



Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County CoC

Youth Committee

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

December 3, 2021

9:30-10:30

Facilitator:	Kendra Avila		
Meeting Attendees:	Kendra Avila, Casey Gordon, Ben Kaiser, Becky Diffin, Patrick Buhay, James Zerka, Marcelle Marcelletti, Michaela Scheer, Lewis Strom, Pavneet Banga, Lauren Potter, Jessica Higgins, Gaby Guzman Staff: Brianne Robach		
Time Convened:	9:32	Time Adjourned:	10:15

Introductions			
Approval of Agenda			
Motion by:	Kendra Avila	Support from:	Lewis Strom
Discussion	Kendra shared that for the Youth Functional Zero Update, the plan was to discuss workgroups and committee structure in-depth. Instead, an update will be provided and details will be discussed in the new year. The names of specific workgroups will be included on the agenda once they are developed.		
Amendments	None. Motion passes.		
Approval of Minutes		September 24, 2021	
Motion by:	Patrick Buhay	Support from:	Marcelle Marcelletti
Discussion			
Amendments	None. Motion passes.		
Youth Functional Zero Initiative			
Discussion			
Kendra shared that she has been meeting with Angela, Anna, Alyssa, and Lauren to discuss the youth by-name list (BNL). This list is the starting point for the functional zero work. Processes for adding and removing youth and ensuring accuracy have been discussed. The group is still working to ensure accuracy, and as such want to wait until new year to discuss workgroups. The planning group will begin focusing on different areas that need to be met to reach youth functional zero per USICH benchmarks. There have been conversations about adopting the structures and workgroups used by the family functional zero group. In the new year, Kendra hopes to discuss whether the committee's current structure will fit with new processes and what shifts would need to be made. She also anticipates a request for community partners to share their capacity commit to reaching youth functional zero.			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
Youth Functional Zero By-Name List Update			
Discussion			
Lauren shared that a total of 68 youth are on the list right now. 61 are unsheltered (39 singles) and 7 are (6 singles).			



Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County CoC

Youth Committee

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

December 3, 2021

9:30-10:30

Outreach Perspective

Ben shared that Arbor Circle has seen an increase in young families as family shelter space is extremely limited. They have been spending a lot of their time with these families and have not been visiting encampments as often.

Kendra shared that AYA has also seen an increase in young women and young moms/parents which has been difficult.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Youth Action Board Update

Discussion

Kendra shared that the group is working to recruit members. With COVID, it is difficult to meet in person, but they have most the engagement this way. Currently the group is working on financial literacy workshops and will be providing feedback around the PIT Count. If youth are interested, connect with Kendra. The group meets at 722 Eastern and youth receive a stipend for their time.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

2022 Committee Leadership

Discussion

There are leadership roles as chair, vice chair, and secretary that are elected at the beginning of each year. Members are encouraged to think about whether they are interested in serving in a leadership role. Brienne overviewed the responsibilities of each role. Staff will be reaching out with ask for nominations in the coming weeks. If interested, Kendra encouraged folks to step into a role.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Community Partner Updates

Discussion

- DHHS - youth ages 19-23 who were in foster care system after 14, could be eligible for Foster to Youth vouchers. Connect with James Zerka at zerkaj@michigan.gov
- Arbor Circle is hiring. Melissa Ware recently accepted a job at GRCC leaving the clinical supervisor position open. Prevention specialist, street outreach, and therapist positions are also open. Please share with networks! They finished out the First Steps grant and were able to house 21 youth this grant term.
- Kent ISD - Casey shared that this is often a time of insecurity for families and youth. They are seeing lots of unsheltered families, youth, and youth led families. She encouraged advocacy with City of Grand Rapids to ensure that funding for hotels is available for families within the City limits.
- Casey - as the group moves toward a functional zero initiative, she noted that issues with getting accurate data from the family list have been mentioned. She recognized that conversations are ongoing. When thinking about mimicking structures, she encouraged the planning group to ensure they are getting accurate information and connection to resources for all youth



Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent County CoC
Youth Committee

MEETING MINUTES - **DRAFT**

December 3, 2021

9:30-10:30

- Gerald Ford Job Corps - they are currently on pause and cannot bring new students into center. They hope to get authorization to bring students onto campus in January, Marcelle will share updates. Their vocational training program provides housing, supports, and connection to housing.
- Casey noted that there has been changes with Mel Trotter's youth shelter. They are hearing of youth in high school who do not have jobs and can no longer stay in the shelter. She asked that this be included on the next agenda. Kendra will ask Regina to send info on new requirements
- Jessica Higgins introduced herself. She is the new supervisor at the Bridge at Arbor Circle, feel free to connect with her at: jhiggins@arborcircle.org

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Include youth shelter on next agenda	Brianne/Kendra	
Request new requirements for youth shelter and share	Kendra	
Adjournment		
Motion by:	Patrick Buhay	Support from: Lewis Strom

DRAFT