



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

March 4, 2022
9:30-10:30

Facilitator:	Kendra Avila		
Meeting Attendees:	James Zerka, Danielle Friedman, Michaela Scheer, Kendra Avila, Becky Diffin, Li Kaplan, Alyssa Anten, Carolyn Allen, Queyonna Hunt, Matt Naylor, Monique Carter, Julius <u>Staff:</u> Brianne Robach, Courtney Myers-Keaton		
Time Convened:	9:32	Time Adjourned:	10:40

Introductions			
Approval of Agenda			
Motion by:	Carolyn Allen	Support from:	Matt Naylor
Discussion			
Amendments	None. Motion passes.		
Approval of Minutes		January 28, 2022	
Motion by:	Becky Diffin	Support from:	James Zerka
Discussion			
Amendments	None. Motion passes.		
Committee Leadership Election			
Discussion			
Kendra Avila was elected as chair during last month's meeting and the committee now needs to elect a vice chair and secretary for the year. Monique Carter nominated herself for vice chair. Becky Diffin nominated herself to serve as secretary. Li motioned to approve the slate with Monique Carter as vice chair and Becky Diffin as secretary. Alyssa seconded. All in favor, motion passes.			
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Youth Functional Zero Initiative Update			
Discussion			
Kendra shared that a small group is working to solidify by-name list (BNL) processes for the youth functional zero (YFO) list including a referral process. As the BNL is housed in HMIS, determining how non-HMIS agencies refer youth to BNL will be important. Kendra suggested a training session on the process once it is finalized so all agencies understand the process.			
Courtney noted that there are currently different BNL processes for different populations. A meeting with HMIS staff, family functional zero members, HAP, and YFO leadership to understand the different BNL processes would be helpful.			
Youth could be added to the BNL in different ways. The first is through HMIS - Courtney encouraged agencies working with youth experiencing homelessness and not currently participating with HMIS to consider joining HMIS. Reach out to Courtney to learn more or with questions. For those who cannot join HMIS, there are processes used for other populations which could be mirrored for youth. These would create a way for agencies to share information with the CE lead. BNL management would include updating or creating HMIS records and connecting youth with an assessment.			



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Youth Committee Purpose

There has been recent discussion around the purpose of Youth Committee. Recently, it has been space to discuss youth-specific issues and re-establish the Youth Action Board (YAB). As the YFO kicks off, the committee will likely morph into the YFO committee with a focus on meeting benchmarks for functional zero. Courtney envisions that the group would have smaller workgroups as well. There would still be meeting time for agency updates, but length of the meeting would be extended.

Kendra asked members what they would want to see in a future training. Carolyn asked about utilizing HMIS for service coordination. This is not currently done in HMIS, though it may be integrated in the future. Currently, service transactions in HMIS show flow and system level data. Kendra asked about a quarterly training on the structure of the CoC, HMIS and its importance, HUD requirements, etc. Staff are looking to provide these quarterly opportunities to the community.

Conversation around domestic violence (DV) providers using HMIS. Courtney's understanding is that DV providers cannot use HMIS but can use a comparable platform. CoC Program Competition bonus funding may be available during the next round for development of a platform for DV providers; planning in advance would help a solid application. Integration of DV providers to the BNL processes has been discussed by the family functional zero group but they have not settled on a process.

At the next meeting, the group will review the [USICH Benchmarks for YFO](#).

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Include YFO USICH benchmarks overview on next agenda	Brianne/Kendra	

Youth Functional Zero By-Name List Update

Discussion

Alyssa shared that there are currently 94 youth on the YFO list - 21 are staying in shelter, 73 reported staying unsheltered, and 2 did not disclose their location. HAP is currently working to fill some openings. If you are willing to help connect with these youth, please let Alyssa know.

Outreach perspective

Li shared that AYA's internal list, which includes youth who do not want to be added to resource list, is close to HAP's list. This indicates that agencies are ensuring youth are connected to HAP and added to the resource list. AYA is seeing the majority of category 1 youth sleeping in vehicles. There was an increase in youth seeking shelter with the opening of the 200 Division location. As weather gets warmer, Li anticipates folks will move back outside.

Conversation around why youth are choosing to stay at 200 Division. Allowing those in relationships to stay with their partner and folks to hold onto personal items at all times have reduced barriers.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Youth Action Board Update

Discussion



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Kendra shared that youth from Mel Trotter recently attended YAB and the group had meaningful conversations. The group discussed creating spaces for youth to interact with their peers. Matt shared that he takes youth staying at Mel Trotter to the YMCA every week. He has found this has been very good for youth and they always look forward to it.

The group also recently held youth financial literacy courses which was one of their goals from October; the sessions went extremely well. At AYA, Li will be internally taking the lead with YAB.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Community Partner Updates

Discussion

Michaela shared that Bethany’s Center for Community Transformation has new cohort starting soon; the flyer will be shared once available.

Danielle has been working with network180’s care management team to develop curriculum for support/education groups for those who are new to housing, have had past evictions, or have had difficulty maintaining housing. If you know of anyone who is interested, let Danielle know.

James reminded members that youth who were in foster care after age 14 may be eligible for Foster Youth to Independence vouchers. Connect with James for information.

Li shared that AYA does not currently have a drop-in manager. Staff will ensure drop-in continues to run smoothly. AYA has also seen an increase in school aged children and have an advocate going into schools. If have any youth who would benefit from connecting with the advocate, connect with AYA.

Coalition/CoC - Courtney shared that a bipartisan eviction expungement bill was recently introduced by Winnie Brinks. The Coalition will be sharing more information about the bill.

Next meeting: March 25 @ 9:30am

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Adjournment

Motion by:	Matt Naylor	Support from:	Li Kaplan
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