

HSC Community Plan Notes  
Meeting date: 2/12/2021

Attending: Torrie Kopp Mueller , City of Madison, Kristin Rucinski, TRH, Lisa Hemauer, JFF, Sarah Anderson, VA, Donna Ulteig, Bethel, Bev Thom, Bethel, Jani Koester, TEP, Allie Grant, TRH, Angela Jones, UWDC, Linda Ketcham, JustDane

Update on next steps: Torrie has sent email to CHS the consultant firm used for last plan, no response yet. She also emailed a group of other CoC's for examples of Community Plans – none of those contacted had developed their plans during the pandemic but some had conducted the rollout over the past year. Torrie also checked with Racine but they do not have a plan. Torrie's also still reviewing the interim rules.

HSC Committee chairs have been asked to send Committee Reps. to the Community Plan meetings, Jani is representing Education and Advocacy Committee. It was suggested that maybe HSC members in general are not familiar with the Community Plan Committee and that we should look at more outreach to HSC membership.

The Funders Committee continues to work on the gaps analysis. The Committee is working on surveys for people currently using services or who have previously utilized services. It was suggested that the Youth Count will happen during school enrollment period and that would be a good time to get gap analysis surveys included as part of that process. Also recommended that there be coordination with other events and things happening in the community to get surveys completed.

Jani reported that she has a meeting scheduled on 2/23 at 10 a.m. with the Institute for Research on Poverty. Jani and Hillary will be attending but others are welcome and should email Jani if they'd like to receive the zoom invite.

Angela asked how HMIS tracks participants, by family or by household. United Way wants to track in the same way so it's easier for providers and more consistent in terms of how we track. Data is tracked in HMIS by household and United Way will use that metric – household.

Discussion of use of third party/consultants for development of Community Plans. Other communities do use them, the three identified by Torrie are: Homebase; Focus Strategies and CSH. Torrie hasn't had a chance to connect with them or look at cost or their focus and services. There is currently no money budgeted for a consultant but it could be helpful to use one. Torrie stated that we'd want to be very clear about what we want in terms of their services and in terms of the Community Plan. Kristin volunteered to make the initial contact with the three companies identified and then loop Torrie in when she has made contact to talk about costs and scope.

Review of pros and cons of different Community Plans that had been reviewed (Torrie sent list to Committee Members). It was noted that Plans varied with some covering a two year period and others going up to ten years. It was generally agreed that 2-3 year period feels more doable and easier to keep up to date.

In general people liked visually pleasing plans but recommended keeping it concise, precise and easy to understand.

Having a solid summary page was a good feature and a tool that could be used with the broader community. Our current Plan does not have a summary like this. It was also suggested that a stakeholder summary be included.

A Glossary of terms would be a good addition as would a brief overview of the current landscape of homelessness in the community providing a context for the Plan.

Race, equity and racial disparities need to be included and addressed in the new Plan, they are not addressed in the old Plan.

Discussion on the number of strategies in the reviewed plans focused on whether they seemed doable or overwhelming. General consensus was that there were a lot and it felt overwhelming. It was also noted that some are really outside the scope of the Plan, for example “adding aoda treatment beds.” Those might be items identified as things to be advocated for but not within the purview of HSC and the Community Plan as something we can do. We need to be realistic about what we can do, anything else perhaps falls under advocacy. It was suggested that the number of strategies should perhaps be proportional to the length of the plan but we’d still have to identify what the right and feasible number of strategies would be. We also have to consider capacity, many of the HSC Committees have members who sit on multiple committees so the work falls to a relatively small group of people. It was suggested that strategies could be connected to specific Committees which could also help provide more clarity of role and guidance to each Committee.

There was agreement that the Plan needs to be somewhat flexible to adapt to emerging needs or circumstances (like we’ve had to do under COVID-19).

Specific groups or organizations could also be asked to take on a strategy (e.g. Bethel). We would need to make sure we identified who was responsible for reaching out to the organization to confirm their role in the strategy and their buy-in.

Things we don’t want: we don’t want a report that is too long in terms of time covered, we prefer 2-3 year plan which makes it more responsive to current situations and realities. We don’t want a Plan that is too lengthy and unwieldy that people don’t read it.

Discussion about the intended audience for the Plan confirmed that it’s a plan for the entire community and is created with significant community input. The current plan offered many engagement opportunities for the community and that’s something a consultant can help with in terms of organizing and facilitating those engagement activities. Bev Thom shared that Bethel Church is planning a Homelessness Summit for the fall and that could be a good place to share information about the plan. The tentative date is in September. The purpose of the Plan is to serve as an internal guide for the HSC and also serves as an external guide related to advocacy efforts. Part of the consultants role would be to also help us decide scope of the plan.

Next Steps:

1. Contact consulting firms and research costs;
2. Determine how to pay for a consultant;
3. Decide on process and criteria for selecting a consultant.

For next meeting we will discuss costs, funding options, and draft what the “ask” of a consultant would be. Torrie will let Committee members know if she needs some additional help in gathering this info for the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 10:15.

Submitted by Linda Ketcham