

The Continuum of Care for the City and County of Racine, U.A.
General Membership Meeting Minutes
United Way of Racine County, 2000 Domanik Drive, Racine, WI
August 22, 2014

Present: Sara Adams (HALO), Natalie Belli(VA), Mark Boatwright (RVM), Sasha Broadstone (HALO), Kevin Cookman (HALO), Arminta Franklin (RKCAA), Jehan Ghuari (Bethany), Melissa Greco (VA), Pam Handrow (SAFE Haven), Sherry Hartog (WRC), Gai Lorenzen (LAW), Irma Love (HALO), Cheryl O'Brien (HOPES), Sharen Pease (CVI), Debbie Peterson (HOPES), Martice Scales (HOPES), Dee Schultz (City of Racine), Adam Smith (ICA), Erica Svojse (CoC VISTA), Ron Thomas (UWRC), Jennifer Toth (WRC), Iraida Vazquez (LAW), Melissa Wiese (VA), Carol Wester (HOPES)

Call to Order: Gai called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. She went over the agenda verbally

Minutes: Pam made a motion to approve the minutes from the June CoC meeting. Sherry offered a 2nd to the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Ron Thomas reported that the balance in the checking account is \$3,033.80, however, a check for PIT hats is still outstanding. Sherry made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Pam offered a 2nd to the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Ron Thomas distributed Membership Agreement forms and reminded members that dues are \$50 for organizations and \$10 for individuals. Dues are not required for participation, but are appreciated.

Website: Carol Wester suggested a draft of the minutes be posted on the website so they can be read prior to the meeting. A brief discussion was held and a consensus was reached that posting the draft minutes would be helpful.

Introductions: Introductions were made by all.

Next Meetings: September 19 and October 17, 2014

Agency and Project Updates:

- Kevin Cookman noted that HALO is currently rehabbing two houses on Durand Avenue that are designated as permanent supportive housing.
- Adam Smith announced upcoming HMIS training for data entry as well as training sessions available for agencies on a continuing basis.
- Gai Lorenzen led a discussion of the Point in Time (PIT) conducted in July. She expressed thanks to all who participated. Only four people were reported living on the streets, a decrease from last year. Gai will be contacting several organizations for their PIT data as they did not submit it by the deadline.

Sherry Hartog asked if we are adequately covering outlying areas. Although the City of Racine did a great job, the county is much more than Waterford and Burlington and we need to be sure we are capturing the total picture. It was noted that in the past a team was stationed at the Sheriff's sub-station but they did not locate anyone needing shelter and with the manpower available for the July PIT, no team was assigned there.

Gai Lorenzen commented that next time we need additional people to cover the west end of the county. The PIT committee needs to work on this and we need to identify committee leadership. Pam Handrow

noted that SAFE Haven has a VISTA starting on September 1 whose expertise is outreach and who would be a logical choice to chair or co-chair the committee.

Gai Lorenzen also noted that a *Homeless Connect* or similar event could be scheduled to coincide with the count. KevinCookma noted that Gateway is willing to host an event at the next PIT, which will be on January 28, 2015.

This year no arrangements were made to go to police roll calls. It was noted that we need to notify the police as several teams were stopped and questioned.

Gai Lorenzen also suggested that safety vests be used instead of hats to identify those on the PIT teams. This would be more noticeable as well as less expensive.

Gai noted that it is clear we need to have a PIT debriefing of July in order to plan and implement a pre-briefing for January.

Committee Reports

- HOUSING COMMITTEE: No report. Ron Thomas announced that the Racine Housing Coalition's next meeting is September 15 at 1 PM in the City Hall Annex and encouraged that CoC members attend.
- EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: Mark Boatwright said the committee hasn't met yet. Gai Lorenzen commented that Erica Svojse will not be doing what Demitri did as a VISTA. He primarily worked on administrative matters for the CoC and assisted her, Erica will focus on data and ways to increase participant's income.

Announcements

- A by-law change by the Balance of State is required in order for our CoC to merge with them. Since this can be a time-consuming process, it probably won't happen until May 2015 or later so we need to keep working on the requirements of the CoC regulations.
- Gai Lorenzen appealed for help on administrative matters, noting that Demitri took care of a lot of the data gathering from various organizations, but now that he is gone, Gai is doing it all and she is overwhelmed. Erica Svojse and Jehan Ghuari will help and Carol Wester noted HOPES has a new executive director starting on October 1, and when he is on board she will have more time available and will be able to help.
- Ron Thomas noted that we need to begin thinking about developing the next generation of leadership.
- The CoC Grant competition has started and agencies receiving CoC money should be on the lookout for emails. It may open by October.
- Balance of State will be speaking at the conference of Housing Authorities next month. Speakers will be Carrie Poser and Robyn Thibodeau. They will discuss the importance of CoCs and Housing Authorities working together.
- Clients needing eviction prevention help should be referred to Legal Action as that agency is the point of entry for prevention assistance. The CoC allocated limited funds to put most of its funds into Rapid Rehousing.

- The Consolidated Plan required by HUD is being developed at the State level and we need to be sure to share our needs. Our consumer input is extremely important. This interagency plan will have as its main priorities Housing, Income, and Mental Health.
- Adam said that at the Balance of State a speaker from West Virginia (Zach Brown) presented information on WV-SPDAT (West Virginia Service Provider Decision Assist Tool) and VI (Vulnerability Index). These assessment tools are used in West Virginia.
- We continue to look for input from clients and each agency is encouraged to identify clients that would be able and willing to become part of this group.
- Carol Wester reported there is a couple going to agencies as well as individual homes claiming to need housing assistance. Sometimes they present themselves as a brother and sister, sometimes as a husband and wife. They use this as a way to gain entry and find things to steal. Anyone encountering them should call the police.

Adjournment: Gai adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am.