** Northern Wisconsin Initiative to Stop Homelessness (N\*WISH)**

Via Zoom

September 7, 2022, 10:30am-12:00pm

Minutes prepared by Nicole Marchand

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Teleka Dewing – Wasmogishek Food Pantry – In-person

Micah Dewing – New Hope Shelter

Makenna Kalata – CE Newcap

Nicole Marchand – Newcap

Amanda Aubry – Newcap

Karen Fish – Newcap – In-Person

Beth Larsen – CW Solutions

Kaylee Chojnacki – CW Solutions

Holy Seiles - ARDC of the Northwoods

Debbie Meye – WDVA

Katie Oestreich – Tri County Council on DV

Beth Brunelli – OGJVAMC

Deanna Kloster – United Healthcare Housing Navigatior

Mark Martello - Iron Mountain VAMC Homeless Program Supervisor

Kaylee Chojnacki- CW Solutions

Dani Widdes - CW Solutions (PATHS Housing Program)

Breanna Beckwith - Rhinelander's Tri County Council on DVSA

Ashley Durand – W2 - In-Person

Amanda Jahn – Salvation Army - In-Person

Jason Bertrand - Laona School District

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Emma Kowalewski, Ginger Chrobak

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

1. **Review and Approval of July Minutes:** Technical problems will vote on minutes next meeting in October
2. **PIT – July:** Everything finalized and sent in for July PIT, we just got the reviews back and Makenna has corrected the errors, nobody was found the night of the count. But was a successful count and she appreciates everyone's hard work and getting data to her so quickly!
3. **YHDP Submitted Project’s –** Newcap is in search of the Mobile Outreach vehicle to use for the MOST project. They have been working with several companies looking for a used mobile outreach that will fit in our budget, looking for a motorhome sized vehicle that would have one room for clinical use, one room for mental health or intake as well as a reception area with storage for supplies and needed items for our Youth and Young Adults. The project is due to start October 1st, with or without the vehicle.Updates will be given at each meeting.
4. **YAB Update – Meaghan Gleason.** The YAB has been meeting weekly, they’ve been meeting for an hour and a half rather than an hour because they feel they have a lot to discuss. We are in the process of creating separate Northeast and NWISH YABs; however, the youth would like to meet occasionally as a full group since they’ve gotten to know each other well. The YAB youth are actively engaging in recruitment of more members, including discussing and designing visual media and hopefully some TikTok videos. They’d love to have coalition members share out their marketing material once it’s is ready! We need at least two more youth in NWISH to have a complete NWISH YAB and we need to achieve this as soon as possible ahead of the rollout of the YHDP funded project (the MOST).

-Reminders: Anyone under 25 can join. We are looking for youth with lived experience, but other youth can join as long as we keep a 2/3 lived experience balance.

-YAB Members are paid $15 per hour by Venmo or check for their time

-Meaghan is available to meet with interested youth and/or interested agencies virtually or in person – please reach out!

There is a young adult in the NWISH area who may be open to speaking to youth oat agencies and schools about why they should join the YAB-The Youth are currently building up her confidence to do so. She would be traveling with Meaghan so she can provide additional information on services.

Other things the youth are talking about:

* *Creating "little library" style boxes with basic need items (clothes, especially socks, but also hygiene products, food, etc.) for people to donate directly to the youth. This would eliminate the need for youth to disclose their situation or swallow their pride to ask for help.*
  + *If you know of an agency who may like to partner with the youth in this effort, or have a good area to place these boxes, please let Meaghan know so that it can be relayed to the youth.*
* *More support is needed for LGBTQ+ youth who are rejected at home or made to leave because of their identity. The youth felt that if someone else supported these young people, perhaps they would be able to handle staying at home to keep a roof over their heads, even when feeling rejected there.*
  + *If anyone is aware of NWISH area resources and support for LGBTQ+ youth, please let Meaghan know so the information can be given to the YAB members.*
* *The YAB feel they are lacking in racial and ethnic diversity as well as gender/gender identity diversity and want to ensure that the YAB reflects the diverse population of youth in the area.*
  + *Please let Meaghan know if you’re aware of any specific youth groups/agencies that serve youth who are racially or ethnically diverse—the youth feel very strongly about this—and note that the youth would like to recruit more youth who identify as male.*
* Lastly, they have talked extensively about having a voice and not giving up—being loud and persistent until they’re heard, and their goals are achieved!

Some members gave Meaghan some other resources to reach out to for possible agencies or businesses that could assist in recruitment: Art Start – Rhinelander, Raise Your Voice – Rhinelander HS, NAMI – Stephanie Kuski, Nicolet College – Karen has a contact. Karen Fish also has a contact with a local radio station that would love for someone to go on and promote the YAB and or discuss what is happening.

1. **Action Plan 4 –** Makenna is in charge of both of our Action Plans this round. Action Plan 1 - Participation in Coordinated entry – Looking to get new agencies within our coalition to take part in Coordinated Entry. Action Plan 2 - Point in Time – which is ongoing
2. **EHH/ESG CARES CV Update: ESG/CV, Rapid Re-housing, Prevention, EHH -**Amanda Aubry– ESG/CV NWISH – 1 housed, 3 looking for housing.  There are 3 in aftercare, and 3 pending approvals
3. **Coordinated Entry Update:** Makenna Kalata – Non-HMIS System is up and running, If you need training or have any questions please reach out to Makenna
4. **DV Rapid Re-Housing Update –** Amanda Aubry – DV RRH: 10 Housed, 3 Unhoused (looking), 3 pending eligibility determination. 5 aftercare and transitioned to EHV/Section 8
5. **BOS Updates-** No update
6. Agenda Ideas – October meeting Jessica DeGrave will speak about the Whole Family Approach. Any ideas for speakers reach out to Nicole ([nicolemarchand@newcap.org](mailto:nicolemarchand@newcap.org)) or Debbie (Debbiebushman@newcap.org)
7. **Agency Updates –**

New Hope Shelter – Micah – Just celebrated 12 years, business is going as usual. Seems like a lot more walk outs vs. check outs, folks moving on to something else.

Laona School District – Jason Bertrand Middle School Principal and School Liaison – Wondering if there is any kind of training for the school liaison for the schools. A lot of time the school liaison is just added to someone’s responsibilities and not something that they know how to do. Nicole reached out to Leigh to find out what is available. Jason also asked about what NWISH is about and what role does the community play in the coalition? It was discussed briefly, will elaborate next meeting.

United HealthCare – Deanna Kloster – Housing Navigator – Deanna has been traveling around the state learning about projects within the different communities. She has access to speakers with everything from, How to Navigate Section8 to Improving internet in our rural areas. She would be happy to talk with any one to help navigate the different topics

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 am**

**Next N\*WISH meeting**

**October 5, 2022 – 10:30am-12:00pm**

**To keep up to date with everything homeless in Wisconsin, please sign-up for the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care newsletter at** [**www.wiboscoc.org**](http://www.wiboscoc.org)**.**