



McHenry County Continuum of Care to End Homelessness MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DESCRIPTION: CoC Board Meeting

DATE/TIME/LOCATION: February 1, 2024, 2:00pm; via video conference

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - K Violett, CoC Secretary, called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL AND GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**

Members	Present?
Lillie Prince	
Laura Franz	X
Donna Rasmussen	X
Kathrine Violett	X
Brandon Kyker	X
Andrew Turner	X
Kya Hays	
Gina Zinck	X
Joe Davis	X
Elizabeth Heneks	X
Bill Meath	X
Aaron Neal	

Non-Members Present: Anneliese Thurston and Carrie Freund

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - None

4. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

5.1 Approval of January 4, 2024 Steering Council Committee Meeting Minutes

B Meath motioned to approve the minutes as presented and L Franz seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

5.1 **System Updates – HMIS** - J Davis shared they are working through a few kinks brought to the forefront based on the data update that was presented to the full Board in January. Coordinated entry and APR issues are being worked on by Wellsky to make sure the data is correct. HMIS committee will take place 2/6. J Davis will send out the invite. **Cold Weather Program** – G Zinck – served 50 people for around 10 days. It was difficult to try to accommodate so many people – we haven’t seen this many at one time. It was a lot of hard work but we didn’t lose anyone to the cold weather. There were grant funds for this program, the money has now all been spent. Discussion on what to do to see if additional dollars can be secured for this program. B Meath asked about the term of stay for the guests. G Zinck stated that some of the



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50 people were doubled-up. This cold spell lasted 10 days. L Franz asked if there are any options if we can't find additional funding. B Meath talked about how the churches were so helpful in providing funds for this program and we should reach out to them. K Violett also stated that reaching out to United Way and the Community Foundation of McHenry County might also be appropriate as they have direct donors who might like to help fund this project. Major focus is getting additional funding should the rest of the 2024 winter season turn from mild to cold weather conditions. Discussion around funding took place. This big winter cold event drained the designated funds to support the program. **Coordinated Entry** – Veteran systems are very busy and rapid rehousing dollars are going quick. Thresholds, HOS and Pioneer are working together to help people find housing. B Meath also said to contact Kelli Wegener from the McHenry County Board and said we should reach out to her. A Turner will put the **Cold Weather Program** funding issue on the Housing and Services Committee agenda for the next meeting. G Zinck is also rolling out a new **Urgent Resources Support (URS)** program on Tuesday, newly homeless especially newly homeless at night urgent program. Gina will present the program at the next full Board meeting. A Turner announced special meeting with Hugh Brady from the Suburban Supportive Housing Taskforce who have been successful in creating PSH opportunities in their communities. A special invite to this committee meeting highlighting Hugh's group and the work they have done will be sent to the full CoC Board.

5.2 Point in Time – G Zinck reported that the call went well and everyone showed up. This was while the cold weather program was in full effect. We counted people who were in other programs that we could count. AID rocked the surveys along with others from our group. Everything has been submitted and turned in. Our data will be strong and more accurate. B Kyker also received Turning Point's data to add. He is curious about our numbers this year. A Turner said he had one observation form from Woodstock.

5.3 Strategic Plan to End Homelessness 2004-2026 - K Violett stated J Davis is working with the designers on the first FINAL draft. The designers are a bit behind and J Davis expects to see the draft soon. We will include the completed FINAL draft to the Board in the packet for February. We would like to get a final vote on this ASAP. B Meath questioned about whether we are voting on this. The strategic plan has been sent to the full Board earlier so they have the opportunity to read it in its entirety. It could be sent separately ahead of the full packet since we want to vote on it.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Emergency Solutions Grant – Rubric Update – B Kyker stated that the finance committee met and agreed to remove the subjective portion of the rubric just like it was done for the full competition round. The subjective questions of the rubric is being removed, but questions about policies and procedures will still exist.

6.2 SSVF Letter of Support for Veterans Path to Hope – K Violett talked about the support letter as has been done in the past. She would like to have this brought the full Board meeting. L Franz said the SSVF is a federal grant and they like the CoC involvement. Currently Veterans Path to Hope is in 4 CoCs, but the McHenry CoC makes the most sense to provide a letter of support. The letter of support will be included in the February Board meeting for review/vote.

7. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 15, 2024 FULL BOARD MEETING AGENDA

7.1 Agenda review with SSVF support letter request for Veterans Path to Hope, Cold Weather Program and URS presentation added to the agenda.



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B Meath motioned to approve the February full board Agenda as amended and L Franz seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

8. OPEN FORUM AND MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 8.1 HERA Program** – D Rasmussen has an approved grant program that provides support for people to get help completing the applications for the asylum seekers. Looking to coordinate with other providers and Coordinated Entry. She wants to make sure this was approved by the CoC before heading down that path. Discussion about what can be allowed in the rental assistance program and even learned that DHS said it could be broadened to include mortgage assistance. This state grant looks for the recommendation from the CoC even though this is NOT CoC money. They are looking for additional items they can spend the money on broader issue. This will be added as part of the agenda under New Business item. K Violett asked Donna to put parameters around what will additionally be allowed. L Heneks said her programs at HOS have almost spent all of their rapid rehousing money so their resources are getting dried up as well. K Violett stated that we should know when agencies are getting lower on the money they have funding for way in advance of their year-end that we share that at CoC meetings so everyone is aware and we work together to know the resources available. D Rasmussen stated the Covid mortgage assistance program is closed. L Heneks stated that using best judgement on these types of assistance will also help to keep people in their homes.
- 8.2** Jamie from United Way forwarded a funding opportunity with Citibank. She is hoping to get a group of providers together to work with them on a county-wide grant. This could be helpful in the Cold Weather Program funds are gone or even other projects that qualify.
- 8.3** L Frantz asked how we supported the **Cold Weather Program** funds in the past. B Meath said he would work with Kelli Wegener from the County Board and he will also work on the churches. L Franz will reach out to the Community Foundation and United Way about trying to secure additional funds for this program. Checks made out to Pioneer Center – Hotel Cold Weather Program.

9. ADJOURNMENT

D Rasmussen motioned to adjourn at 9:53 a.m., seconded by L Heneks. All in favor, motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by K Violett.

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION: March 7, 2024 @ 9:00 am Videoconference