

Homelessness and Housing Alliance of Racine County—Membership Meeting

Location: Zoom meeting link -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81043047767?pwd=RVdWRDRKci9EVDRHeDZXSVPsY1c4UT09>

July 17, 2020

Present: Officers: President: Teresa Reinders (CoC), Vice-President: Sharen Pease (CVI), Treasurer: Lynn Hegeman (Community), Membership: Amanda Aubrey (LAW), Judith Bartelt (VA), Kaylee Cuter (RUSD), Dianna Druiz (LSS), Sarah Hawks (UW Extension), , Chris Henning (Western Racine County Racine County), Sarah Isaak (Dep. Of Administration, DEHCR), Lynda Jackson (HALO), AJ Jelks (HALO), MaryBeth Kallio (United Way), Chris Kerbawy (LAW), Lori Life (RVM), Irma Love (HALO), Scott McClelland (RMHA), Andre Batts (HOPES Center), Ed Miller (Revitalize Racine), Francisca Murillo (LAW), Carol Pagan (Community) Liz Powel (Racine Community Foundation), Seth Raymond (Hospitality Center), Matt Rejc (City of Racine), Brendan Saunders (City of Racine), Melissa Taggart (HALO), Iraida Vazquez (ICA).

The meeting was called to order by President, Teresa Reinders at 9:05am with welcome and introductions.

Reminders: There is a CoC website <https://racinecoc.org>. Once on the website, click on the Alliance tab for meeting dates, agenda and so forth. Homeless & Housing Alliance of Racine County email address is homelesshousingalliance@gmail.com

Agenda: M/S/C to receive and file agenda with changes by Diana Ruiz.

Minutes: M/S/C to approve the minutes from June 2020

Treasurer's report: balance \$5,928.47: only activity was \$1 service fee. M/S/C to approve treasurer's report. M/S/C to change the name from CoC to Alliance on account and edits to the signature card. Ron Thomas name will be removed from the account and Teresa Reinders name will be added. Lynn's name will remain on account. A check requires either Teresa or Lynn's signature only one signature is needed for Tri-City National Bank account. The account will change to reflect the need for two signatures on a check.

Secretary Nominations: MaryBeth Kallio was nominated. M/S/C to accept MaryBeth Kallio as secretary.

Old Business: Consent Agenda—Motion to change to a consent agenda; M/S/C

New Business: None

Committees/Reports: There were no committee reports or updates

Presentations:

Presentation One: Sarah Hawks Rent Smart Program

UW-Extension hosted this program for the last 15 years. This is unique to Wisconsin.

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/rentsmart/>

The purpose is to reach clients before the first rental experience and provide knowledge to empower them for a successful training experience. This is a state-wide program. There are currently 8 participants and that includes one from Racine County.

Rent Smart curriculum six models:

Module A: How much will it cost, and can I afford it?

Module B: Checking out the Rental Property and the Landlord

Module C: Application Process

Module D: Who's responsible for Maintenance, Repairs, and care

Module E: Communications

Module F: Rental Agreement-Moving In, Moving Out

Presentation Two: Brendan Sanders - City of Racine Fair Housing
<https://cityofracine.org/CityDevelopment/FairHousing/>

The City of Racine is committed to affirmatively furthering fair housing and complying with state and federal fair housing laws. The prohibitions specifically cover discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, lawful source of income, status as a victim of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, or stalking, sexual orientation, marital status, age, ancestry and the presence of children. Fair Housing within the City of Racine Department of City Development provides fair housing (anti-discrimination) investigative and enforcement services. Fair Housing also conducts educational seminars for housing consumers and members of the housing industry.

Presentation Three: Diana Ruiz - Lutheran Social Services, Racine Emergency Prevention Program (Rental Assistance)

Racine Emergency Prevention Program only serves City of Racine residents with a COVID related risk of eviction. There must be some connection to COVID related issues. There are screening teams that are prioritizing COVID-19 situations locally and working with the most vulnerable population. All clients are entered in using the homeless information management system (HMIS).

Agency Updates/General Discussion:

HALO – currently has at hotels and a few clients at the shelter. HALO does have a waiting list. Small number of people moved back to shelter; majority of the clients are in hotels. Reminder HALO helps individuals for emergency shelter to get people off the streets.

United Way of Racine County – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) – on July 23 the virtual vita tax preparation and filing program in partnership with Code For America and Prosperity Now is available. VITA tax preparation and filing virtually can be found at <https://www.getyourrefund.org/>. This online platform will allow you to complete a questionnaire and submit your documents online to a participating VITA program. Certified VITA volunteers will then assist you throughout the tax filing process.

Racine County Resource Network (RCRN) – the next networking meeting will be on September 15 at 8:30 a.m. with a virtual meeting; three speakers will present.

Revitalize Racine – the house on 1315 Grand Avenue was rebuilt after it was burned, then burned again June 28. It is believed the same person conducted the crime since it was flagged Black Lives Matter. Family of 5 was scheduled to move in. The insurance adjuster will announce the second assessment shortly. Phillips and Owen, Land Quest will manage three apartments that are at different sites around the city.

Veterans Affairs (VA) – Sharon still is working from home alternating 2-3 days of week. Currently working on program for monitoring home workers. The new building at 3400 West WI Street, Milwaukee is open. There is a lot of motels serving veterans, but this continues to be a challenge working the different counties.

Racine Vocational Ministries (RVM) – the office is open on an appointment only. The office is practicing social distancing and cleaning the offices frequently.

Lutheran Social Services – has put a hold on accepting referrals for the rental assistance program. There are over 500 referrals already.

Respectfully submitted,

MB Kallio

(corrected version: Andre Batts from HOPES Center was present Minutes should say "1315 Grand Ave" Under RRP report) approved 08/21/2019