



# Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County CoC

## Youth Committee

### MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

January 28, 2022

9:30-10:30

Facilitator:	Kendra Avila		
Meeting Attendees:	Matt Naylor, Kendra Avila, Crystal Kitten, James Zerka, Carolyn Allen, Anthony, Tiffany Clarke, Lindy Perez, Gaby Guzman, Monique Carter, Casey Gordon, Regina Dix, Becky Diffin, Li Kaplan <u>Staff:</u> Brianne Robach, Courtney Myers-Keaton		
Time Convened:	9:32	Time Adjourned:	10:40

<b>Introductions</b>			
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>			
Motion by:	Regina Dix	Support from:	Carolyn Allen
Discussion			
Amendments	None. Motion passes.		
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>		<b>December 3, 2021</b>	
Motion by:	Casey Gordon	Support from:	James Zerka
Discussion			
Amendments	None. Motion passes.		
<b>Committee Leadership Election</b>			
Discussion			
Each year, the committee elects a chair, vice chair, and secretary. Brianne overviewed each of the roles and called for nominations.			
Kendra Avila nominated herself to continue as chair. No other nominations were submitted; the group will elect a vice chair and secretary in February. Carolyn moved that Kendra serves as chair for 2022. Monique seconded. All in favor, motion passes.			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
<b>Youth Functional Zero Initiative Update</b>			
Discussion			
Kendra shared that the workgroup has been refining the by-name list (BNL) process; they plan to share an update with the group next month and then launch the BNL. The BNL and workflow will continue to be housed in HMIS and those currently on the list will stay on the list. An official launch date will establish a baseline and ensure all partners are aware of the process to add youth to the list.			
The group also discussed the role of this committee in functional zero work. They think this committee will continue to meet and will also become the youth functional zero group. Meeting times would likely revert to 1.5 hours.			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
<b>Youth Shelter Requirements</b>			
Discussion			



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Regina Dix, from Mel Trotter, attended to share more about Mel Trotter’s youth shelter requirements. The youth shelter (YES) is currently in a temporary space due to renovations. They hope to move into the remodeled space in a month. The remodel increases capacity to 14 beds.

Regina overviewed the YES incentive program. Members receive points based on proactive engagement and must accrue 80pts each week to maintain their place. Any points above 80 accrue and can be spent at the incentive point store. Youth are given wiggle room and the structure helps youth prepare for independent living. Youth can stay in YES for 6 weeks or up to 90 days if there is space, if they are engaging in the incentive program. Youth who are successful are transitioned into a longer-term program. This program has led to higher outcomes and lower recidivism rates.

Youth who do not wish to participate can stay in the youth overflow shelter. The YES program and overflow shelter space will be next to one another in the remodeled space. Matt is Youth Shelter Case Manager. He shared that the new space will be dorm-style with 2 beds per room, suite style. This allows for more privacy; and common areas will be available.  
(Carolyn left the meeting)

For youth who do not access the YES program, the overflow space is barrier free, but currently is not youth specific. A space is also available for youth who identify as transgender. Matt indicated that the overflow space in the men’s space is temporary due to the construction. It was youth-specific prior to construction and will be once the remodel is complete.

Matt will be stepping into the youth committee space as Regina will be moving into a new role.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

**Youth Functional Zero By-Name List Update**

**Discussion**

Lindy shared that the team was not able to pull BNL numbers this week.

Outreach Perspective

Li shared that AYA has been working collaboratively to identify youth who may not be on the BNL. As of 1/5, there were 70 single youth experiencing category 1 homelessness. Those who were not on the BNL are being added. Many youth are accessing shelter and higher numbers are concerning. There are about 10 youth with vouchers but unable to find housing. These are not included on the BNL as they have received a referral for supports but are still category 1.

Courtney shared that increasing housing costs during COVID was discussed at Steering. There is some belief it is linked to the amount of community assistance artificially increasing rents. With some funding ending soon, there some belief rental rates may go back down if folks are not able to stay in in units. It is also possible that rent will not decrease. Conversations will continue.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline



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Youth Action Board Update		
Discussion		
Tabled due to time		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Community Partner Updates		
Discussion		
<p>DHHS - James shared that it is slow, but they are having successes with the voucher program. One barrier has been youth not qualifying for other funding to cover first months' rent and security deposit. If you are aware of resources, connect with James.</p> <p>AYA - they are hoping for additional funding for their direct cash transfer (DCT) program; they have funds on reserve and are currently working to innovate. Credit history has been a large barrier that DCT has helped reduce. The team will share updates as become available.</p> <p>If you have questions regarding Mel Trotter youth shelter, connect with Matt.</p> <p>Next meeting - the group will discuss BNL processes and launch date</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Adjournment		
Motion by:	Support from:	