**Eau Claire Housing Coalition**

**February 15, 2017, 2-3:30pm**

**Ruth House, 2511 W Moholt Drive**

**Minutes**

Submitted by Ken Adler

Attendees: Kelly Christianson-Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley, Jeanne Semb-Western Dairyland, Debbie Gough-PORCH Families with Children Subcommittee, Carrie Bloom-Western Dairyland, Sara Dutter-Western Dairyland, DeAnne Judson-Hope Gospel Mission, Sherri VanVuren-Western Dairyland, Kim Carey- Bolton Refuge House, Kathy Stewart- Positive Avenues, Destiny Cobbs-UWEC, Chai Moua-Eau Claire Area HMAA, Nadine Jentzsch-Catholic Charities, Ken Adler-CVFC and PORCH, Emily Carlson-Eau Claire City/County Health Department, Julienne Linberg, Katie Richel, and Mary Jacobson-Catholic Charities, T.J. Atkins-Eau Claire City/County Health Department, Suzanne Marsolek and Frances Mason-Western Dairyland, Ruth Schermerhorn and Keith Johnathan-City of Eau Claire Housing Authority, Kris Belling-concerned citizen, Amy Giani-Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley, Christine Warloski-St. James the Greater, Measha Vieth-Western Dairyland, and Dani Claesges-Eau Claire School District.

1. Approval of January minutes: Minutes were approved with the following corrections: The landlord liaison’s name is Jenny Chaput.
2. Holiday/Giving Updates: Beacon House had 78 sponsors help 169 people. Salvation Army and Western Dairyland also had successful holiday gift/meal programs. An individual in Eau Claire donated money so that students who were behind on hot lunch payments could continue to receive hot lunches.
3. Western Dairyland Strategic Plan Survey: Jeanne announced that Western Dairyland is embarking on its 5 year plan. They are determining who their critical community stakeholders are, and the EC Housing Coalition is one of them. They are seeking out ECHC representatives to give them info. Deb Gough, Kelly Christianson, and Ken Adler volunteered for the task.
4. Point In Time-Carrie Bloom and Amy Giani: Five people were found during the count and another 2 were identified at the Community Table the following day. Difficulties in encountering some people were discussed. We may want to consider having flexible hours for checking the Madison Street Kwik Trip, or having vouchers/other motivators to encourage people to participate. Also, trying to provide services/referrals for some people is difficult. Emergency housing for when Sojourner House is over capacity remains a problem. We will discuss those issues more at a future meeting. Also, Carrie Bloom and Amy Giani would welcome help with planning the next Point in Time count.
5. WIBOSCOC meeting Update - Kelly and Jeanne and Mary Jacobson spoke at the meeting about the landlord liaison. They also heard that there may be more funding available to agencies dealing with people experiencing homelessness soon. Our BOSCOC scored very high in the national rankings of quality of applications. Carrie Poser has done a lot of the coordinating of applications. – Kudos to Carrie!
6. Coordinated Assessment Update-Jeanne: The most recent update (12/16) showed that we have housed 35 households since 4/1/16. Our goal had been 11.
7. Housing First Update-Sara: They are filled to capacity. They need a table and vacuum cleaners. Western Dairyland is look into buying a house.
8. Dani dropped off brochures about the school district’s housing resources.
9. PORCH Updates

* The adult committee has completed its survey and will be meeting to discuss where to go from there (See attachment).
* The families committee is looking into ongoing funding of the landlord liaison position and other financial concerns. Case management for families that move into apartments remains an issue.
* The 18-24 year old youth committee has been surveying clients at Positive Avenues (Thanks, Kathy!). The theme of the responses was that the youths wanted support, someone to help them along. 8 of the 11 respondents had had out-of- home placements as minors. There is talk of having a support center at the EC Public Library, or a mentoring program.
* The under 18 year old committee has met. Report is pending.

1. Poverty Summit: The summit itself is winding down, but smaller groups are forming and we are invited to attend. Emily Carlson is in the “Access to Resouces” group and Kelly Christianson is on the “Housing and Homelessness” group. There are groups regarding children (Sherri Van Vuren), education, ex-prisoners (Debbie Gough), mental health, and stigma.
2. Community Read “Evicted”: was discussed at the Library and other sites. There was a generally good turnout. It is unclear what the next step will be. The author of the book will be coming to Eau Claire this autumn. The ECHC may consider taking up a role in this public process. We will discuss it more at our next meeting.
3. Agency Updates:

The Chippewa Valley Free Clinic has opened a dental clinic.

Applications are being accepted for Community Development Block Grants – due the first week in March.

1. **Next meeting:**

**Bolton House**

**Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m.**

**Date: March 22, Wednesday**

Addendum:

Preliminary Conclusions from Survey of Eau Claire City Adults Experiencing Homelessness

During autumn, 2016, sixty-one adults in the city of Eau Claire, WI, who were experiencing homelessness completed 3 page surveys assessing their needs and wants. Fifteen participants were recruited from Sojourner House, 11 from Bolton House, 15 from Community Table and 20 from Positive Avenues.

Needs:

1. Reasons for not having a job:

* 33% Health Issues
* 33% Transportation Issues
* 26% No one will hire/No jobs available
* 8% Need help getting a job
* 7% Don’t want a job

1. I go hungry at least once per week: 35%
2. I have problems getting transportation: 61%

Why transportation is needed:

* For appointments: 48%
* For work: 34%

I use the bus at least once per week: 63%

I’d use the bus more if I could afford it: 67%

1. Other support issues to consider:

* Help arranging doctor visits: 31%
* Help arranging dentist visits: 36%
* Help arranging mental health provider visits: 30%
* I feel that people look down on me when they find out I am homeless: 79%
* Sometimes I have a hard time finding a place to sleep: 49%
* Sometimes I have a hard time finding a place to go to the bathroom: 38%
* Sometimes I have a hard time finding a place to clean up/take a shower: 46%
* Sometimes I have a hard time finding a place to store my things: 69%
* Sometimes I have a hard time getting my laundry done: 71%
* There is a place I can stay if I get sick: 38%
* I feel safe: 48%

Wants:

* Most popular (“Tier 1”):
* 24/7 shelters or apartment
* Better transportation
* Better storage for my stuff
* Laundry facilities
* “Tier 2”
* Better access to jobs
* Better access to food
* Be treated with more respect
* Tiny houses
* More public bathrooms
* Better access to free clinic, dental care, mental health care

What is the main thing the housing coalition could do to make Eau Claire a better place for you? (Open ended question)

* Provide more housing resources: 11
* Provide jobs: 4
* Improve shelters: 3
* Better transportation: 2
* Improve access to storage/laundry: 2
* Provide camping space and supplies: 2