NCCoC meeting minutes for October 25th, 2022

Present via Zoom: Katie Schumer, Tracy Rieger, Diane Sennholz, Chandra Wakefield, Sue Sippel, Ted Merwin, , Pam Anderson, , Ann Jelinek, Katie Rosenberg, Leigh Polodna, Danielle Widdes, Lacey Piekarski, Eric Lemirand, Melissa Walsh, Brianna Kirkank, Kayleigh Mengel, Zoe Monk, Gina Strasser, Mark Kananen, Emily Mueller, Lisa Fike, Sherri Waid, Kathleen Buckli, Wayne Sorenson, Taylor Mason, Leigh Polodna, Kate Marquardt, Kaylee Chojnacki, Jessica Bartelt, Jessica Lokken, Jessica Jinsky, Betty Noel, Cassandra Robinson,

Diane asked for approval of the amended agenda of adding the vote of the Wisconsin Balance of State Director representing the North Central Coalition. Tracy Rieger made the motion, Sue Sippel seconded.

**Community Outreach Specialist** – **City of Wausau** – Tracy Rieger works in this new position with the City full time. She will be at the Wausau Library two days per week and at the new Center for Non-Profits two days a week connecting with those who are in need of services. She is working quite closely with Officer Eric Lemirand and the purpose of the position is provide direct street outreach so as to identify, support, advocate, and assist with services and housing for unsheltered individuals in the Wausau community. She will also regularly be visiting and canvassing areas where the homeless live (under bridges, known street locations, etc.)

**Getting Ahead Program – Saint Vincent DePaul - Wausau** – Emily Mueller gave an overview of the program. The program meets for 16 weeks and then there is a graduation. By far the most important part of the program is the individuals being able to share their stories with others in the group. Information about the program will be sent out with these minutes.

**YHPD (Youth Housing Demonstration Project** – Katie Schumer, Coordinated Entry Specialist/Case Manager and Jake Prichard, Youth Community System Navigator/Case Manager. We welcome Jake to a new position at NCCAP. Jake comes to us with experience as a graduated from UW- Stevens Point with a double major in Social Work and Sociology in 2016. While attending college, he worked at the YMCA as a site director for a before/afterschool program. Once graduated, he began work at Portage County Probation and Parole as a temporary probation agent before accepting a permanent position at Atrium Post Acute Care in Marshfield as their Director of Social Services. The company ultimately went bankrupt,  so he accepted a position at Wood County Human Services as an initial assessment social worker in their Child Protective Services Department. Wanting to get back to the Wausau area he eventually accepted a position at Northcentral Healthcare in Wausau as a case manager in the Youth CCS Program where he worked for a number of years before coming to work at NCCAP where he will be working primarily with youth and young adults, ensuring that they are connected to services. Jake will provide case management and coordination to ensure youth that are experiencing homelessness are connected to services. He will maintain contact with the youth household until all service barriers are met. Jake will soon begin connecting with the middle and high schools and other youth service program providers within the coalition to establish relationships and begin working with the youth. Jake will also be making referrals to Coordinated Entry, and following up with youth throughout the process. Jake’s email address is jprichard@nccapinc.com

**Vote for NCCoC representative to serve on the Wisconsin Balance of State board of directors** - Gina Strasser with Attic Correctional was the interested party. Tracy Rieger made the motion to accept her as the replacement for Chandra Wakefield and Ann Jelinek seconded the motion. There was no opposition. Gina will serve as the Director.

**Agency Updates** –

**NCCAP Chandra Wakefield** with NCCAP provided an update with our housing programs and partners we are collaborating with to fill those programs. We have connected with Ronda Zastrow, Social worker in the jail and have housed 18 people being released. We’ve connected with Social Services of Marathon County and have been given 20 referrals for housing by the social workers working in their Elevate program.

Five clients have been referred from the Justice System and are enrolled in a Prevention Program, we will be adding three more within the next month. Seven Households are enrolled in Supportive Housing and two more are slated to be enrolled and housed in November.

Two households are enrolled in Rapid ReHousing and we are hoping to add two more by the beginning of December.

Five households are currently enrolled in TBRA and we are working on adding at least 2-3 more families by the end of 2022.

55 VI-SPDAT's (assessing the homeless or near homeless with a vulnerability index and placed on priority lists for housing) have been done so far this year.

**Marshfield Family Health Center** – **Wayne Sorenson, Project Manager –** RentReady Program. NCCAP has partnered with Marshfield Family Health Center to provide support with their RentReady Program. This program is aimed to assist individuals that have been in recovery for at least 6 months, have completed the Rent Smart program, and are connected to the recovery community. NCCAP assists with collecting applications, screening applicant, and finding housing. The program assist with first month’s rent and security deposit only. The individual must have a budget established prior to entry into housing. We have successfully housed five individuals, and they all continue to be successful at this time.

**Wood County Human Services Department – Lacey Piekarski, Employment and Training Manager --** reports the Independent Living program for those aging out of foster care has extended the age limit to age 23 to be able to provide case management services longer, helping with the human trafficking issues.

**Wood County Health Department – Kayleigh Mengel, Public Health Policy and Communication Coordinator**– She spoke about opening ‘Mary’s Place’ in Wisconsin Rapids, opening in early 2023. Will be like the facility in Marshfield. It is a transitional living center serving adult Men and Women, potentially 30-39 people. Background checks are done and no violent offenders will be allowed. This is not a homeless shelter.

**CW Solutions – Melissa Walsh, Employment and Training Manager** - Operating the Rapid ReHousing program for the youth. Programs funds go through September of 2023 and currently have one person enrolled in the program. They use Coordinated Entry to fill their program as well and Ryan Graham is assisting in providing a list for CW Solutions to work off of.

**Catholic Charities – Mark Kananen**, **Warming Center Coordinator** - Wausau Warming Center will be open November 1st and they have many volunteers and are fully staffed. He is actively pursuing more donations/dollars from the community.

**The Family Center – Sue Sippel, Executive Director** – They are operating the domestic violence housing first program for a full year now and are running out of money.

**Northern Valley Industries – Sherri Waid, Executive Director** – NVI is an employer whose focus is on people who fall through the cracks. They provide transportation for folks from the last bus point in Wausau (Stewart Ave near the US Bank building) out to their facility in the industrial park. Many of their employees have barriers such as addiction, mental health issues, and physical issues. These barriers DO NOT prevent them from obtaining and keeping employment with NVI. NVI will help employees work through issues to remain employed.

**Wisconsin Balance of State – Leigh Polodna, Project Coordinator** – Leigh wanted to let everyone know that Kate Marquardt will be handling everything grant related. Leigh is still a resource, but moving forward people can contact Kate with Grant questions. Leigh’s new position as project coordinator is very involved and as the BOS programs grow, she needs to focus on her new duties. Also, the WIBOS can always use match and this is very important for them to maintain their current grants and receive new grants in the future. If you are able to contribute match for attending these meetings or other committee meetings/activities please complete the match link – many thanks! <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/36cb23f9/OTZd2v7v5UCRJrAJtY-W5A?u=https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSceFKiNQxLZ9-GVdFjTzzY1owAIJ__ZIGqJ2M9InKYPptgBxg/viewform?usp=sf_link>