



CoC MEMBER MEETING MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2021

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Karen Tjapkes		
Meeting Attendees:	<p>Karen Tjapkes (Legal Aid), Alisha Pennington (MDHHS), Alyssa Anten (The Salvation Army), Brian Strong (Veteran Career Advisor, State of Michigan), Dave Gantz (Pine Rest), Jennifer Colby, Marcia Patrick (Senior Neighbors), Shannon Vinson (DRIVE Challenge), Lisa Cruden (Family Promise), Todd Furlong (The Salvation Army), Victoria Arnold (The Salvation Army), Wanda Couch (Grand Rapids Housing Commission), Fran Dalton (Garfield Park Neighborhoods Assoc.), John Wynbeek (Genesis), Tom Cottrell (YWCA), Bill Weld-Wallis (Community member), Dreyson Byker (Community member), Bryan Holt (Pine Rest), Leatha Roberts (The Salvation Army), Casey Gordon (Kent ISD), Carolyn Allen (Covenant House), LoRae Robinson (Covenant House), Dan Baker (network180), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Elizabeth Stoddard (Fair Housing Center), Tammy Yeomans (Community member), Marcelle Marcelletti (Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center), Shelby DeVoe (Senior Neighbors), Roxane Hiler (ICCF), Tracy Mulvaney (The Salvation Army), Crystal Kitten (AYA), Mary Engle (Mel Trotter), Yejae Kim (Calvin Center for Social Research), Sherrie Gillespie (Kent County Community Action), Hattie Tinney (Grand Rapids Housing Commission), Hilary Ortiz (HealthNet), Megan Iams (Covenant House), Alonda Trammell (Dwelling Place), Julie Kendrick (Degage), Catherine Landers (North Kent Connect), Kathy Besaw (Genesis), Allison Green (MCAH), Jeffrey King (Community Rebuilders), Kendra Avila (AYA), Stephanie Brock-Knoper (City of Wyoming), Erin Banchoff (City of Grand Rapids), Doug Booth (HealthNet), Jeanie Olach (Exodus Place), Jinnifer Ortquist (MSU Extension)</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brienne Czyzio Robach</p>		
Time Convened:	9:32	Time Adjourned:	10:30

Approval of Minutes		August 26, 2021	
Motion by:	Tom Cottrell	Support from:	Doug Booth
Discussion			
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	All in favor, motion passes.		
Strategic Plan Update			
Discussion	<p>The Coalition recently went through a strategic planning process. A common mission, values, and beliefs were identified in addition to a vision for 2024. To reach these goals, part of the planning process was developing a rhythm with quarterly rocks and an implementation team. This team guides the execution of rocks and meets regularly rocks to track progress.</p> <p>Courtney overviewed the Coalition's rocks and results from Q3. It is exciting to see that the majority of the goals were met and significant progress was made in those that were not met. Courtney also</p>		



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shared the Q4 rocks for the Coalition. Many of the rocks build upon progress made in Q3 rocks. [See the meeting slides for a listing of Q3 and Q4 rocks.](#)

If you have questions or want to get engaged with any of these goals, connect with Brianne and Courtney.

Nominating Committee Formation

Discussion

The Nominating Committee (NC) is responsible for recruiting members to serve on the Coalition's Steering Council. Steering takes on much of the decision-making responsibility of the Coalition and serves a similar function to a Board of Directors at a non-profit.

This committee forms to recruit members and facilitate elections in December. The group is made of 3 CoC members and 2 Steering Council members. Cheryl Schuch and Hattie Tinney are the Steering Council members serving on this group.

A call for nominations was put out prior to the meeting and Emily Schichtel was nominated. Karen called for additional nominations. Stephanie Brock-Knoper and Lisa Cruden were nominated.

Fran Dalton asked about efforts to ensure inclusivity and diversity of the Steering Council. One of Nominating Committee's roles is to work to ensure membership is representative of different populations and sectors. Brian Strong encouraged the Coalition to ensure that diversity is present in all committees, noting that the NC would be composed of all women.

Fran noted that without diversity as an integral part of an organization, it can be hard for people of color to nominate themselves. Karen noted that this nominations process is the process required by the Coalition's current Governance Charter. Staff are looking at updates that can be made to make processes more inclusive in the future.

The Charter does not contain requirements for a certain ethnic and/or racial populations to be represented on Steering Council.

Karen made three calls for nominations; no additional nominations were provided. **Hattie motioned to appoint the 3 nominees (Lisa Cruden, Stephanie Brock-Knoper, and Emily Schichtel) to Nominating Committee. Tom Cottrell provided a second. All in favor, motion passes.** Nominating Committee will work to ensure Steering Council is reflective of diversity in community. With suggestions for members or strategies, please reach out to staff.

Relationship with the Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF)

Discussion

Staff from the Coalition and the Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF) recently developed a communication that clarifies their relationship. Courtney provided background on the two entities. When HUD began requiring communities to have a Continuum of Care in 1995, the housing



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subcommittee of ENTFF meeting was a natural fit and became known as the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness. In recent times, and through the strategic planning processes of both entities, there have been conversations around whether the Coalition should branch out on its own while remaining a strong partner with ENTFF.

Moving forward, ENTFF and the Coalition will remain partners and will serve as Lead Convening Partners in respective spaces, but the Coalition will not serve as ENTFF's housing subcommittee. Both entities sit within Heart of West Michigan United Way (HWMUW) and this will structure continue, though budgets and staff responsibilities will be separate. HWMUW will continue to serve as collaborative application for CoC Program funds.

Strong communication and collaboration will remain between entities. [Read the communication here.](#)

Housing Vouchers Update

Discussion

Wanda Couch from Grand Rapids Housing Commission shared that they were awarded 42 vouchers and have since received 76 referrals. They have issued several vouchers and have 10 households who are leased up. They are seeing barriers with the lack of affordable housing as well as requirements for households (co-signers required, 2x monthly income requirement)

Alyssa Anten with The Salvation Army shared that MSHDA awarded 53 vouchers to Community Housing Advocates. The Salvation Army and ICCF have been assisting with case management for these vouchers. 47 have been issued to participants and they will be pulling additional names for the remainder. 23 households have officially leased up and a few more have identified a unit.

The Salvation Army is excited to introduce Leatha Roberts who was recently hired as the Housing Navigator! They hope she will be a resource to the community assisting with housing searches and landlord engagement. If staff are needing assistance with housing search, please reach out to Leatha (Leatha.Roberts@usc.salvationarmy.org). Leatha introduced herself and shared that she is looking forward to meeting community partners, strengthening community connections, and addressing common barriers.

Community Partner Announcements and Updates

Discussion

None.

Adjourn

Motion by: Tom Cottrell

Support from: Tammy Yeomans