



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

August 27, 2021
9:30-10:30

Facilitator:	Kendra Avila		
Meeting Attendees:	Gaby Guzman, Kendra Avila, Casey Gordon, Lauren Potter, Alyssa Anten, Becky Diffin, Anna Diaz, Patrick Buhay, Samantha Westhouse, Li Kaplan, Lewis Strom, Carolyn Allen, Crystal Kitten, LoRae Robinson, Lauren McCloud, Regina Archie, Stephanie Myers, Gaby Guzman, Staff: Brianne Robach		
Time Convened:	9:30	Time Adjourned:	10:30

Introductions			
Approval of Agenda			
Motion by:	Samantha Westhouse	Support from:	Li Kaplan
Discussion			
Amendments	None. Motion passes.		
Approval of Minutes		July 23, 2021	
Motion by:	Regina Archie	Support from:	Casey Gordon
Discussion	May minutes still need to be approved		
Amendments	None. Motion passes.		
Nest Steps			
Discussion			
<p>Over the past few months, this group had goals of revitalizing the Youth Action Board and discussing youth functional zero. Progress has been made on those goals so the group is at a point to develop new goals. Kendra asked attendees to share areas that this group could focus on to grow initiatives in Kent County.</p> <p>Regina suggested a committee space that is more targeted towards case conferencing as well as relaunching a youth count. Kendra noted that the group had discussed building relationships with property management companies and landlords. Patrick agreed with this focus. Li shared that it would be important to have those working directly with landlords involved in this work. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission team would be willing to contribute as well. Lewis suggested targeting a section of landlords who are looking for consistent funds with this outreach. Casey suggested the group discuss leveraging private or alternative funding that could be used to fill the gap between the voucher rate (Fair Market Rent) and the private rental rate. Kendra recently heard that assuring landlords that households with vouchers are consistently receiving case management or a connection to resources has a large part of Family Promise's outreach. Li suggested a group brainstorm services available to youth and sharing this with the full committee. Regina suggested including a tenant rights document with resources available to youth renters.</p> <p>Leadership will continue this conversation to narrow down and flush out action areas.</p>			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
Youth Functional Zero Initiative Update			



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Discussion		
<p>Kendra shares a brief update at last month’s meeting. Since then, AYA and Community Rebuilders have signed an MOU to take the lead on some system-level work but know that will need support from all youth providers to reach the goal of reaching functional zero (centered around USICH benchmarks). Anna noted that goal is to build from the work to reach functional zero for veterans by bringing in systems-level work and pairing it with support services and a coordinated approach. The same concept has been developed for families and enhanced by launching the FFO initiative. Now, there is a system in place for the flow and how to respond to the needs of families in the community as they are entering the system. This includes ensuring a dynamic by-name list (BNL) and dynamic prioritization.</p> <p>The first step towards functional zero for youth is to build an accurate BNL of all youth experiencing homelessness. The most important step is identifying all resources that could be available to youth, finding gaps and additional resources to fill these gaps. Anna noted that the family group developed workgroups that funnel into the larger committee - temporary housing, affordable housing, housing stability and support, supported solutions. A youth functional zero group has been meeting and may be discussing breaking this group into workgroups. They anticipate researching and planning for the next few months and bringing a recommendation to this group in October.</p> <p>Kendra noted that the relationship piece is key with youth. This systems level work will include feedback from other agencies and YAB. She recognized that this will not be an easy lift but will be worthwhile. If anyone is interested in being part of project coordination workgroup to develop next steps, or has questions, connect with Kendra (kavila@ayayouth.org)</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Youth Action Board Update		
Discussion		
<p>Kendra shared that the YAB has been meeting weekly in August and is moving to every other week in September. They are working to build relationships together and are still looking to recruit more youth. Currently, the group has a diverse set of experiences. If you know of youth who may be a good fit, please connect them with Kendra (kavila@ayayouth.org). YAB is meeting mostly online, but children would be welcome at an in-person meeting as would be at a park. Youth receive a stipend for each meeting. They will a small budget that can use as they choose. Members will be having a retreat in September to learn an overview of the CoC structure, from there, youth will begin to take leadership.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Youth Functional Zero List Update		
Discussion		
<p>Samantha shared that there are currently 74 youth who experiencing category 1 homelessness (families and singles). 57 are unsheltered and 17 are sheltered. She has started to develop visuals for the data showing inflow and outflow month over month which will be sent out with the minutes. She</p>		



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noted that spikes in outflow may be due to peaks in resources when HAP staff go through list refer youth to a resource or are unable to contact youth so they are removed. HAP would like to have data on the number of actively homeless youth and the average length of stay.			
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Community Partner Updates			
Discussion			
CERA program is available for those in need of assistance			
The CoC Program Competition NOFO was released recently. More information coming soon from CoC staff.			
Adjournment			
Motion by:	LoRae Robinson	Support from:	Patrick Buhay