**Rural North Meeting 10/12/22**

Amanda Newberry, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

**Present:** Cassandra Robinson – MHS Health Wisconsin, Liza Lane – Embrace, Kristen Moen – TBRA (Washburn, Burnett, and Sawyer Counties), Amanda Newberry – Taylor House, Paul Huber – WI Dept of Veteran Affairs, Duana Bremer – Salvation Army, Stephena Smith – Salvation Army, Kate Markwardt – WI Balance of State CoC, Leigh Polodna – WI Balance of State CoC, Judy Bubolz – Embrace, Missy Jerome – Embrace, Nancy Kraft -- Workforce Resource, Inc., Sandy Clark – Salvation Army

**Agency updates:**

* Nancy shared information about a new grant WRI received focusing on working with the DV/SA shelters in a 19-county region to develop a curriculum that will be offered quarterly to DV/SA survivors focused on Empowering DV/SA Survivors Through Employ-ment & Economic Independence. The grant also includes developing policies for employers explaining how to address DV/SA in the workplace and provide employment which is safe for all employees, which will be sent to the largest 25 employers in each county. Tonya Potter, former DV/SA staff with Bolton Refuge House in Eau Claire/ Chip-pewa County, and now at WRI overseeing the T-SBIRT project will direct this project.
* Duana gave an update on the YHDP. She shared they have acquired a 3-bedroom home in New Richmond and are in the process of interviewing a Case Manager for the YHDP project, which is moving forward and beginning on November 1st.
* Duana also applied for the Recovery Grant Voucher. Through this program, clients experiencing category 1, 2, or 4 homelessness and who also have an opioid use disorder (OUD) diagnosis or have been receiving treatment for OUD within the past 12-months are eligible to be housed in a DHS recognized recovery residence. Program funds for this grant can cover the cost of a client staying at a DHS recognized recovery residence.  The funds will cover the cost of a bed but cannot cover any additional services such as case management, costs for participating in support groups, recovery support services etc.
* Leigh shared the BoS Housing Navigator grant started on October 1st. She indicated that participation in Point in Time could be included as match for the Housing Navigator grant if participation was not funded with CoC funds. She will send out a google form for RN members to fill out for match purposes.

**Approval of Agenda.** Duana made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Kristen. The motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes from April, June, and September.** Sandy made a motion to approve minutes from April, June, and September, seconded by Nancy. The motion passed.

**Approval of RN Secretary.** Steph volunteered to serve as secretary. Amanda made a motion to accept Stephena for the RN secretary position, seconded by Nancy. The motion passed.

**BOSCOC Board Member**. Sandy made a motion, seconded by Amanda that Stephena become the BoS representative from the RN Coalition. The motion passed.  
**Prioritization list (update).** Steph gave an update on the new prescreening form and two pending offers for Rapid Rehousing. There is difficulty in locating housing. One client needs a 3- bedroom (GP); another client has had the offer for a long time and will be given a notice that they will return to the list in 30 days if they don’t find housing. Any EHV applications should be submitted to Stacy as soon as possible. ([Stacey.feidt@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Stacey.feidt@usc.salvationarmy.org))

**Action Plan Goals for This Quarter**. Discussed the three Goals with decisions made concerned how to address these.

* *Collaboration with youth education providers.* Amanda sent out an email earlier concerning the need for RN Coalition members to make contact with youth education providers in each county informing them of housing and other services for homeless families, individuals, and youth and the need to collaborate. Duana has an MOU template she will send to Coalition members to address this goal. The group discussed to whom and with which organizations should contact be made – homeless liaisons in each school district in members’ respective counties; Early Head Start and Head Start providers, Learning Centers, and other youth/education providers. Coalition members volunteered or were assigned the counties in which they would make contact with appropriate personnel.
* *Strategies to reduce Length of Time Homelessness.* Amanda will contact Duana for suggestions concerning this goal as at this time members weren’t able to generate ideas.
* *Criminalization of Homelessness.* Duana shared disturbing information about the City of Eau Claire contacting the Barron County Sheriff’s Office threatening a lawsuit concerning an allegation of “dumping homeless people in Eau Claire.” The Police Department in New Richmond has received a similar complaint. Amanda shared that in Taylor County homeless individuals often are driven to the county line. A short discussion ensued that more work needs to be done concerning this issue.

**Program Funding Update.** Following is the report from Stephena concerning funds for the various homeless programs.

* TBRA. 21-13 *07/01/2021-06/30/2023.* Assistance ($512,897); Admin ($51,291).

22-11 *07/01/2022-06/30/2024.* Assistance ($623,003); Admin ($62,300).

* EHH. 22-17 *07/01/2022-09/30/2023.* ESG. ESG Shelter: Lighthouse ($21,480); Taylor House ($10,740); Faith House ($5,612); Rapid ReHousing ($19,715); Admin ($2,148).

HPP. Prevention ($55,645); Admin ($6,577)

* SSO-CE. *07/01/2022-06/30/2023.* ($27,865)
* DV SSO-CE. *09/01/2022-08/31/2023.* ($5,900)
* YDHP Planning Grant. *10/01/2021-09/30/2022.*  ($2,587.50 unspent)
* YDHP. 11/01/2022-10/31/2024. Leasing ($108,528); Rental Assistance ($312,432); Supportive Services ($287,920); Operating Costs ($18,000); HMIS ($300); Admin ($71,328)

**Final Notes and Adjournment.** A reminder on the last Wednesday of the Month, information should be sent to Stacey if you are not using Clarity. From this time forward the RN Coalition will be meeting monthly, the second Wednesday morning of each month, with the next meeting on November 9th, 10:30-11:45. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kraft, October 11, 2022