

McHenry County Continuum of Care to End Homelessness

Steering Council Meeting Minutes– January 4, 2024 at 2:00 PM



Virtual attendance link: <https://meet.goto.com/525139381>

Phone: 1-872-240-3212

Access code: 525-139-381

Next meeting date: Thursday, February 1st

ATTENDANCE: Lillie Prince, Brandon Kyker, Laura Franz, Andrew Turner, Joe Davis, Gina Zinck, Kya Hays, Donna Rasmussen, Megan Bennett, Anneliese Thurston, Kathrine Violett, Hans Mach, Carrie Freund, Kristin Miller, Liz Heneks

Meeting called to order at 2:08 pm by Lillie Prince.

1.0 Roll Call and Introductions

Roll call completed by Brandon Kyker.

2.0 Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

2.1 November 2, 2023 – Steering Council Committee meeting minutes

2.2 December 7, 2023 – Steering Council Committee meeting minutes

Motion made by Brandon Kyker to approve minutes with date correction, seconded by Kathrine Violett, all in favor and motion carried.

3.0 Public Comment Period

Gina Zinck stated that in CE meeting it was brought to her attention that there are many problems happening at Prairie View with the new management company and she wondered if others are experiencing this as well. Lillie Prince added that she has heard/seen concerns with the veteran population residing there. Liz Heneks wondered if we should reach out to Rick Wheat in follow up to the meeting we had with him recently. Gina brought up the 5-day notice issues as being pervasive and troubling, and said she would send an email to the veteran group seeking specific examples to try to resolve issues/work together more effectively.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 Systems Updates

Joe Davis stated the first HMIS committee meeting is scheduled. Data accuracy/quality will be the initial focus as well as creating an HMIS vendor wish-list for Well-Sky; we will identify another vendor if they are not able to meet our needs moving forward.

Gina stated CE is going well, very busy. There are open units, the system is moving well. Thank you to Gina for how she manages this role!

4.2 Strategic Plan Goals – Survey Results

Brandon thanked everyone for doing the survey and the ranking remained similar. 1) Landlord engagement, 2) No Barriers shelter, 3) researching options for increasing housing, 4) increasing street outreach efforts. Review of comments. Laura Franz commented that adding specific goals related to increasing housing stock would be good for our CoC. Kathrine Violett summarized the work with Joe to create specific goals. Measurable goals will help us move forward. Brandon expressed concern over how long it is taking to complete the Strategic Plan and his hope that it gets completed relatively soon. Kathrine offered to work with a subgroup to develop unit-specific goals before the next board meeting.

Gina stated that the idea of allowing pets in shelter came up, and she learned that VPH allows pets at New Horizons transitional housing. Devin Gattton (program manager) is willing to talk about how this is managed. Lillie Prince stated it was a system improvement to have this in place. Laura added that the program has learned over time how to manage this more effectively since this has been in place for 5-6 years. Brandon asked if another agency manages the pets, and Laura clarified that veterans are allowed to move their pets in with him. Laura clarified that sometimes pet boarding is needed in other situations. Gina will schedule a meeting to discuss with Devin/Laura.

4.3 Point in Time Count

Brandon reviewed the plans for the PIT count run by Sam Tenuto again this year. Great turnout by agencies; PIT will happen January 18th with an 11:30 pm kick-off meeting and the count rolls over to the 19th to include the Community Resource Day. More assistance is needed to help Gina with the count at Community Resource Day. Backup day the following week. Hans added that Brandon needs to request a waiver since the PIT is not happening the last 10 days of the month; Brandon has this completed already. Gina thanked Andrew for putting together the Heat map for the encampments.

5.0 New Business

No new business.

6.0 Review and Approval of the January 18, 2024 Full Board meeting agenda

Brandon had sent the agenda before the meeting. Kathrine asked for strategic plan goals to be added under Old Business. Kathrine made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes suggested, seconded by Gina, approved by all and motion carried.

7.0 Open Forum and Member Announcements

Brandon said the first year of the county being a UFA is over and all funding was expended!

Laura shared that there is re-organization at Patriot Services Group with Paul Anderson being hired as the Executive Director. Laura commented that Paul is familiar with the system from previous experiences working as a case manager and then with the board for PSG. VPH is setting up a meeting with Paul to discuss concerns/issues as preparation for this role starting January 20, 2024. Laura stated that others can be invited to the meeting as well.

Andrew added that if anyone has ideas for organizations or communities that can use supplies (mostly clothing), Warp Corps would like to partner. Kathrine asked about Illinois Migrant Council, which is in McHenry County but is listed as temporarily closed. May have moved to Crystal Lake, but this isn't clear.

8.0 Adjournment

Motion made by Kathrine to adjourn , seconded by Megan and meeting was adjourned by Lillie Prince at approximately 3:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Franz, 1.18.2024.