

Homelessness and Housing Alliance of Racine County—Membership Meeting

Location: Zoom meeting link –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89787716692?pwd=ZlZwZDhma1JCVE1OU3BwZVdIcnU1UT09>

October 15, 2021

Present: (38)

Officers:

President: Teresa Reinders (CoC), Vice-President: Sharon Peace (CVC), and Secretary: MaryBeth Kallio (UWRC)

Members

Acelero Learning Wisconsin King, Rhonda	Hopes Center Metzel, Scott	Racine Co. Human Here to Help Milkie, Kerry
Ascension Hospital Leslie, Kim	Hospitality Center Raymond, Seth	Racine Dominicans Broslovick, Chris
Bethany Apartments Handrow, Pamala	Housing Authority of Racine County Hernandez, Dolores	Racine Vocational Ministry Verber, Jean
Burlington Transitional Living Center Chaffee, Cristen	Legal Action of Wisconsin - Racine Stinebaugh, Elizabeth	Racine/Kenosha Committee of WI Life, Lori
Center for Veterans' Issues Pease, Sharen	Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Anderson, Nicole	Poor People's Campaign Patton, Tamara
City of Racine Rejc, Matthew	Molina Healthcare of Wisconsin Dunk, Eugene	SAFE Haven of Racine Small, Shebria
Community Advocate Davis, Lakesha	Racine CoC Reinders, Teresa	United Way of Racine County Kallio, MaryBeth
HALO Anderle, Holly	Racine Community Foundation Powell, Liz	Women's Resource Center Chambers, Jori
Gravitter, Jo	Racine County Latus, Kristin	Staufenbeil, Denise
Hill, Eric		
Knott, Jeff		
Lorenzen, Gai		
Love, Irma		
Taggart, Melissa		

Excused: Iraida Vazquez, ICA

The meeting was called to order by President, Teresa Reinders at 9:03 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

- 1) **Consent Agenda** – approved as presented Motion by Sharon Peace. Minutes from September approved with consent agenda.
- 2) **Treasurer Report:** Changes need to be made on the account for signers.
- 3) **Committee Reports:**
 - a) CoC Rating and Ranking Committee – We still in the process of reviewing applications.
 - b) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup – We are in the process of establishing a new meeting date. We need more volunteers to work on this group. Community members are welcome. We already have several established statements we can review.
- 4) **New business:**
 - a) Updates from COC Director
 - i) We have navigator EHV, rapid rehousing and moved on to more.
 - ii) LSS, Hope Center and participating with the EHV.
 - iii) Director of Medicaid of state of WI, working on finding more funding for housing.

- iv) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup: We need more members on workgroup to begin work on LGBT statements along with diversity statement.
- b) ICA update from Iraida Vazquez will be postponed until November.
- 5) **Presentations:**
 - a) **Steps for organizations and the public to help people experiencing homelessness to find shelter.**
 - i) *Street Outreach, Hope Center of Racine, Scott Metzel*
 Services people who sleep in places that are not meant for human habit such as lack of running water and heat.
 Do not want to enter shelter (preference0 or cannot enter shelter (suspension/ law / waitlist.)
 If you are aware of someone who is sleeping outside, call the Street Outreach, with the location of the person.
 - ii) *Youth Shelter, SAFE Haven: Shebria Small, Youth Shelter Manager*
 Services youths ages 10-17, typically 15, 16 and 17 age categories.
 Maximum three weeks, receiving shelter, food and cloths.
 Youth assigned case manager, youth and parent to a common ground; the goal is unification.
 Work on coping; skills, communication.
 Youth released from jail, wearing an ankle bracelet is not allowed in the shelter.
 Some youth will not want to stay in shelter, will accept case management.
 - iii) *Women's Resource Center: Jori Chambers, Assistant Director*
 WRC provides crisis intervention, advocacy, education, and prevention services for a diverse population of victims or individuals at risk of Domestic Abuse and/or sexual assault.
 Individuals call crisis line.
 Provide shelter and outreach services.
 No waitlist currently.
 - iv) *Burlington Transitional Living Center, Cristen Chaffee, Executive Director*
 Serves mostly west of the interstate.
 Due to lack of low-income housing available, the number of nights in stay may be longer than 30 days. If client is working on their goals, they continue to engage clients.
 Referral come from family members, local agencies, local police departments.
 Once referral and individuals/families meet criteria are housed at shelter or in motel rooms.
 They are depending on motel rooms due to COVID guidelines. Clients may not stay at shelter; however, use case management.
 BTLC addresses every issue that client is dealing with to have positive support and outcomes. They have a financial program, a transportation program, a faith group, and an employment program
 - v) *HALO: Holly Anderle, Executive Director*
 Referrals from Self-referral, Street Outreach and Here to Help programs.
 Category one homeless a place for human habitation.
 Housing families in motels/hotels.
 Due to COVID guidelines, about 50% capacity.
 Belief in treating everyone fairly.
 - vi) *Hospitality Center, Seth Raymond, Executive Director*
 Hours open 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 People can have meal at HC or take it to go.
 Community Awareness through speakers, presentations, community events, film screenings, art, music, and other resources.
 Save the Dates the two October Information Sessions: October 12th from 10:00-10:45 and October 14th from 6:00-6:45pm.
 - b) **Actions for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to evictions.**
 - i) *Legal Action of Wisconsin: Elizabeth Stinebaugh*

Local judges reacting instead of stopping cases, they would allow Cases would get kicked out. repletely, this would be stressful for tenants.
 Once tenants have eviction filing; once this is on the record, difficult to find another place.
 Eviction mortician did not keep everyone being eviction, there was a lot of folks on month-to-month lease; eviction and difficult to find another place because others were staying in place.
 Call center depending on attorney; average 5-7 per week now 5-7 calls per day.
 Breach failure to pay rent; significate more lease finding clients owing thousands of dollars of past due rent or utilities.
 Much more money that they owe.
 Judges are lenient and doing Zoom hearings, some judges let us go back to usual.
 If client got a notice, several more weeks in the house, 2-3 weeks for a return date.
 Trend, clients 28 days notices now being told nothing available until November and December.
 Smaller landlords willing to take a chance are now getting out of the landlord business.

ii) *Lutheran Social Services: Jodi Arnold*

Very limited housing available with fair market rates.
 Prevention side, more clients reaching out for rental assistance help, employed but under employed.

iii) *Here to Help, Racine County: Kerry Pearce Milkie,*

Help people with just about anything such as child support, advocacy, and referrals; case management.
 Follow up with 60 and 90 days follow up.
 Continue to help with HALO referrals with prescreening clients Monday – Friday.
 Work with eviction notice; work with issues that brought the client to this point.
 Close working relationship with all the country programs and nonprofit.
 Biggest issues are finding housing.

iv) *Housing Authority: Dolores Hernandez*

It is difficult to find housing.
 If clients are working, they can contribute any amount will help.
 The agency has vouchers, but no housing is available.
 If you know of place or landlord encourage them to work with Housing Authority.
 Foster Youth, ages 18-24 up to 34 months.
 VASH, veterans at the risk of vouches.
 Ages 18 – 62 years old with a disability, there are vouchers are available.

v) *Center for Veteran's Issues: Sharen Pease*

Has an app where landlords can post their housing available.
 The Alliance recognized and thanked Sharen for her service on the state landlord association.

c) **The plan for the 2021-22 winter weather with warming centers** - Warming centers are not just for the homeless

i) *County level – Kristin Latus*

County end of things, function as few years, the Taylor Avenue will continue to serve as a warming center for individuals. COVID guidelines are in place to be there safely.
 Western Racine County warming centers are being discussed and we will announce when we have.
 County can reach out to the school districts.

ii) *City of Racine, Vicky Selkove: Racine*

Community centers will be available when it gets below 25 degrees and the library. Considering funding for buses to transport clients to the warming centers. Attendees encouraged the funding be available
 Flyer will be available to 211 and community resources.
 Must call them warming centers, not shelters, to avoid the thought it is overnight shelter. Information regarding the warming centers is posted on CoC website, sent as press releases, sharable graphic that get posted to social media, 211 receives the information.

6) Community Updates

Head Start

Head Start is still enrolling for ages 6 weeks - 5 years old. Head Start is urgently hiring teachers, pass information along to those who might be interested.

Main Project

Main Project continues to uphold its mission to uplift and offer after-school programs and services for local youth and families. To celebrate one-year anniversary October 16 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Kids Winter Coat Giveaway while supplies last.

Molina, Familia Dental, Keeping Families Covered, and Racine County Human Services

Community Drive In Baby Shower is October 16th 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Racine County Workforce Development Center.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

Domestic violence is an abuse of power that tears apart the fabric of relationships and families and undermines the well-being of communities. One in 4 women and 1 in 10 men have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime. Keep the victims in mind this month and support the advocates and service providers, honor the courage and resilience of survivors.

CVI

Sharen Peace is retiring after twenty years of service to CVI and clients. Sharen shared her amazement of the care and compassion in our community. Her position will not be filled, instead the position is dividing into two.

Community Members

Bill Skilba, one of the founders of this group, passed away October 14, 2021.

Future meeting topics:

- November topic - coordinator entry process

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m. MSC

Respectfully submitted,

MB Kallio