



STEERING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2023

8:30-10:30

Facilitator:	Casey Gordon		
Meeting Attendees:	<p><u>Steering members present:</u> Casey Gordon, Elizabeth Stoddard, Victoria Arnold, Alonda Trammell, Lindsey Reames, Charisse Mitchell, Lauren VanKeulen, Kate Berens, Karen Tjapkes, Jose Salinas, Paul Smith (for Nicole Hofert), Adrienne Goodstal</p> <p><u>Steering members absent with notification:</u> Fran Dalton, Ryan Kilpatrick, Holly Wilson, Victoria Sluga, Mark Contreras, Ryan VerWys, Gustavo Perez</p> <p><u>Steering members absent without notification:</u></p> <p><u>Community Members:</u> Vera Beech (Community Rebuilders), Sam Elliot-Mosley (Community Rebuilders), Zenaida Jimenez (Safe Haven), members of the public viewing on Zoom</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Robach</p>		
Time Convened:	8:38 am	Time Adjourned:	10:33 am

Approval of Agenda			
Motion by:	Adrienne Goodstal	Support from:	Lauren VanKeulen
Discussion			
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Approval of Minutes		February 17, 2023	
Motion by:	Karen Tjapkes	Support from:	Lauren VanKeulen
Discussion			
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Public Comment on Any Agenda Item			
Discussion			
None			
Approval of Consent Agenda			
Motion by:	Lauren VanKeulen	Support from:	Lindsey Reames
Discussion	None		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Petitions and Communications			
Discussion			
None			
Community Housing Connect 2.0 Status Update			
Discussion			
<p>Courtney Myers-Keaton, CoC Director, Vera Beech and Sam Elliot-Mosley, both of Community Rebuilders, shared an update on the development of Community Housing Connect (CHC) 2.0. A website will be available next week and will contain an overview of CHC 2.0, regular status updates, and ways to get involved. They overviewed each of the engagement pathways, and the roles of the Coalition and Community Rebuilders.</p>			



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Question and answer time about topics including data sharing, how resources will be available on the platform, processes related to access and referrals, maintenance costs, and iteration. Vera indicated that Community Rebuilders will own the CHC technology and will be responsible for making changes requested by the community based on feedback and data.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

MSHDA Shelter Diversion Pilot Funding

Discussion

Courtney shared that the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for shelter diversion. MSHDA will fund up to 10 communities and has limited CoCs to providing one letter of support which is a requirement for submission. Based on precedent, Courtney recommends that the CoC issue and RFP and strongly recommend a collaborative application. CoC staff will coordinate meetings for a collaborative application. Attendees expressed excitement given the community's history with a successful diversion pilot and opportunity to increase the amount of available funds for flexible financial assistance.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

MSHDA HOME-ARP Housing Navigation Program (HNP) Funding

Discussion

Courtney indicated that MSHDA has allocated funds for housing navigation staff. Her staff recommendation is that the funds are allocated to The Salvation Army (TSA) to hire at least 2 new staff as they already provide work in this category. Conversation around ensuring all populations have access to these funds. Lindsey shared that the Grand Rapids Housing Commission has added a homeless preference for 25% of all units.

Lauren VanKeulen motioned that CoC formally select TSA as subrecipient of Housing Navigation Program funds through MSHDA with the expectation that TSA hold at least one community meeting to gather input on how to bring this funding to all eligible populations. Adrienne Goodstal seconded. In favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Abstentions: 1 - Victoria Arnold due to conflict of interest.

Motion passes.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Convene meeting to gather input for HNP funding	The Salvation Army	

Community Engagement

Discussion

Courtney provided an overview of upcoming community engagement sessions being held by the City of Grand Rapids.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

RRH Service Standards

Discussion



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Last month, Steering Council recommended Coordinated Entry consider approving the RRH Service Standards with suggested language regarding housing quality standards. That committee has approved the policy with suggested language; it is presented to Steering Council for approval. **Lauren VanKeulen motioned to approve the RRH Service Standards Policy as presented. Elizabeth Stoddard supported. All in favor, motion passes.**

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Staffing & Funding Updates

Discussion

Courtney provided an update on new staff positions. An Administrative Coordinator will start in early April and additional positions (HMIS System Administrator, Data Analyst, and YHDP Project Coordinator) will be posted soon. The expectations for the Coordinated Entry Program Manager role are being developed. Given the addition of staff, she has been considering how to ensure sufficient space.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Other Matters from Steering Council members

Discussion

Elizabeth Stoddard invited folks to the Fair Housing Center's annual event on April 27 which will focus on fair housing and social determinants of health.

Lauren VanKeulen expressed concern with any housing provider holding housing referral software and encouraged thoughtfulness in the development of policies and processes.

Casey Gordon asked about the cost of CHC 2.0 and expressed concern of a potential real or perceived conflict of interest with a housing provider becoming a vendor operating a tool that would refer households into their programs. Courtney indicated the anticipated costs have been included in budget conversations. She also suggested requesting HUD TA examine the proposed structure to ensure the interests of all parties are protected.

Kate Berens indicated that the City of Grand Rapids is considering broadening their rental certification program to include lead swiping and remediation. She invited folks to attend community engagement sessions around public safety. She indicated that the City's federal formula grant recommendations are slated to go before the City Commission on March 28.

Public Comment on Any Item

Discussion

None

Adjourn

Motion by: Victoria Arnold

Support from: Alonda Trammell