



McHenry County Continuum of Care to End Homelessness MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DESCRIPTION: CoC Board Meeting

DATE/TIME/LOCATION: February 15, 2024, 9:00 am; via video conference

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - L Franz called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

2. **ROLL CALL AND GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**

ATTENDANCE:

Please see last page (Page 6)

Non-Voting Members Present: Please see last page. (Page 6)

Non-Members Present: Please see last page. (Page 6)

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - None

4. **PRESENTATION – Urgent Resource Support Program (URS) – Gina Zinck, Pioneer Center**

G Zinck presented some slides to the group on this new pilot program to address a gap in the homeless response system during the overnight hours. This shelter diversion program is designed to meet the needs of Newly homeless households between 10:00p.m and 7:00a.m., 7 days a week using the 576.2 definition. Identification is required for anyone who would like to use the program. Program can only be utilized 1 time only. Easy access to the program by calling 815-344-1230 (press 1), Ask for a URS specialist. Households can receive immediate assistance. There will be a check against names given on these calls to see if individuals/families are already in the system. Frontline responders (EMS, Hospitals, Warpcorp, etc.) V Peschke asked about ID types. G Zinck stated they can take a police report and/or IDs with photo – just looking to identify individuals. She encourages providers to reach out directly to her if they have any questions, situations for existing clientele (not newly homeless). S Tenuto – the program is a great no-barrier program. R Ring inquired about what additional support is provided after the initial assistance. G Zinck stated she will conduct a full intake process with the diversion program participants to see if there are immediate referrals that can be provided and searching for additional solutions. G Zinck is happy to share her presentation with the full CoC Board or call her directly. L Franz asked if there was a social media post on this new program so it can be shared. G Zinck said not on social media but it will be put on the CoC website page. She will get back to the group on best ways to share information, provide outreach and what agencies can do to share the information as well.

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

5.1 Approval of January 18, 2024 – Full Board Meeting Minutes

5.2 Approval of January 4, 2024 – Steering Council Committee Meeting Minutes

B Meath motioned to approve the minutes in a consent agenda items as presented and S Martinez seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**



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6.1 Strategic Plan to End Homelessness 2023-2026 – J Davis

6.1.1 J Davis shared that this is the final draft of the Strategic Plan. The CoC Board has been reviewing versions and approved the goals in previous Board meetings as well as small committee work. F Samuel asked if there was a workgroup that reviews objectives. J Davis said there were several breakout groups, surveys and Board input that also includes discussion at Board meetings. F Samuel stated that he is concerned about his group homes (31 beds) and is not sure if the Strategic Plan is supporting this type of program. J Davis stated the goal of the Plan is to provide focus for the full CoC and to include growth and goals. F Samuel stated that the Strategic Plan should benefit from the Plan. He believed the purpose was to identify the gaps and included in the Plan as well. He questioned about whether his staff had seen the plan. L Franz stated that is has been sent out to the full Board several times and the survey went out twice. This process has taken the longest to complete because we asked for input. She stated the Plan is designed to keep what we have but to also build toward what is additionally needed and what HUD wants us to do. She stated that Pioneer Center is included and we also need new types of beds as represented and she thanked F Samuel for his comments.

Roll Call Vote: Please see last page (Page 6)

6.2 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) J Davis

6.2.1 J Davis stated the ESG Rubric they are looking to take out the Ranking Workgroup Review portion (as presented in the Board packet). The group is looking to keep the review process as objective as possible. This section is more subjective so they would like to remove it. This will keep the decisions from the Rubric to match up like how we are using it for other projects. F Samuel believes there is a workgroup reviewing the Rubric. He would like to recommend taking a step back and look at the tool as a whole. B Meath stated that the Rubric has included presentations in the past and now there is no presentation component. He provided an example as to how this section has been used in the past. The review of this component never really affected the overall scoring – the committee decided that it wasn't necessary and the group would rely on the data. The Finance Committee voted to pass this on to the Board. The Finance Committee is an open meeting. F Samuel wanted to know if anything else was added to or deleted from this form. B Meath stated the recommendations from the County, Steering Council and what HUD needed. F Samuel stated that he had some additional thoughts on the tool. B Meath stated representation on the Finance Committee is the best way that agencies can participate. L Franz said the process is the same year after year. It gets improved every year and those that participate in the committee are able to help contribute to the C Freund wanted to know if agencies can see the scores before funding decisions were made. B Meath that the timing of this process is so short to meet the deadlines. C Freund wanted to see how other agencies feel about the scoring and making sure calculations are correct or other errors. B Meath and D Rasmussen shared that this would need to be discussed with the Finance Committee to see if this is a workable request. He encouraged working



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with the County to determine the best way to provide initial scores to agencies, so there is an understanding how they have been scored and/or to figure out if errors were made. S Marcellis asked about how the awarding process and if the percentages are different how does that shake out. H Mach stated there wasn't an error made in the Rubric from last year as there was still too low of a score. He wanted to be clear that we are only reviewing the ESG Rubric during the meeting. The ESG requirements, since 2010, for ESG requires that 40% of the funds need to be directed to rapid rehousing. We have to work from estimates from HUD. This funding also has a minimum of \$25,000 for a program to qualify. K Miller stated as a funded agency she believes that the committee works hard and it is nice that agencies are provided with the rubric ahead of time which helps with the application process. It helps to use the Rubric when preparing applications. Much of what is now on the Rubric comes directly out of HMIS.

Roll Call Vote: Please see last page (Page 6)

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Committee Chairs Updates

- 7.1.1 *Community Awareness Committee* – G Zinck – stated the group met and discussed Landlord engagement program and initial plans for World Homeless Day were the topics discussed..
- 7.1.2 *Coordinated Entry* – G Zinck stated Coordinated Entry system has been moving fine. There is room in most of the shelters and models – Hebron Veteran Grant Per Diem is full. Looking at fewer intakes compared to last year same time. PSH opening to fill through Thresholds.
- 7.1.3 *Finance Committee* – D Rassmussen stated committee report was captured under Action Item 6.2. Nothing additional to report at this time.
- 7.1.4 *HMIS Committee* – J Davis said the committee had 2nd meeting. They reviewed the 2023 data calendar and LSA data (goes to Congress for annual Homelessness report). He sent out the data to the full Board for review. Plans to send a survey to HMIS users to get feedback on current system and will take that information to the vendor. If current vendor cannot provide, they may look at recommending a different vendor. CoC Board would approve change of vendors. H Mach stated that as part of the review of the data some agencies for the National reports as part of the UFA, some of the annual assessments for clients were not completed. This may affect agency scores and data should be put in HMIS in a timely fashion. J Davis has been in touch with agencies whose annual assessments may have not been completed.
- 7.1.5 *Housing & Services Committee* – G Zinck – stated they had a great speaker from NAMI Hugh Brady. Their group started a nonprofit to create PSH housing. He gave a lot of great information and also stated their group is willing to assist McHenry County. One of the things that was hard to hear is that the process can take up to 10 years and yet some projects can take less. L Franz inquired if the meeting was recorded as she has heard great things about their group. B Kyker may have recorded the meeting. N Lunsford stated that they have a meal



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program and would like for agencies, tent communities, hotels or other places to deliver meals. Please remember to reach out to them if you have clients in need.

7.2 Point in Time (PIN) Count – S Tenuto stated that the next meeting (March) of the CoC the data will be presented. He thanked everyone who participated and worked during the snowy, cold evening to make this process a priority during the middle of the night. The data is so important. L Franz stated how the CoC has benefited from Sam's long leadership on this effort. She is looking forward to seeing the data.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 SSVF Letter of Support – Veteran Path to Hope - L Franz stated this is the organizations RRH program and it also pays for Veterans to get into housing. The program can provide up to 2 years of housing assistance (security deposit, first/last month's rent, case management support, and a shallow subsidy program – ½ of the rent for working Veterans so they can save money for when the program ends). Letter of support to provide ongoing funding has been used in past years. Letter is for ongoing support of the grant/program.

B Meath motioned to accept the letter as presented. K Ulbrich. All in favor, motion passed.

8.2 Cold Weather Program Update – G Zinck - served around 50 people in the program Overall it was successful because barriers were lowered and they served as many people as possible. The funding has been spent because the last cold spell was 10 days. There were some issues with substance abuse and damages from a burned hotel room. No one was seriously hurt in this incident. It has been a blessing that February has been so warm. We will serve to the level that we can with the money that we have. L Franz believes this program saved lives and others are trying to find funding to keep the program going.

8.3 State IDHS Grant Support – Consumer Credit Counseling Services – D Rasmussen has the program rolling – checks have been issued to landlords for tenants and/or utility bill that needed to get paid. She has one full time staff person for this program. They are hopeful that there will be enough money since there is a wait list. They can help probably another 12 people.

9. OPEN FORUM AND MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

9.1 K Ulbrich stated that the Housing Authority Section 8 waiting list. They have been powering through the list – make sure they are checking their status. Notices are mailed to clients and if they don't hear from them, the name is deleted. They are seeing a tremendous need for 1 bedrooms. 1 bedrooms are the greatest need. D Rasmussen is there a way clients can check their place – K Ulbrich

9.2 B Gattone they have a physical presence in the Woodstock ER for their Way Out program. This is a pilot program 1 day a week. They are trying to create more intervention points within the system.

9.3 L Franz said Veterans and/or Veteran family members should be referred to Veterans Path to Hope as they have counselors in place to help.

9.4 V Peschke inquired about the immigrants coming to our area. B Gattone stated that WarpCorp has been working on trying to assist families and are the primary organization working with this new population. G Zinck said the WarpCorp did a media blast which was supported very well by the community. Pioneers prevention department is doing case management and other services in a few different communities.

10. ADJOURNMENT



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S Martinez motioned to adjourn at 10:36 a.m., seconded by B Gattone. All in favor, motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by K Violet.

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION: March 21, 2024 @ 9:00 am Videoconference

Agency	Designated Voting Member	Present?	6.1	6.2	Alternate Voting Member	Present?	6.1	6.2
22nd Judicial Circuit	Josie Shattuck				Jennifer Chavez	P	Y	Y
4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care	Jessica Iandola				Kim Lamz			
Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital	Suzanne Martinez	P	Y	Y				
Association for Individual Development	Alejandra Gutierrez				Gabrielle Kitchell	P	Y	Y
Catholic Charities	Amber Emmert	P	Y	Y	Cathy Weightman-Moore			
Consumer Credit Counseling Services	Donna Rasmussen	P	Y	Y	Maria Vazquez			
Family Health Partnership Clinic	Suzanne Hoban				Erin Kemp			
Head Start	Alma Wright				Mayra Leanos			
Home of the Sparrow	Elizabeth Heneks	P		Y	Kristin Miller	P	Y	
Housing Action Illinois	Foluke Akanni	P	Y	Y	Bob Palmer			
Independence Health and Therapy	John Buckley				Shannon Guzick			
Lovell Federal Health Care Center	Kya Hays	P	Y	Y	Lillie Prince			
McHenry County College	Sam Clifford	P						
McHenry County Community Development	Brandon Kyker				Hans Mach	P		
McHenry County Department of Health	Leslie Schott				Sarah Oliveira			
McHenry County Housing Authority	Kim Ulbrich	P	Y	Y	Pepper LaFontaine			
McHenry County Regional Office of Education	James Menzer				Matt Tabar			
McHenry Savings Bank	Kathrine Violett							
McHenry Township	Deborah Macrito				Gary Barla			
Mental Health Board	Leonetta Rizzi	P	Y	Y	Karin Frisk			
New Directions	Bobby Gattone	P	Y	Y	Dan Woodward			
Northwestern Medicine	Anne King				Sarah Santoria			
Options and Advocacy for McHenry County	Elyse Sereyka				Charlee Morris			
Pioneer Center	Carrie Freund	P	Y	A	Gina Zinck	P		
Prairie State Legal Services	Ryan Sugas				Paul Zukowski			
Refuge for Women	Meredith Hodge	P	Y	Y	Sybil Baxa	P		
Restoration America	Anna Hill				Irene Tapia			
Salvation Army	Mercent Smith				Nancy Rivera			
Senior Care Volunteer Network	Sarah Schrempf				Erica Snooks			
Service Inc. of Illinois	Carrie Callery							
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Bill Meath	P	Y	Y				
Steven's Home	Nada Lunsford	P	Y	Y				
Supportive Housing Providers Association	Joseph Winford				David Esposito			
Thresholds	Kim McCoy				Aaron Neal	P	Y	Y
Turning Point	Nancy Erickson	P	Y	A				
United Way of Greater McHenry County	Jamie Maravich				Sofie Dzik			
Veterans Assistance Commission	Victor Somoza				Michael Iwanicki			
Veterans Path to Hope	Laura Franz	P	Y	Y	Angela Wood-Zuzevich			
Warp Corps	Andrew Turner				Jon Purden			
Willow Crystal Lake	Julie Davis				Tim Seyler			
Woodstock Food Pantry	Virginia Peschke	P			Jan Parker			
Workforce Network	Jeffery Poynter				Elijah Wedwick			
	Joe Davis	P	Y	Y				
	Sam Tenuto	P	A	A				
Members at Large:	Rich Ring	P	Y	Y				
Non-members attending:	Erica O'Neill							
	Lovell Federal Health Care Center							