



**MINUTES**  
**RACINE COC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**  
**03/01/2021 MEETING**

**Location** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85214288207?pwd=OVFtOWFYTExpXAzY1doNTdDbGl2dz09>

**Date:** Monday, March 01, 2021

**Time:** 12:00 PM

**Facilitator:** Gai Lorenzen (HALO) Chair

**Attendance/Establish Quorum**

1. Gai Lorenzen – HALO, *Leadership Council Chair*
2. Teresa Reinders – Racine CoC staff (*Non-voting member*)
3. Kaylee Cutler – Racine Unified
4. Barb Farrar – LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin
5. Michelle Gehring – NAMI
6. Pam Handrow – Bethany Apartments/Women's Resource Center of Racine
7. Francisca Lassa – Wisconsin Legal Action
8. Kim Leslie – Ascension Hospital
9. Amy Mauer – Zablocki VA Medical Center
10. Scott Metzel – HOPES Center
11. Ed Miller – Racine Revitalization Partnership
12. Liz Powell – Racine Community Foundation
13. Iraida Vazquez – Institute for Community Alliances

**Absent:** Jacob Mauer – Racine Police Department; Carol Pagan – Community Representative; Shebria Small – SAFE Haven of Racine

**Welcome new LC members.**

- Michelle Gehring is the Director of NAMI
- Kaylee Cutler is the Families in Transition & Truancy Intervention Specialist for Racine Unified School District

**Approval of Agenda**

- Pam Handrow *moves to approve*, second, discussion, vote.
- 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain **MSP.**

**Approval of January Minutes**

- Ed Miller *moves to approve*, second, discussion, vote.
- 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain **MSP.**

**Director's report**

- Highlight – new connection with a COVID testing pilot program through a State Testing Taskforce. They are making testing supplies available (not staff to use supplies) for shelters. HALO, SAFE Haven, and WRC should be receiving contact shortly from them.

## Old Business

- Review of Officer Position descriptions –
  - Gai's position is as a temporary/interim chair. We need to nominate and elect officers. The members of the Leadership Council decided to have a small group act as a nominating group.
  - **ACTION:** Pam Handrow, Liz Powell, and Kim Leslie volunteered to serve as a nominating group. They will meet mid-March and present a slate of officers by Thursday, April 01, 2021, via email.
- Review of Committees and Workgroups – discussion tabled until next meeting.
  - **ACTION:** Teresa and Gai will compile a list of committees and workgroups, with the chairs and rosters, and send it out to the Leadership Council by the end of March to give people an opportunity to see what else exists within the structure of the CoC.

## New Business

### Status of State ESG-CV Competitive & Allocation Grants

#### 1. Competitive Grant

- None of the grants submitted from Racine CoC members received funding.
- There were three separate applications: Racine County for prevention with Hospitality; HALO applied for motel vouchers and a van; Burlington Transitional Living Center submitted for center operations and other shelter expenses.
- Racine County has requested a review to gain feedback from their grant application.
- The list of funded agencies are on the State DOA DEHCR website:  
<https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/CommunityDevelopmentPrograms.aspx>

#### 2. Round Two Allocation Formula Grant

- Our CoC receive another \$374,000.
  - The State will amend the contract with the lead agency (HALO) to add that amount to the current grant funds once the initial round 1 is 75% spent down.
  - CoC meets as a community to determine how to spend funds. The initial need identified through recent agency experiences is prevention with the coordinated entry and diversion piece.

### HUD NOFA 2021 update

- Racine CoC is registered. HUD's next step is to notify agencies to register. The next step for the CoC is receipt and verification of the allocation. The allocation should be equal to the amount of our current renewals – how much is being allocated to receive, and checking that the allocation is equal to the amount of our current renewals. Once we complete those steps, we begin evaluating and ranking projects, then begin completing the application.

### City ESG Application

- City ESG application also was released on Friday, February 26, 2021.



### ICA update (Iraida)

- Iraida is the system administrator for Racine County, the CoC itself for administering the database for homeless management information systems, all the providers that enter data or receive any of the federal grants from our federal partners would be HUD, the VA, HHS, Health and Human Services, PATH, and SAMSA
- Currently going through a software change from the current vendor Well Sky, transitioning to Bitfocus. Vendor is Clarity Human Services
  - The last date that anybody can enter data into our software, currently is March 31. After March 31, only system administrators will be able to access the system, users will not be able to access that is the end of the quarter.
  - There will be two phases to upload (migrate) data from the old program to the new program.
  - The goal is to go live by April 15. New User training will go on more planning the last week of March-early April, having it close to when it would go live.
- Federal reports submitted: the Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) was submitted and confirmed by the CLC on February 9, 2021. System performance measured data is currently uploaded and entered into the repository for HUD.

### Prevention update

- There are always calls from people looking for security deposits, first month's rent, or people in hotels running out of money. Currently, there no coordinating process for responding to the calls exists. Scott would like to see the CoC coordinate some formulated response for people not experiencing literal homelessness but seeking assistance, whether for security deposits or eviction protection.
- We do have a Coordinated Entry Assessment in HDMI. However, we lack the process and the staff who can enter people into that assessment and prioritize individuals applying.
- There is confusion over what the eligibility is and even coordination regarding what funding sources are out there.
  - Here to Help who is doing some of the coordinating right now. People who are literally homeless and calling Here to Help are either referred to Halo for shelter or Lutheran Social Services for prevention funds.
  - R/K Community Action has prevention funding
- CDC moratorium.
  - People are still eligible for prevention funding.
  - We need to get a handle on this before the moratorium ends on the 31st of March,
  - We need to clarify what Here to Help's role is going to be in this context.
- We need to develop or establish some coordination, diversion, and prevention resources going forward.

## Section 8 vouchers update

- There are three different section-eight initiatives between the Housing Authority and the CoC.
  - HOMELESS PREFERENCE Vouchers
    - Twenty-five homeless preference vouchers were available three years ago. We are still working on those, all 25 of those. How this works:
      - Referrals are sent over to the housing authority to make a list just like they do with regular section eight,
      - Housing Authority then starts pulling from that list.
      - Criteria that they apply: they will take people with misdemeanors and look at other section eight criteria.
      - Biggest problem: people cannot find housing within the amount of time that they have a voucher. Housing Authority has extended some of the deadlines.
  - MOU Vouchers with Housing Authority
    - The Housing Authority applied for under Larissa's tenure and was recently awarded those vouchers
    - It can be used for
      - people who are literally homeless (on the street or in one of the shelters) and,
      - for the CoC's Moving on Strategy.
  - Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers
    - Two criteria.
      - The agency that knows youth is homeless must verify that homelessness, and
      - Human Services Department has to verify that they were foster youth. HSD has a certain number of those vouchers allocated to them. Karry Milkey (HSD) refers to the Housing Authority, youth:
        - ♦ who are aging out of foster care,
        - ♦ have been in foster care,
        - ♦ are under age 24, and
        - ♦ are homeless.
      - The Housing Authority can see if there are any vouchers available.
  - Racine, for the FYI vouchers, is the first in the State to use it.
- Frannie reminded everyone that if we have a client that's getting terminated from housing, please send them to Legal Action of Wisconsin. LAW can represent them in their hearings. LAW is seeing more terminations and other

**Next meeting:** May 03, 2021, via Zoom

Minutes submitted by Teresa Reinders.