



Continuum of Care (CoC) Member Meeting

March 4, 2016

9:30-11:00 am

Kroc Center

MINUTES

Present: Rebecca Rynbrandt, Chairperson* (City of Wyoming), Hattie Tinney, Secretary* (GR Housing Commission), Shannon Bass* (Community Member), Laurie Craft* (Grand Rapids Community Foundation), Kwan McEwen* (GR Urban League), Beverly Ryskamp* (network180), Dennis Sturtevant* (Dwelling Place), Matthew Van Zetten* (Kent County), John Wynbeek* (Genesis NPHC), Lauren Van Keulen (3:11 Youth Housing), Sherrie Gillespie (ACSET CAA), Christina Swiney (Access of West MI), Matthew Robinson (Access of West MI), Karen Leppek (Area Agency on Aging), Erin Sweeney (BCS Center for Community Transformation), John Peterson (CSH), Johanna Schulte (City of Grand Rapids), Vicki Squires (Community Rebuilders), Anna Diaz (Community Rebuilders), Lynn Locke (Disability Advocates), Alonda Trammell (Dwelling Place), Tracie Coffman (ENTF), Cecilia Kellogg (Fair Housing Center of West MI), Liz Keegan (Fair Housing Center of West MI), Madelaine Clapp (Fair Housing Center of West MI), Lisa Cruden (Family Promise), Jaclyn Smith (GR Housing Commission), Caroline Gillilan (GR Housing Commission), Felicia Clay (GR Housing Commission), Laura Mosley (GR Housing Commission), Wanda Couch (GR Housing Commission), Shandra Steininger (HQ), Christina Pavlak (Health Net of West Michigan), Alison Schuyler (Heartside Ministry), Chris Romero (Home Repair Services), Joel Ruitter (Home Repair Services), Jan van der Woerd (ICCF), Amy DeMott (Indian Trails Camp), Nina Bowser (Kent County Health Dept), Emily Stroka (Kent County Housing Commission), Santiago Estrada (Kent County Veteran Services), Chérie Elahl (North Kent Community Services), Dave Gantz (Pine Rest), Tara Aday (Safe Haven), Betty Zylstra (The Salvation Army), Christina Soulard (The Salvation Army), Jenna DeBoer (The Salvation Army), Eric Truman (The Salvation Army- AmeriCorps), Linda Scott (Senior Neighbors), Emily Schichtel (United Way), David O'Neill (Volunteers of America), Jean Olds (Well House), Rebecca Diffin (YWCA), Jesica Vail (Coalition Staff) Sarah Abel (Rockford Construction), Eric O'Leary (LC Consultants), Bob Jacobson (LC Consultants) (*denotes Steering Council member)

1. Call to Order and Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Rebecca Rynbrandt at 9:30 am.

2. MOTION to approve to minutes from December 17, 2015 by Matthew Van Zetten, seconded by John Wynbeek, all voted in favor, motion carries.

3. Revisit of Strategic Plan, Targets, and Goals (Jesica Vail, Coalition Staff)

- a. Brief presentation of the four main goals within the community's Strategic Plan: End Veteran Homelessness in 2016, End Chronic Homelessness in 2017, End Family and Youth Homelessness by 2020, and set the path to end all homelessness.

3. Veteran Homelessness Presentation (Anna Diaz, Community Rebuilders)

a. A copy of the presentation is available in the Dropbox for the Coalition (accessible through a link at endhomelessnesskent.org). In 2014 the community accepted the Mayor's Challenge, to end Veteran homelessness by 2015. Although that goal was not met, a new goal was set for the end of 2016. Community Rebuilders is the community's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grantee and as such is required to lead many aspects of the work for the community. One of the first steps has been to develop a By-Name List of Veterans experiencing homelessness. This work has been done in partnership with Coalition staff and the Veterans' Affairs office. The list began with 292 Veterans, but will be updated soon with the number that have been housed. This work will take the full community's support to achieve. Agencies are asked to look at what resources they are able to dedicate to serving Veterans and share them with Community Rebuilders. Forms are available by contacting Anna Diaz (adiaz@communityrebuilders.org)

4. Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Proposal Presentation

a. LC Consultants (Bob Jacobson)

i. LC Consultants has been working on developments since the mid-1990s. This proposed development is located at 1515 Madison and will have 48 apartments. 25% of which would be for special needs as defined by MSHDA, eight (8) for aging out of foster care, four (4) for chronically homeless. They are interested in partnering on this project with Bethany Christian Services, The Salvation Army, and Community Rebuilders although these partnerships have not been confirmed yet.

b. ICCF (Jan van der Woerd)

i. Development is at 501 Eastern, has been applied for three times before. Since the past applications, many changes have been made to the project, including increasing the number of units available for special needs. It has increased from a previous one building, 24 units (6 special needs) to two buildings, 66 units (17 special needs). They will have live/work spaces with store fronts on the ground floor. The special needs units will be dedicated to homeless youth with a preference for those aging out of foster care. Bethany Christian Services has been named as the lead agency for services, but there will also be a partnership with Dwelling Place and with Salvation Army Housing Assessment Program (the HARA) for referrals. At minimum, the building will be LEED Silver.

c. Genesis Nonprofit Housing Corporation (John Wynbeek)

i. Genesis is applying for the 811 Program Project Rental Assistance (PRA) for the Saint James campus, 750 First Street NW. this is an adaptive reuse plan for the former school building that will create 13 supportive housing units and 39 affordable/work force apartments. 811 PRA vouchers are designed to serve extremely low income, 30% or below area median income (AMI) persons aged 18-62 with a disability. Prospective tenants must be eligible for a Medicaid home and community-based service program, and can be referred by MI Choice Waiver, Nursing Facility Transition Program, Network 180, MI Health Link HCBS Waiver, Adult Home Help Program providers or Salvation Army.

5. network180, Community Mental Health Presentation (Beverly Ryskamp)

Within the Mental Health system, there are Payers and there are Providers. In Michigan we have also had a special carve out system for those with severe and persistent mental health issues. This is because they are typically a population that insurers do not want to serve. For this group, we need specialty behavioral health payers (Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans-- PIHP) and providers (Community Mental Health organizations-- CMH). For many years, network180 served as both to our community. Years ago the state restructured to have fewer PIHPs, which took away network180's role as PIHP and moved it to the newly formed Lakeshore Regional Partners (LRP). After this change, n180 did not change its service delivery model. In the Governor's recent budget proposal he put in boilerplate language that would privatize the PIHPs. Many people in behavioral health fields are fearful that this will be risky for the most vulnerable populations. Some states have made this transition and it has gone well, others have done it and it went very badly. The concern in privatization is that profit for the private company will trump quality care. When network180 was a PIHP, they were able to reinvest any saving back into the community and see even better results, as local control moves further away, savings will be less likely to be reinvested in the community. Resources about this will be made available to the Coalition via the Dropbox. The Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards has talking points available if people wish to contact their representatives. People can also sign up on the MI Legislative website to get updates on proposals like this.

Other mental health news is the "Excellence in Mental Health Act" by Senator Stabenow, that would expand the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstration program and to which network180 will apply.

6. CSH Update (John Peterson)

The Financial Modeling Report CSH has been contracted to create is in the final phases. The powerpoint presented here will be available online for the CoC in the Dropbox. Members are encouraged to contact John with input they would like to have considered in the report. It has been created in the assumptions that the primary goals are to end Veteran and Chronic Homelessness in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Many more Permanent Supportive Housing units are necessary to reach these goals and the timeliest and most cost effective way to build this housing stock is to use PSH that already exists in the community but is not targeted for addressing homelessness. Once this report is completed, it will be useful in guiding the actions of the strategic plan.

7. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.