



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

January 24, 2025
9:30 – 11:00am

Facilitator:	Courtney Myers-Keaton		
Meeting Attendees:	Myracle Watkins, Cassie Clover, Mads Ladow, Isa Delarosa, Casey Gordon, David Sheldon, Stacy Datena, Ja'Quari Moore-Bass, Colin Dick		
	Staff: Courtney Myers-Keaton, Ronan Parmenter		
Time Convened:	9:40am	Time Adjourned:	10:45am

Approval of Agenda			
Motion by:		Second:	
Discussion			
Amendments			
Conclusion			
Approval of Minutes			
Motion by:		Second:	
Discussion			
Amendments			
Conclusion			
Youth Committee Elections*			
Discussion			
Tabled until the next meeting			
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Proposed Workgroups			
Discussion			
<p>This committee discussed engaging with other community systems as well as restarting workgroups to make progress on goals outlined in the CCP. Courtney recommended 3-4 workgroups be active at a time to avoid overwhelm and recommended focusing on Youth Committee re-engagement for the first 60 days. The YAB should be engaged with these workgroups to ensure youth voice is centered.</p> <p>Identified Workgroups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Goal 1: Identification of all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness- Goal 3: Coordination – Re-engage other groups, utilize CE processes to link youth with housing and services tailored to their needs- Goal 4: Access – Review training, policies, and youth grievance procedures at community agencies- Goal 5: Youth Centered Approach – Formalize a process for Youth Committee and the YAB to connect and maintain partnership- Goal 7: Education and Income – This will be revisited in six months- Goal 8: Equity and Inclusion – Find trainings for community providers, analyze youth provider DEI policies and practices and provide feedback. This will be revisited in six months.			
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Send copy of the CCP to the group		Ronan Parmenter	



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

January 24, 2025
9:30 – 11:00am

Revisit Goal 7 and Goal 8 workgroups in July 2025		
CCP Next Steps		
Discussion		
Covered in previous agenda item discussion		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
YAB Updates		
Discussion		
<p>The YAB currently consists of three members and they are focusing on recruitment over the next 60 days, after which they will begin reviewing surveys of YHDP programs and providing recommendations. Youth Committee members were encouraged to share about the YAB with youth that are interested in engaging in this work; interested individuals may reach out to the YAB email or CoC staff.</p> <p>Myracle shared about her experience and learnings at the Point Source Youth conference she recently attended.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Agency Updates		
Discussion		
<p>AYA is hiring a community housing manager and a housing mentor, expanding housing operation for younger youth, and added a third drop in time for younger youth. They noted they are seeing increased numbers of youth served, specifically more students and younger youth. They also began a partnership with Catherine's Health to have an on-site nurse most days of the week, with plans for additional partnerships to expand these services. Casey recommended reaching out to Head Start/Early On/Bright Beginnings for engagement with their drop-in sessions for pregnant and parenting youth; she offered to make that reach-out.</p> <p>Mel Trotter has seen an increase in youth as well, particularly 18-20 year olds that experience shock upon entering the system. David Sheldon is now the main contact for youth there.</p> <p>Covenant House filled two case management positions after being without these services for a time. There is a long waitlist to enter their program, and challenges were noted around contacting individuals on the waitlist. Funding and identifying affordable housing are contributing to these challenges as well.</p> <p>Kent ISD liaisons are seeing more students than ever before, with many families on the edge of eviction and not many resources available. Casey noted absenteeism is high due to unstable housing, and families are hesitant to reach out due to concerns around involvement with CPS or foster care. She also noted ICE raids at schools and enforcement actions have been top conversations, and there is a lot of concern about support for students who identify as LGBTQIA+.</p>		



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

January 24, 2025

9:30 – 11:00am

Courtney encouraged this committee to know their rights and know the community’s rights, and noted she is working with partners on a full CoC training with the Migrant Legal Center. She spoke to funding concerns for our community and the uncertainty of the effects of this administration.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Next Steps		
Discussion		
February agenda item: LSA Data Review		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Adjournment		