

Homelessness and Housing Alliance of Racine County—Membership Meeting

Location: Zoom meeting link -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88206609662?pwd=bndlZjJKR3NlWTlqM25kZnByUW5Ddz09#success>

May 21, 2021

Present: (19) **Officers:** President: Teresa Reinders (CoC), Secretary: MaryBeth Kallio (UWRC)

Membership:

Mike Basford (WI Interagency Council on Homelessness, WI ICH)	Chad Kline (LSS-Veterans Housing & Recovery Program)	Angela Sanchez (SAFE Haven)
Chris Broslavick (Racine Dominicans)	Traci Lang (Bethany Apartments)	Brendan Saunders (City of Racine)
Jori Chambers (WRC)	Zeke Leo (Racine/Kenosha CAA)	Vicky Selkove (City of Racine)
Kaylee Cutler (RUSD) <i>Presenter</i>	Lori Life (RVM)	Melissa Taggart (HALO)
Charlie French (Neighborhood Watch)	Irma Love (HALO)	Teri Wilson (Cardinal Capital)
Claire Hackett (HUD Milw. Field Office)	Ed Miller (Racine Revitalization Partnership)	
Dolores Hernandez (RCHA)	Derek Moran (LSS)	
Auntavia Jackson (Public Allies)	Seth Raymond (Hospitality Center)	

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

Reminders: CoC website <https://racinecoc.org> and the Homeless & Housing Alliance of Racine County email address is homelesshousingalliance@gmail.com

Agenda: M/S/C to receive and file agenda Motion by Pam Handrow, with two corrections.

Consent Agenda – approved as presented Motion by Pam Handrow.

Committee Reports: Teresa shared the written reports that were submitted in handouts.

Presentation:

Presentation: Kaylee Cutler, Families in Transition Coordinator, RUSD

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act protects youth's right to stay in their school. There is support for families experiencing homelessness— including those doubled up with others after losing their own housing—that address the education rights of their children, which are protected under federal law. Youth that are homeless may be sharing the house with others, living in motels, living in emergency or transitional shelter, living in public or private place, children from migrant families who qualify, unaccompanied homeless youth (youth living relatives on an emergency basis, youth living with a friend of runaways).

Children and youth that are homeless may struggle with achievement gap, poor classroom engagement and poor social skills and high incident of dropping out of school. There are many barriers to youth homelessness; poor health, fatigue, hunger, emotional trauma, depression, anxiety, stereotypes and lack of awareness, under-identification, high mobility resulting in lack of school.

Homelessness youth could be identified during the school enrollment process or school staff suspect youth who are homelessness. All families in transition qualify for Title 1.

No proof of address is needed with an address change. Families can simply tell the liaison of the address change. The student can remain in the original school of enrollment. Transportation to school of origin is provided.

The liaison helps families complete the registration/enrollment process. There are no forms that are required to enroll. Typically, youth qualify for free lunch. Eligibility can only be determined by the homeless liaison. This could take 15 minutes to a couple of hours depending on the family. Confidentiality is important. Student's living situation should be considered confidential. It is the responsibility of the student/family to decision to share this information with anyone. The principal of the school may know that knowledge. Families must reapply each school year. Families receiving services for the entire school year-even if they do become permanently housed.

There are many services offered once enrolled; school supplies, access to community agency referrals/information, field trip funding. Field trip funding is limited. Help to secure cap and gown for seniors. Students are able to stay in the same school.

There are many ways to help youth homelessness; be familiar with signs of homelessness, update the FIT coordinator, share information about McKinney-Vento Act, educate everyone and anyone about Families in Transition program. Community Schools help address the homeless youth by supporting all families in the community school neighborhoods. Pre COVID-19 Knapp and Julian Thomas community schools started the walking school bus to encourage attendance.

At a glance

- Graduation rates: students identified as FIT anytime during their high school career are roughly 20-30% less likely to graduate.
- Wisconsin statistic; Public school data reported to the U.S. Department of Education during the 2017-2018 school year shows that an estimated 18,853 public school students experienced homelessness over the course of the year. Of that total, 316 students were unsheltered, 2,257 were in shelters, 1,176 were in hotels/motels, and 15,104 were doubled up.
- RUSD
 - Had 894 homeless youth in 2018-19.
 - 4.3% of RUSD Students for the 2019-20 school year were identified as homeless.
 - Is receiving CARES funding to address youth homelessness.

Community Updates

Public Allies

Public Allies is now accepting applications. Public Allies is a social justice organization committed to changing the face and practice of leadership by recruiting and training talented young leaders, with a passion for social impact, to create meaningful change in our community. Public Allies Milwaukee is part of the AmeriCorps national service network and the work is made possible through funding from Serve Wisconsin. For more information go to www.publicallies.org/ally-application.

Wisconsin Patch (Providers and Teens Communicating for Health)

Recruitment for young people from across the state to join Teen Educators & Youth Advocates for the 2021-22 program is occurring. Information about the Teen Educator & Youth Advocate positions are available at www.wipatch.org/workwithus. All applications are due by June 13th.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccines are available on Friday, May 21 at the Tyler Domer Center from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

City of Racine – Vicky Selkove

City of Racine is hiring 25 Racine Vaccine Champions. Residents of color and bilingual Spanish speakers particularly encouraged to apply. This is a part-time, limited employment positions paying \$15.00 per hour. For more information go to www.higherexpectationsracinecounty.org/vaccine-champion.

Department of Administration Interagency Council on Homelessness – Mike Basford

Wisconsin Eviction Data Project, which provides policymakers, advocates, and the public access to data on eviction filings and judgment by month and county. This tool will help identify eviction trends that may necessitate housing policy changes. The Eviction Data Project was developed by DOA for the Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Justice. The Wisconsin Eviction Data Project is available here doa.wi.gov/Pages/Wisconsin-Eviction-Data-Project.aspx.

Governor's budget. Yesterday, the Wisconsin Joint Finance committee met to discuss the state budget. The state budget including funding for programs fighting homelessness and supporting affordable housing across Wisconsin.

Only \$600,000 for homeless programs will be added to the budget. There may be opportunities to add items back in. Thank you to Wisconsin State Representative Greta Neubauer for helping promote the homelessness budget.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MB Kallio