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), Scott Metzel (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 Taggert (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 Grant 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 Affair (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

Continuum of Care for the City and County of Racine
Equity and Diversity Work Group
Introduction

Background: "Most minority groups in the United States experience homelessness at higher rates than Whites, and therefore make up a disproportionate share of the homeless population."[1] When a racial or ethnic group's proportion of the homeless population is greater than its proportion of the general population, this is considered a disparity that points to deeper issues of systemic racism and discrimination in our nation and local communities. Discrimination also extends to the LGBTQ community, with LGBTQ people experiencing homelessness and housing instability at disproportionate levels when compared to non-LGBTQ people.[2] The Continuum of Care for the City and County of Racine (COC) and its outreach arm, the Homelessness and Housing Alliance of Racine County (Alliance), are concerned about this disparity, as well as the potential for disparity in services and service outcomes within the COC.

Objective: The Equity and Diversity Work Group is being formed under the Systems Performance Committee for the purpose of assessing and providing recommendations to address and eliminate gaps in racial, ethnic and gender equity within the COC, including service provision, service outcomes, and COC / Alliance structure and activities.

Terms of Reference: The Equity and Diversity Work Group will:

- **Assess and Report:** Assess Racial, Ethnic and Gender Disparity within the COC using available tools and data and produce a report at least annually highlighting the status of Racial, Ethnic and Gender Equity in the COC. (The Systems Performance Committee will assist with access to data and assessment and reporting tools.) The work group will also review the membership of the Alliance and its core documents to assess the COC/Alliance's level of diversity.
- **Develop Recommendations:** Present recommendations on addressing identified disparities and increasing racial, ethnic and gender equity within the COC to the COC Leadership Council and provide recommendations for increasing the diversity of Alliance membership and participation.
- **Present Assessments and Recommendations:** Make presentations to the Homelessness and Housing Alliance on topics related to racial, ethnic and gender equity, and present the work group's reports and recommendations to the broader group and community. It will also make recommendations for the inclusion Equity and Diversity subjects on the COC website.

Action Steps:

1. **Introduction:** The proposed work group will be introduced to the Homelessness and Housing Alliance of Racine County in August 2020.
2. **Membership:** People interested in becoming members of the Equity and Diversity Work Group should contact Teresa Reinders, COC Director, at treinders@haloinc.org and let her know. She will compile a list and assist in organizing the first meeting. The chair will actively invite people of different ethnicities and backgrounds with the objective of the having work group membership reflect the diversity we seek in the Alliance.
3. **Review TOR:** At its first meeting, the work group will review and revise its name and terms of reference as it deems appropriate.
4. **Elect Chair:** The committee will nominate and elect its chair person.
5. **Develop Work Plan:** The committee will establish a work plan and time line for achieving its tasks and objectives.

[1] https://endhomelessness.org/resource/racial-inequalities-homelessness-numbers/
[2] https://www.opportunityhome.org/resources/lgbtq-rights-and-housing-fact-sheet/

1456 Junction Ave
Racine, WI 53402-2219
www.LGBTSEWI.org
262.664.4100

Safe Zone virtual training August 21st, 2020

Introductions: training team and the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin programs and services

Video: Language in the LGBTQ+ community (Ted Talk)

Definitions and Vocabulary: sexual orientation, gender identity, pronouns

Video: gender non-conforming – Some people feel like a "they"

Video: what it means to be intersex

LGBTQ+ Community demographics: homelessness, abuse, mental health

Deeper Dive: shelters and housing facilities and recent rulings. Biological sex vs. gender identity discussion

LGBTQ+ Civil Rights and Advocacy: local and national initiatives and the Center's role

How to make an inclusive environment

Straight Privilege

How you can be an ally

3 Scenarios: How would you handle these situations?

Q &A