

Community Plan Committee

Meeting Notes April 9, 2021

Attendees: Brenda Konkel, Allie Grant, Linda Ketcham, Catherine Reierson, Sarah Anderson, Kristin Rucinski, Jani Koester, Lisa Hemauer, Torrie Kopp-Mueller, Jalateefa Jo-Meyers

- Update on community plan summary: a little more challenging. We have done bits and pieces. Might need funders to look over it before finishing. It is a work in progress right now. Question to Torrie: are there ways the rest of this committee can be helpful? Big task for one person. Yes/no/in progress – could we use a checklist to update goal progress?
- Kristin and Torrie met with Focus Strategies and Home Base, both consulting groups. HB felt a little more down to earth and real, better meeting overall. Appreciate they can do more than data analysis. Quote for price: first one was about \$75k-150k, HB had about the same range. Both have done some things virtually, have strategies to engage people with lived experience. HB had more readable, easily grasped plans, more digestible.
- We could write up an RFP and put it out to other consulting agencies? See who responds, or we could send targeted to agencies.
- HB seems more accessible. During the planning process, they like to do a pilot, which they call 100 day challenges – so it tests the plan while it is being written.
- Race and equity: these agencies are now incorporating equity in their plans too. HB works with a local facilitator on race and equity, which helps to engage community members.
- Q: as we look at the strategic plan, what is our focus homeless population? Are we extending the homeless definition, and how do we integrate the data into our plans, beyond the HMIS system? The consultants will look at whatever data we give them. Use qualitative data to fill in any gaps we have.
- Discussion: we should come at this looking at whole definition of homelessness, not just HUD definition. Emphasize that it is all there, not an us and them. Represent the whole county and how outlying areas interact with Madison
- Do we have money for this? We should ask city and county for \$100k each, before we put out RFP. It's not in the budget, so we need to ask
- Feels like in regards to the county, timing is right to ask, as it is a priority.
- We need to make sure from the start there is someone with lived experience involved in the planning
- Education and advocacy committee: opinion is that we need the focus to be on truly affordable housing. Not workforce housing, *truly* affordable: income based. There wasn't a dollar amount ask, it was more of a concept
- How should we make the ask: writing a letter, talk to people? Start with mayor and county exec? DU workgroup has an ask as well, a couple of county board supervisors on board with this
- HUD announced 5 billion total in funding: Madison gets just over 5 mill, Dane County just over 2.2 million. Specifically for just affordable housing

- Discussion: worried that people who don't have advocates will fall through the cracks. There are entire groups of people who have no advocates. Singles men are dying on the street. Question: how do we beef up prevention? We have to put more focus here
 - HUD includes doubled up in definition. They are staying with others so as not to have kids on the street. If they stayed on the street, we would have a whole new problem. We have a whole segment of literal homeless that we are not even aware of, because they don't have access. Our plan needs to support all of this – yes, we need to have priorities, but we need to look at all populations
- We have to look at how much money goes where. Single men don't have case managers. They say you can, but it is all self-sign up. 1-2 case managers for 100 men. They get a brief contact that night, it is not ongoing/no follow up. Not sure that will continue because Porchlight didn't get the funding, not all of it.
 - The plan needs to help us sort through this
- Refocus on what causes homelessness: we need to circle back to this, look at prevention. Need more buy in from DOC, and what happens when people are discharged from corrections.
- Behavioral health, health care needs, abuse/trauma: the biggest reasons for housing instability
- HB: looked more into upstream work. Should we invite DOC to the meetings? Agents can be an impediment to people getting housing, bc they have to approve and often they don't.
- 18-24 range homelessness is due to poverty, lack of support, didn't graduate HS
- CDA rules create barriers, they don't need to deny for all the reasons that they do (criminal, financial). HUD rules only have 2 reasons to bar
- Q: Gina Aguglia, cross-systems team membership which includes a whole bunch of agencies and also Briarpatch. Why are there not more homeless services on that team? That was meant to do coordination and communication around services for youth. Don't know that there was a housing focus on that group. Gina sits on it for MMSD. Designed to have better comm for youth. No housing focus
- Action item: start a letter to city and county asking for funds for the comm plan. Brenda agrees to start this letter
- Jalateefa: why aren't we using the FEMA funds? Those could support a lot of these programs. Available only in 2021. Torrie said she has asked at a meeting with the state. Jalateefa applied and was denied, bc her shelter had been supported by the CoC funds, the agency would have to apply. There is a pot of money we aren't even touching.