



Homeless Services Consortium Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2020 – 11:00AM – 1:00PM
Meeting held Virtually with GoToMeeting

Call to Order and Welcome

Attendance: Lane Hanson, Matt Julian, Melissa Mennig, Torrie Kopp Mueller, Jonathan Grieser, Kim Kennedy, Jani Koester, Maggie, Carden, Liz Duffie, Natalie Deibel, Wanda Smith

Guests: Josh Goldbaum, Michael Basford, Brenda Konkel, Hannah Fleischmann, Angela Jones, Anupama Bhalla, Robin Sereno, Heidi Wegleitner

1. Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes from March 20, 2020 & April 2, 2020

- a. Hanson moves to approve both minutes; Mennig seconds
 - i. Vote called – All vote for, none opposed, none abstain.

3. Treasurer's Report – Hanson

- a. Bank Balance is \$1754
- b. Informed city that we are looking at a grant to focus on paying those with lived experience
 - i. No current grant opportunities that we are aware of
 - ii. Now is a time to think of re-distribution by trying to increase our funds for
 - 1. Kopp Mueller will finish getting the link running with C4CS
 - 2. We can then add to the Facebook page as well.

4. Update on statement re: late fees – Hanson

- a. Special meeting in April completed the letter – her Edgewood Intern, Amy, compiled a list
- b. Hanson will forward the list to other board members to review what agencies
 - i. Consider Apartment Association, our website & Facebook page, and TRC

5. Assignment of Work group to develop plan with Youth Action Board – Kopp Mueller

- a. March meeting discussed YAB and the flow of the information. Wanted to propose we assign a couple of board members to work with Alison to help define that role.
 - i. Might need by-law changes – likely will need bylaws presented
 - ii. Hanson, Mennig, and Kopp Mueller volunteer
 - iii. Duffie – consider how we set a standard for representing groups that are under-represented in our HSC.

6. Approval of letter advocating for CoC projects to be renewed without competition

- a. This would require a HUD statutory change – HUD has said prioritize COVID right now.
 - i. It's unclear if they can change this without legislation
 - ii. Projects end differently – earliest for renewal would be January 2021.
 - iii. One year in Carden's experience that the NOFA was put out individual projects applied and ranked – still had new projects, still could re-allocate.
 - iv. HUD is doing weekly calls and showing flexibility for communities.
 - v. Letter may go to HUD or Representatives
- b. Competition Committee usually does require a lot of time for agencies
 - i. It may be an opportunity to look at operations/project performance especially given to current uncertainty.
- c. Basford can speak with her representatives
- d. Smith recommends we have another retreat – to discuss our concerns and direction of the board to intervene in services that have reinforced the disparities.
 - i. Focus should be on the priorities
 - ii. We should be mindful to not restrict opportunities
 - iii. Hanson said – we should determine what's our power
- e. After discussion, it was determined not to create a letter.

7. Approval of thank you letter to community – Julian

- a. Menning moves to approve, Hinkfuss seconds that.
- b. Discussion
 - i. Who is the audience?
 - 1. HSC Membership
 - 2. Letter to the Editor
- c. Want to find a way to form the talk about money spent on pandemic to shelter and feed homeless – can we find a way to capitalize on new partnerships
- d. Email to HSC, Newspaper, specific partners
- e. Edits discussed to the content and grammar
- f. Vote called – all approve, none opposed, none abstained.

8. Discussion on funding priorities for COVID-19 money

- a. There will be lots of money coming into the community through ESG funds (street outreach, emergency shelter, homeless prevention, rapid rehousing) – city will get over 500k, state will get over 12 million – how will it get distributed is unknown. County is requesting funds, CAC will get Community Service Block Grants (CSBG – does prevention, utility assistance – more flexible than HUD dollars).
 - i. Timeline is unknown – can use activity for already done.
 - ii. Current shelter (hotel/food) paying out of a reserve fund.
 - iii. This is separate from ESG competition
 - iv. Hopefully FEMA will cover the funds for hotels.
- b. Do agencies have capacity if we said, yes we have the ability to increase rapid rehousing funds.
- c. People in projects are very worried – we know where they are.
- d. New projects – buy and rehab hotels
 - i. Wegleitner – can we further projects, the county is looking at properties, not several year properties.

- ii. Section 42 housing is not meeting the need – should be 60%ami, but 30% is needed
 - 1. Small business funds will apply - can we ask for a focus on funding
 - iii. Mainstream vouchers – application.
 - iv. Can the funding committee make a funding matrix
 - e. Can city/county get landlords to loosen tight restrictions.
 - f. Focus currently:
 - i. Housing assessment done
 - 1. Help with faxing
 - 2. A lot of folks do not have a case manager
 - 3. They have a housing specialist reaching out to landlords.
 - 4. \$500 fund for deposit or first month's rent
 - 5. Find support services – CCS Julie Meister
 - g. For Doubled up
 - i. Get housing or section 8 because of the laws (screening criteria 3x the rent, eviction history, feels disparities).
 - h. Recommendations should be financial AND use it as an opportunity to state the criteria that is preventing success.
 - i. Ask Core to draft a response.

9. Update on COVID-19 Response – Kopp-Muller

- a. TSA moved families into hotels
 - i. For families in Waunakee, gas cards would help folks substantially given the distance from downtown.
- b. Porchlight Men's Shelter has moved to Warner Park Community Center – Police have been working with shelter and have enjoyed the partnership
- c. Hotel for Vulnerable to folks – 160 folks have been placed (waitlist of 30-40); county still trying to get hotel rooms – 3 meals a day, security provided, Focus Counseling providing support
- d. Medical Respite hotel – city working leasing, BrightStar is providing nursing staff
- e. Increase of unsheltered - try to establish a safe outdoor space, city is providing land and moving forward. Toilets, hand washing, showers, and meals to be provided.
- f. City Parks are not asking for folks to move along
- g. Outreach – has been limited and capacity struggles – city has identified 8 librarians to be redeployed.