



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

July 5, 2022
2:00-3:30

Meeting Attendees:	Brian Bruce, Centhia Fleming, Joyce Williams, Victoria Sluga, Victoria Arnold, Tom Cottrell, Marissa Lee, Johanna Schulte, Jeremy DeRoo, Tammy Vincent, Catherine Sheroski, Crystal Kitten, Rachel Seibert, Latasha Mayberry, Zenaida Jimenez, Berniz Terpstra <u>Staff:</u> Courtney Myers-Keaton		
Time Convened:		Time Adjourned:	3:00

Introductions			
Approval of Agenda			
Motion by:	Joyce Williams	Support from:	Victoria Sluga
Discussion	None		
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes		
Approval of Last Month's Minutes		May 17, 2022	
Motion by:	Victoria Sluga	Support from:	Joyce Williams
Discussion	Victoria Sluga noted that she spoke to MDHHS, not MSHDA, regarding the VI-SPDAT and asked that this is corrected on page 2.		
Amendments	Replace MSHDA with MDHHS		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes		
Built for Zero/FUSE Update			
Discussion			
<p>Courtney provided updates on the Built for Zero (BFZ) initiative and recent planning session. The by-name list (BNL) has been developed. It includes all who have received an assessment and within the last 90 days have been identified as homeless any one day during the assessment, in shelter, or outreach provider notes. Documentation can also be uploaded to HMIS for other homelessness issues so folks can be placed on the list. Documentation of disability is still self-reported; status can be discussed during case conferencing (CC). Perhaps a check box indicating disability can be noted on the BNL and uploaded to HMIS. Folks returning to the BNL will have to be manually entered. Folks without contact on HMIS in the last 90 days will be discussed in CC and attempted to contact to determine if they are still eligible – a good faith effort would happen and then they would be exited from the BNL and documented accordingly. Folks that are canceled or are denied would have to re-engage with the homeless service providers before being placed on the BNL again. The housing provider would document the reason for a denial or cancellation. Staff plan to ask BFZ staff how other communities work around this removal. Ensuring HMIS visibility would be important to ensure all providers can see referrals etc.</p> <p>Courtney is looking into Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) referrals with The Salvation Army staff and researching concerns about RRH referrals only going to families. 75% RRH referrals over the past 3 to 6 months were to families and youth led families.</p>			



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The need for increased marketing of Move Up Vouchers was discussed during the planning meeting to help create more PSH space for folks experiencing chronic homelessness and reduce homelessness.

The planning group also discussed a community update/presentation about Built for Zero/FUSE to explain current system, share updates about the work completed, and call for assistance/resources through CE to help address the need for housing resources for folks experiencing homelessness.

Victoria Sluga asked how far back the BNL looks for experiencing chronic homelessness. She suggested a longer than a 90-day look-back at the beginning due to the nature of this homelessness. She also suggested focusing on disability being self-reported through the VI-SPDAT and is curious as to how other communities have done this work. Tammy feels that CC will help to make sure the folks remain on the BNL as appropriate. Tom wonders if looking back more than 90-days would identify folks still in need of assistance. Brian Bruce mentioned that the nature of chronic homelessness often impedes a person ability to interact with service providers; outreach teams may be able to identify folks who have not engaged for more than 90 days through CC. Victoria Sluga concurred with Brian.

Joyce Williams asked if CC will include discussion on switching referrals if someone is a better fit for a different program. Courtney mentioned we have to be careful about not allowing our own biases to decide where to refer a person; the consumer should make the choice when the referral is available. She suggested discussing a transfer policy with BFZ staff.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Rapid Re-Housing Referrals/Assessment & Prioritization Tool Update

Discussion

Courtney noted that there has been national discussion around efforts to stop using the VI-SPDAT as an assessment and prioritization tool. Prioritization factors used in place of the tool include unsheltered vs. sheltered homelessness, length of time, number of episodes and returns to the system, criminal interactions, or hospitalizations. A focus on system barriers and specific eligibility is one way assessment and prioritization can be approached. For example, one community places points based upon length of time homelessness with a priority bump for those with over 1 year of continuous homelessness or who are fleeing a domestic violence situation. Answers are not shared with providers or participants to help reduce answering inaccurately. This info will be shared with BFZ group.

Additional prioritization factors mentioned: those with frequent incarcerations (possibly due to being homeless), folks who have frequent hospitalizations, and history of evictions in the past five years.

Brian Bruce mentioned the importance of ensure whatever tool the community chooses is not racially biased. Jeremy DeRoo questioned who would decide whether the tool is racially biased.



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<p>Tammy asked about the interim prioritization tool. Courtney mentioned that it is a work in progress and is important to move forward to developing an interim tool as the build out for CHC 2.0 is over a year out. Courtney mentioned that this tool would be online as well until CHC 2.0 is active which could increase access.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
CE Redesign Update		
Discussion		
<p>Courtney noted that there is not much to update regarding Community Housing Connect 2.0 at this time. Conversations between CoC and Community Rebuilders staff are ongoing. One topic has been determining what kind of resources are available to the community. Victoria inquired about what those resources are (housing resources, staffing resources, funds, etc.). Courtney mentioned that there has been a change in the developer; more info will be shared later.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Coordinated Entry Concerns		
Discussion		
<p>Jeremy DeRoo mentioned that MSHDA put out a draft for their Request for Proposals for HOME -ARP funds which shows funds would be available for providers who take the referrals from the Coordinated Entry (CE) system. He hopes this will allow housing providers to re-focus on accepting referrals from CE.</p> <p>Open positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victoria Sluga mentioned that Pine Rest Street Reach is hiring a new outreach provider - Jeremy mentioned that Dwelling Place is also hiring one Resident Services Coordinator (RSC) - Grand Rapids Housing Commission RSC staff positions are available on their website <p>Victoria Arnold indicated that she has a lot of staff who worked with CERA (COVID Emergency Rental Assistance) who will be looking for a new role in the community.</p> <p>Tammy Vincent asked about the CE self-assessment tool; it was discussed in May that it would be reformatted and presented to the CE committee and then to Steering. Courtney mentioned that Brianne can look into this and report back.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Provide update on CE Eval process/docs	Brianne	
Action Items & Next Steps		
Discussion		
August 2 nd – next meeting		
Adjourn		
Motion by:	Joyce Williams	Support from: Tammy Vincent