

Sept. 8, 2022 - CoC Steering Council minutes

Attendees:

Kathrine Violetta – Present
Elizabeth Heneks – Present
Laura Franz – Present
Bill Meath – Present
Kim Ulbrich – Present
Debbie DeGraw – Absent

Brandon Kyker – Present
Hans Mach – Present
Joseph Davis – Present
Gina Zinck – Present
Carrie Freund – Present
Sue Rose – Present

Mike Neumann – Present
Anneliese Thurston – Absent
Terry Braune – Present
Kristin Miller – Present

1.0 Welcome and Intros

Kathrine Violetta called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2.0 Review and Approval 7-7-22 steering council minutes

Sue Rose requested “short guy” be changed to “short guide” in 4.1. Sue Rose motioned to approve minutes with changes. Bill Meath seconded. The motion carried.

3.0 Public Comment

None.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 HMIS/Coordinated Entry/BFZ Updates

Gina Zinck said coordinated entry is about the same. She said some “moving up” vouchers became available to get some people in Section 8 housing, freeing up some permanent supportive housing beds. Still working on bolstering the Built for Zero team due to some attrition. The workgroup met to discuss the VI-SPDAT, and some speculation that it may not be the best tool. The thought is to make a change that could help make the tool more racially equitable. Joe Davis said there wasn’t much new to report for HMIS, however, he said some virtual training is available on the HMIS homepage.

4.2 Gaps and System Updates

Kathrine Violetta said she was in McHenry today and noticed a major affordable housing unit building was for sale. Sue Rose said the Main Street building she was referring to has been for sale for years. She said she doesn’t see the benefit of the purchase since it’s helping serve this population anyway. She also said McHenry police aren’t always homeless friendly. Bill Meath said he thinks we should investigate further, however, Kathrine Violetta indicated that the CoC isn’t in a position to be able to take on any property. Hans Mach said the building would need to be brought up to code and you would have to home the individuals while you were rehabbing. Liz Henek said there’s some current issues with shelter and an increase in homeless combined with staffing issues. Having affordable housing and putting plans in plans on addressing this as a county is important. Affordable wait list has people on the list since 2019. Kim Ulbrich said we have two major crises coming – there are vouchers but no housing units available, and also utility costs are far higher than the money available. Carrie Freund said more children are being served at the shelter than ever before at Pioneer Center. Gina Zinck said additional hotel money is needed and that she also is nervous about what’s coming.

Kathrine Violetta asked when the next housing and services committee would take place, and Kim Ulbrich indicated Oct. 26 is the tentative date. She said the conversation needs to take place. She asked Hans Mach how to bring the issue to the County Board. Hans Mach said the Public Health and Community Services meeting makes more sense. He said more units in the county is needed. Gina Zinck said hotels partners are important to provide short-term help. Hans Mach also noted that County Board elections are coming up, and it's important to support candidates who are strong proponents of affordable housing.

Kathrine Violetta said this should be an ongoing conversation at all meetings going forward.

4.3 Special NOFO – Recommendation not to pursue

Kathrine Violetta said a small group of members looked into the special NOFO and recommended that the CoC does not pursue the funding due to the unlikelihood of approval.

4.4 CoC Competition

Branden Kyker said info needs to be submitted to the CoC as soon as possible.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Annual Meeting - September

Kathrine Violetta provided a potential new slate of people who would be on the executive committee and chair committees for the positions that will need to be filled. Votes will take place at the next meeting, and updated member forms will need to be completed.

5.2 Landlord recognition - awards

Kathrine Violetta said she and Kim Ulbrich spoke about recognizing landlords who have worked with the CoC. She said it may make sense to do so during the month of October. Hans Mach, Liz Henek and others said might be meaningful to the landlords who have helped.

5.3 VI-SPDAT Assessment Questions

Gina Zinck shared potential changes to the VI-SPDAT due to people of color seemingly being marginalized. Two questions were discussed as being added to the form, which will be sent to the full board for approval.

Gina made a motion to have change the questions to “Have you ever felt you have been denied housing or employment” rather than “Have you ever been denied housing or employment.” Bill Meath seconded. The motion carried

6.0 Review and Approval of Sept. 15, 2022 full CoC board meeting agenda

Changes discussed during the meeting were made. Brandon Kyker motioned to approve the amended agenda. Sue Rose seconded. The motion carried.

7.0 Member Announcements

Gina Zinck said she has been looking at leases in the community and Cunat is doing short three-month upfront leases that must be prepaid.

Brandon Kyker said a logo has been created for the upcoming Neighbors in Need program.

8.0 Adjourn

Gina Zinck motioned to adjourn. Laura Franz seconded. The meeting adjourned 3:24 p.m.