



Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County – MI 506
Continuum of Care Membership Meeting Agenda
December 15, 2022 □ 9:30-11:00 am □ Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86785111647?pwd=M1NvLOY4Nmc5eEhKK21oY05aanBWZz09>

Or dial +1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 867 8511 1647, Passcode: 40145

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of October 27, 2022 Minutes*
3. Steering Council Election*
4. Thank you to our Departing Steering Council Members
5. Update on Grand Rapids Chamber Public Health and Safety Letter to City Commission
6. Cold Weather Protocols
7. Year End Reflection
8. Community Partner Announcements and Updates
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 23rd, 2023, 9:30-11:00am

**indicates potential action item*



**CoC MEMBER MEETING
MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

October 27, 2022

9:30-11:00am

Facilitator:	Elizabeth Stoddard		
Meeting Attendees:	<p>Elizabeth Stoddard (Fair Housing Center), Molly Wiersma (Family Promise), Wende Randall (ENTF), Dave Gantz (Genesis Non-Profit Housing), Morgan Zielke (Kent County Community Action), Susan Sheppard (Arbor Circle), Shannon Tanis (community member), Tom Cottrell (YWCA), Allie Whitman (Mel Trotter Ministries), Mateah Schleben (Exodus Place), Nicole Beagle (MSHDA), Liz Keegan (Fair Housing Center), Jinnifer Ortquist (MSU Extension), Alisha Pennington (MDHHS Regional SOAR Navigator), Sherrie Gillespie (KCCA), Melonie Cooper (Pine Rest Street Reach), Cecilia Rush (Battle Creek VA), Ryan VerWys (ICCF Community Homes), Tanesha Jordan (Safe Haven Ministries), Jeremy Wartella (VOAMI), Mackenzie Vilmont (Family Promise), Wafa Haddad (Noor's Heaven), Nicole Hofert (City of Wyoming), Marcelle Marcelletti (Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center), Alyssa Anten (The Salvation Army HAP), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Tammy Vincent (City of Grand Rapids), Amy Wittenbach (YWCA), Niki Perkins (Access of West Michigan), Rebecca Rynbrandt (community member), Tracy Mulvany (The Salvation Army ESP), Stephanie Brock-Knoper (City of Wyoming), John Wynbeek (Genesis Non-Profit Housing Corporation), Stephanie Gingerich (LINC UP), Zenaida Jimenez (Safe Haven), Fran Dalton (Garfield Park Neighborhood Association), Molly Perez (Kent Co Health Dept)</p> <p>Staff: Courtney Myers-Keaton, Brianne Robach</p>		
Time Convened:	9:35	Time Adjourned:	11:00

Approval of Minutes		August 25, 2022	
Motion by:	Tom Cottrell	Support from:	Zenaida Jimenez
Discussion	Shannon Tanis requested that the word 'perceived' is removed regarding her statement. Courtney Myers-Keaton indicated is a conflict is not legally present which it why it was listed as perceived.		
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	In favor: 16 Opposed: 1. Motion passes.		
Fair Housing and Nondiscrimination		Elizabeth Stoddard, Liz Keegan	
Discussion			
<p>Elizabeth Stoddard and Liz Keegan of the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan (FHCWM) provided a training on fair housing and nondiscrimination. The training included an overview of the Fair Housing Act and related laws, protected classes, covered dwellings, examples of housing discrimination, recent changes to regulations, and trends. FHCWM collects fair housing complaints which can be submitted anonymously. The presenters also reviewed the Equal Access Rule which applies to all HUD housing programs. They also discussed the 2016 update regarding gender identity and how CoC-funded programs should implement the rule.</p>			



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 9:30-11:00am

Brianne Robach shared that the Coalition adopted an interim Fair Housing and Anti-Discrimination policy in June of 2022 which is applicable to all CoC and ESG receipts and subrecipients and encouraged for all Coalition members. Elizabeth overviewed nondiscrimination requirements included in the policy. There is also a requirement that program participants are given information on their fair housing rights; the FHCWM is willing to help providers meet this requirement. FHCWM has developed fact sheets and are open to suggestions for community outreach methods.

Shannon Tanis commented that the Fair Housing Act does not address patterns and practices of fraud and thinks this should be explored.

Wafa Haddad asked about landlord education. FHCWM provides education to many groups, including landlords and has information available in multiple languages.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Funding

Discussion

Courtney Myers-Keaton announced that the CoC has received just under \$2.5 million dollars in Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) funding. This provides the community with an opportunity to work with youth providers and the Youth Action Board (YAB) to develop a coordinated community approach to youth homelessness with significant technical assistance and expertise from youth with lived experience of homelessness. The application was a community undertaking and Courtney thanked all partners for their support.

Voter Engagement Resources

Discussion

Courtney noted that Election Day is a few weeks away. Resources are available to help providers encourage clients and neighbors to vote. If you are interested in discussing opportunities to collaborate regarding transportation to the polls, connect with Courtney.

Nominating Committee

Discussion

Courtney shared that there is one Nominating Committee vacancy which will be filled by a Steering Council member during tomorrow’s meeting. Nominating Committee is responsible for ensuring systemic representation on Steering Council, seeking candidates, and facilitating the election in December.

CoC Equitable Results Team Update

Discussion

Brianne Robach shared that the Coalition with participation with a statewide racial equity strategic planning effort with support from C4 Innovations. A local CoC Equitable Results Team (CERT) is leading this effort for the Coalition. The group recently held listening sessions for individuals with lived experience of homelessness to share about their experiences, the strengths of our local homeless response system, suggestions for improvements. Next steps include analyzing the session responses and a system mapping activity.

CoC Membership Application: Renewal Reminder

Discussion



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Brianne Robach shared that membership in the Coalition is open to all organizations and individuals and invited applications from interested parties. Current members must renew their membership annually by reapplying. Membership applications are available on the Coalition’s website and should be returned to Brianne.

Community Partner Announcements & Updates

Discussion

Alisha Pennington recognized a Pine Rest staff member as a recent award recipient for SOAR navigation work. She also shared a report detailing the outcomes of SOAR practitioners in Kent County.

Wende Randall shared the link to recording from League of Women Voters presentation on the three state-wide ballot proposals.

Adjourn

DRAFT

2023 CoC Steering Committee Nominations

Nominees listed alphabetically by last name.

Incumbents noted by (*)

At-Large Positions (Vote for up to 5):

Nominee	Position	Agency	Declared Affiliation
Vera Beech	Executive Director	Community Rebuilders	Person with HIV/AIDS

Vera Beech is the CEO of Community Rebuilders, a leading non-profit organization working on building a community where homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring. She initiated the Gather Resources Align Community Effort (G.R.A.C.E Network) to reduce silos across sectors and create a shared community network to address social determinants of health and promote housing and health equity. With over 25 years of experience delivering HUD housing programs, Vera has been recognized as a national trainer and leader in the effort to end homelessness. She has provided training on a national level presenting for the National Alliance to End Homelessness and Continuum of Cares and philanthropic organizations across the country. Community Rebuilders serves all populations experiencing homelessness and administers the HOPWA program which is the only federally funded program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Committees and work groups: Vera has served on various CoC committees and been actively involved in a number of community initiatives. She also initiated the Gather Resources Align Community Effort (G.R.A.C.E. Network).

Ryan Kilpatrick	Senior Program Officer	Facing Home Initiative - DeVos Family Foundation	Family with Children, Funding Community
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Ryan has been working to solve for the general lack of housing supply in West Michigan for the last 9 years and has a broader background in development finance, community development, public meeting facilitation, and economic development. Ryan has BA in Community Development from GVSU, and an MA in Design Thinking for Social Innovation from KCAD/FSU.

The work of the DeVos Family Foundation's Facing Home Initiative is designed to support a multi-year, multi-million investment to solve homelessness in Kent County. The CoC's adoption of the Built for Zero model is imperative to this work and Ryan would like to better understand and support the highest leverage opportunities to make a significant difference for the unhoused in Kent County as well as those at-risk of losing housing.

Ryan has nearly 20 years of experience working in housing, development finance, strategic planning, and municipal governance. He has a BA in Community Development and a MA in Design Thinking for Social Innovation. Ryan is currently leading the Facing Home Initiative on behalf of the DeVos Family Foundation. Facing Home is a strategic and initiated response to the homelessness crisis in Kent County that has been designed as a mechanism to leverage public, private, and philanthropic investments where they can be most impactful in the effort to solve for homelessness. Ryan's role is to deeply understand the barriers and limitations that have historically undermined the community response to homelessness and be a collaborative partner to area nonprofits in addressing those barriers. Ryan's most recent background was leading Housing Next in an effort to clearly define the regional housing

2023 CoC Steering Committee Nominations

shortage and the opportunities for the community to work together to provide adequate housing at all price points and for every household.

Committees and work groups: Grand Rapids Affordable Housing Fund, lead consultant, Housing Next, Housing Stability Alliance Data Committee, Housing Stability Alliance Public Policy Committee.

Ryan is currently working as the Housing Practice Leader to support the City of Grand Rapids' efforts to enhance its housing response. This includes work to establish the GR Affordable Housing Fund, local zoning and economic development policy amendments, and streamlining processes for development partners (both for-profit and nonprofit). Ryan is also a member of the Housing Stability Alliance, the data align committee, and the public policy committee on behalf of Housing Kent.

Nominee	Position	Agency	Declared Affiliation
Joshua Lunger	Vice President of Government Affairs	Grand Rapids Chamber	Business

The availability and affordability of housing has a direct impact on the risk of homelessness in a community and in the ability to support those who are unhoused.

Through my work over the last several years working to support housing solutions at the local, regional and state levels has directly supported the creation of regional and statewide partnerships. I have had the amazing opportunity to lead on strategic planning, stakeholder engagement to build regional consortiums, and driving a positive narrative around housing solutions and engage in policy work to support the creation of new housing. Most notably I was able to lead on the creation of the new locally-driven housing tools and the new County housing revolving loan fund.

I have also learned how to effectively communicate with very diverse audiences the importance of real solutions and how they can benefit all residents, economic growth, equity outcomes and more. I was also fortunate to be part of the effort to bring Built for Zero to our system.

Committees and work groups: Housing Kent Board Member, Housing Next supporter, Kent County Housing Commission Board Member, Housing Michigan Exec Committee

Dan Meyering	CEO	Trillium Investments	Unaccompanied Youth, Family with Children
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Worked with the CoC, the County/City and the Chamber to enter the Built for Zero and Community Solutions program. I have been working with the City, Funders and Service Providers to end homelessness in the community.

Committees and work groups: Grand Rapids Chamber - CEO and Municipal Council

2023 CoC Steering Committee Nominations

Nominee	Position	Agency	Declared Affiliation
Charisse Mitchell	CEO	YWCA	Victim or Survivors of Domestic Violence, Family with Children

Charisse currently serves as the CEO of the YWCA West Central Michigan whose mission is to eliminate racism, empower women and girls, and provide peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA provides comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault services to child and adult survivors, prevention programming, and advocacy for change at the local, state, and national level – all through a lens of inclusion and anti-oppression. Additionally, the YWCA provides emergency and transitional housing, coordinated with the CoC for women and families escaping domestic violence. Before coming to the YWCA, Charisse served for 9 years as Executive Director for the Center for Women in Transition (now Resilience) which serves victims of domestic and sexual violence in Ottawa and Allegan counties. Charisse previously served as Board President of the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence; and Co-Chair of the Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; and the Heart of West Michigan United Way Partner Agency Steering Committee. Before returning home to Michigan in 2008, Charisse spent more than a decade working in Washington D.C. helping to build capacity and improve the systemic infrastructure needed by state and local human service agencies across the country to serve children, adults, and families. She earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Administration degrees from The George Washington University. Charisse, her husband, Cory, and their son, Julian, live in Kentwood.

Committees and work groups: Kent County Health Equity Committee; Trinity Health Grand Rapids DEI workgroup; TalentFirst DEI Workgroup; (Tom Cottrell, who is retiring, has been representing the Y at the CoC Coordinated Entry and Steering Committee)

Lindsey Reames	Executive Director	Grand Rapids Housing Commission	Chronically Homeless Individual, Family with Children
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Lindsey has 30 years of working with the US Department of Housing Urban Development. She has served 18 months as the Executive Director at the Grand Rapids Housing Commission. Lindsey is actively involved in affordable housing strategies in the community. She serves on numerous committees that address ending homelessness. She is passionate on working to build resources that will help families move towards affordable and stable housing.

Committees and work groups: Grand Rapids Affordable Housing Fund Board; CoC Family Functional Zero and Outreach Workgroup; Housing Stability Alliance

***Cheryl Schuch** – *nomination withdrawn*

2023 CoC Steering Committee Nominations

Nominee	Position	Agency	Declared Affiliation
Susan Sheppard	Vice President/COO	Arbor Circle	Unaccompanied Youth, Substance Use Disorder

Arbor Circle has been a long standing partner within the CoC for over 25 years. Susan was the Arbor Circle CoC representative from 2007 – 2014. During that time she also participated in the Data/HMIS committee. After 2014, Arbor Circle remained a member with different representation at general membership as well as Coordinated Entry, Data, HMIS, Outreach and Youth subcommittees.

Committees and work groups: Susan has been a participant in the Housing Stability Alliance work and served as the secretary and chair of the Michigan Network for Youth and Families (statewide collaborative of state funded runaway/homeless youth providers) from 2007-2014. Susan is currently part of the YHDP “core team” and serves on the Mental/Behavioral Health CHIP workgroup with the KCHD. Arbor Circle is also active in numerous other county/statewide initiatives and efforts related to behavioral health (individuals/families), early childhood, and youth substance use prevention.

*Victoria Sluga	Manager of Homeless and Housing Services	Pine Rest	Chronically Homeless Individual, Seriously Mentally Ill
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Back in 2003, Victoria became intimately involved with the Grand Rapids Coalition to End Homelessness when she was the Program Manager for the 10-year plan for Kent County’s Vision to End Homelessness. Victoria has a history working directly with individuals living with and in recovering from complexities such as substance use disorders, mental health conditions, development disabilities, trauma, survivor of domestic violence and homelessness. She has had the pleasure of partnering with area shelters, permanent supportive housing providers, public housing providers, mental health organizations, etc. She has been in the field for over 20 years and a deep understanding of the housing system, the mental health system and numerous best practices in ending homelessness. In her current roles, she oversees a team of street outreach workers, clinical staff, peer supports and recovery coaches who serve individuals experiencing chronic or episodic homelessness with mental health and often substance use disorders. These programs are grant funded by Heart of West Michigan United Way, Network180, MSHDA ESG and MDHHS/SAMSHA PATH Program.

Committees and work groups: CoC Steering Committee, Coordinated Entry, Built for Zero Planning Team

*Lauren VanKeulen	CEO	AYA Youth Collective	Unaccompanied Youth
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Lauren VanKeulen is the CEO at AYA Youth Collective and has been an active participant in the Coalition to End Homelessness since 2013. In 2022, she has been the Chair of the Steering Committee, offering strong leadership and strategic direction to the CoC as a whole. Over the past 9 years, she has served on, or is currently on the following committees: Executive Committee, Youth Committee, Coordinated Entry Committee, and youth functional zero workgroup. Lauren played a large role in bringing Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) funding to Kent County through advocacy and leadership

2023 CoC Steering Committee Nominations

support. AYA is highly involved throughout the CoC, including through facilitation of the Youth Advisory Board.

While Lauren's focus area is around youth homelessness, she understands that ending homelessness for all populations is essential to solving our community crisis. Lauren believes that when our community comes together around a common goal, we are better able to address our most pressing issues in an effective and cohesive way.

Committees and work groups: CoC Steering Council, Executive Committee, Youth Committee, Coordinated Entry Committee, and youth functional zero workgroup

2022 Steering Council Roster

First	Last	Title	Organization	Term End	Population(s) Represented
Cheryl	Schuch	CEO	Family Promise	Dec-22	Families with Children, Victims of Domestic Violence
Lauren	VanKeulen	CEO	AYA Youth Collective	Dec-22	Unaccompanied Youth
Tom	Cottrell	Chief Programming Officer	YWCA	Dec-22	Victim or Survivors of Domestic Violence
Victoria	Sluga	Manager of Homeless and Housing Services	Pine Rest	Dec-22	Chronically Homeless, Formerly Incarcerated
Wanda	Couch	HCV Program Manager	Grand Rapids Housing Commission	Dec-22	Chronically Homeless, Families with Children
Adrienne	Goodstal	VP of Community Engagement and Advocacy	Mel Trotter	Dec-23	Chronically Homeless, Youth, Domestic Violence, Substance Use Disorder, Seriously Mentally Ill, Families with Children, Veterans, Formerly Incarcerated
Alonda	Trammell	Director of Supportive Services	Dwelling Place	Dec-23	Chronically Homeless, Domestic Violence, Veterans, Seriously Mentally Ill, Youth Families with Children
Holly	Wilson	Director of Client Services	Safe Haven	Dec-23	Chronically Homeless, Families with Children
Jose	Salinas	Recovery Coach	network180	Dec-23	Formerly Homeless Individual, Substance Use Disorder
Karen	Tjapkes	Director of Litigation	Legal Aid of West Michigan	Dec-23	Families with Children, Domestic Violence
Casey	Gordon	Supervisor of Special Populations	Kent Intermediate School District	Dec-24	Family with Children, Unaccompanied Youth
Elizabeth	Stoddard	Director of Advocacy	Fair Housing Center of West Michigan	Dec-24	Victims of Domestic Violence, Formerly Incarcerated
Fran	Dalton	Operations Director/Neighborhood Organizer	Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association	Dec-24	Active Human Service Network
Mark	Contreras	Medical Director	Catherine's Health Center	Dec-24	General - medical
Ryan	VerWys	President/CEO	Inner City Christian Federation	Dec-24	Chronically Homeless, Families with Children
Tammy	Vincent	Homelessness Coordinator	City of Grand Rapids*	N/A	
Nicole	Hofert	Director of Community & Economic Development	City of Wyoming*	N/A	
Jennifer	James	Deputy County Administrator	Kent County*	N/A	
Victoria	Arnold	Kent County Social Services Director	The Salvation Army / HARA*	N/A	
		Community Member	Youth Action Board*	N/A	
		Community Member	Veterans Action Board*	N/A	

*permanent, non-rotating member organizations