Youth to Independence vouchers. Since then, 2 applications have been fully sent to HUD. Paige receives referrals and screens for eligibility, referrals are then sent to the Grand Rapids Housing Commission to complete and submit. One barrier has been youth not returning application materials. The address listed on the contact form will be where the application is sent; Paige has been working with youth to ensure they list a suitable address or another way to connect. Youth can use AYA Youth Collective as a permanent address, even if they're not engaged with other services. 25 vouchers are available until September 30th. More may be available next fiscal year (beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>). Eligibility:

- Ages 18-24
- Involvement with foster care at or after age 14. (because of other federal requirements)
- Experiencing or at risk of homelessness

HAP staff have been referring youth with foster care experience on of the by-name list and intake staff at HAP are also making referrals.

With questions or referrals, reach out to Paige: [putansp@michigan.gov](mailto:putansp@michigan.gov), 616-265-0144

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

**Youth Committee Q1 Goals Check-In**

Discussion

There were two goals that the group discussed for Q1. The first is to revitalize the Youth Action Board. Staff have been compiling best practices. A smaller group developed questions for focus



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groups/surveys with previous YAB members. Brianne is tracking down contact information for previous YAB members. Staff will connect with Kendra offline regarding whether the questions are suitable to for other youth in the community.

The second goal was to better understand the Coordinated Entry policies adopted last fall. Suggestion to overview CE process at the next meeting. Brianne will connect with Sam and Courtney to discuss presentation for next meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Connect re: YAB focus group/survey questions	Staff and Kendra	
Connect re: presentation CE process to committee	Staff and Sam	

**Youth Functional Zero List Update**

Discussion

As of this week, there are 49 unsheltered youth and a total of 85 youth reporting homelessness in Kent County.

HAP has been working to ensure that folks are connected. Ensuing that families are connect with the Community Housing Connect process at Community Rebuilders and youth are connecting with resources.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

**Community Partner Updates**

Discussion

Brianne is working to update the committee roster and will be reaching out to confirm that agencies want to stay on the roster.

**Adjournment**

Motion by:	Marcelle Marcelletti	Support from:	Sam Westhouse
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