Racine City & County Continuum of Care (WI-502)
c/o HALO
2000 DeKoven Avenue, Unit #1
Racine, WI 53403

Minutes

Homelessness and Housing Alliance of Racine County— Membership Meeting

Location: virtual
August 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

1. Welcome, meeting called to order at 9:02AM

2. Approval of Agenda – Request to amend agenda to defer the approval of the May Meeting minutes to November to allow more time to review for approval. Pam Handrow motion to approve agenda with the change requested, MaryBeth Kallio second. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Presentation – Is Homelessness Rare, Brief, and No-Recurring? A look at homelessness in Racine County through System Performance Measures – Scott Metzel (see presentation slides attached)

   A deep dive into the HUD defined System Performance Measures that include the average and median length of time a person experiences homeless, the reoccurrence rate of returning to homelessness after exiting homelessness to a permanent destination two years ago, total number of persons experiencing homelessness on a point in time and annually, number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time in two years, and rate of persons exiting homelessness to a permanent destination or remaining housed in permanent housing.

4. Directors Report – Teresa Reinders (see attached Summary Report of Director Activities) Teresa wants to highlight from the attached report that she has been working with the County Health Department regarding the needs and stigma of people in need and looking for services and supports of any kind. Creating flyers and social media post done.
   Also mentioned what's going on in Washington DC regarding criminalization of persons experiencing homelessness is scary – the destruction of encampments and forcing treatment and if refuse treatment they are fined and jailed. This is being pushed by the Cicero Institute. Teresa will send out toolkit on how to advocate to representatives.

5. Old Business
   Collaborative Applicant and Governance Charter Update - Robert Held Vander Wyst reports as the CoC is transitioning to a new Collaborative Applicant for CoC funding with Racine County, the board discovered some work needs to be done to the CoC Governance Charter to update what has been done with the transition process and should be included in the Charter either because it should be included or needs to be clearer prior to signing into an MOU with a new Collaborative Applicant for the CoC funding. HUD Technical Assistance consultants advised this is a good time to review and update the Charter and include the process used for the transition of Collaborative Applicant. Need any changes approved by CoC membership and need special meeting to address changes to Governance Charter and approved before MOU is signed. Special meeting to be held on October 3rd at 9am.

6. New Business
   a. November elections for board members – Gai Lorenzen reports elections for board members and officers will be posted on website before October 3rd meeting Special meeting. We will notify members whose term is expiring and plans on running for another term. New and renewed members of the board commence in January 2026, and term is for three years.

   b. Committees/Workgroup reports

i. HMIS Committee – Iraida Vazquez: No meetings took place in June due to holiday (Juneteenth). Next meeting is next week Thursday, August 21st at 10:30am at HOPES Center or virtually by Teams.

ii. System Performance Committee – Scott Metzel: The members have been working on three items 1. Finalizing the presentation, 2. System Performance Measures as it impacts the CoC funding competition measure by measure, and 3. Performance Analysis and Improvement toolkit since last year focusing on Length of time homeless and Returns to homelessness. We've collected lots of data from interviews and surveys in focus groups and categorized the data and now digging into the responses.

Veronica Seymour is the new co-chair of the committee along with Iraida.

iii. Housing Committee – Kathy Snyder – No report

iv. Rating, Ranking, and Evaluation Workgroup – Teresa Reinders reports we need some volunteer members. Meetings are usually held from 4-5pm on weekdays. Contact Teresa if interested in joining the group. MaryBeth Kallio volunteered to be on group.

v. Coordinated Entry Committee/Assessment Workgroup –Iraida Vazquez: New chairs for the committee, Melissa Taggart and Angela Sanchez, next meeting is August 26th at 3pm, virtually via Teams. We are working on the updating the Prevention Assessment and reviewing the data to help make decisions on the populations that have the longest lengths of time homeless or return to homelessness so we target those populations to improve the delivery of services to prevent them from experiencing homelessness in ES or unsheltered which should improve outcomes for the community as that population shouldn't be in shelter and instead remain housed. Meetings will be weekly with the goal of having a new Prevention Assessment completed by October to be used for agencies receiving funds that require the use of Coordinated Entry.

CE Case Staffing meetings continue and have been extremely helpful to make sure we improve communication between the staff at various agencies in the delivery of services to help our neighbors secure housing and get documentation in place to qualify for subsidized housing when available.

7. Agency/Community updates
Loving Kindness: Saturday, Sept. 6th Pritchard Park from 10am - 4pm Community Event

Center for Veteran Issues: Birdie and Melinda are no longer with CVI. New case manager for Racine CVI PSH project is Beth Kroening. If you are working with any clients and need to connect with their case manager feel free to reach out to her at Beth.Kroening@cvivet.org.

Racine County Veteran Standdown this year will be at Festival Hall on September13th from 10am – 2pm. Veteran Services will be available. Feel free to share the information.

Hospitality Center: Save the date for Hospitality Center lesson on empathy, Walk a mile in someone's shoes. Wear donated shoes not yours.

Women's Resource Center: Annual Walk to Break Silence, Awareness event, September 25th from 5–7pm Monument Square.

WHEDA funding allowed WRC to increase capacity to allow for 16 more beds on third floor of the shelter.

8. Next meetings:
Friday, October 3, 2025, 9:00 a.m. (**Special Meeting**)
Friday, November 21, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25, moved by Pam Handrow, Second by Liz Powell