

DeKalb County Continuum of Care

April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Christine Madsen & Lauren Adams, MSHV; Shelly Perkins, & Carol Herrington, HACD; Craig Woodruff, DPD; Deanna Cada, DeKalb County Mental Health Board; Jenny Swanson, Lesly Wicks & Mike Newman, Hope Haven; Kim Wilkerson, Center for Family Health; Diana Hulst, YSB; Lesa Eames, DCCA; Jim Fisher, Formerly Homeless Representative; Mary Ellen Schaid, Safe Passage; Corinne Steimer, Hines VA; Todd Kisner, Winnebago County Health Department/IL-501; Becky Zantout, DeKalb County Community Foundation

Business began at 10:35 AM with Perkins welcoming attendees. Perkins reviewed the March 15, 2017 Minutes and asked for any corrections or changes to those minutes. No changes requested, Perkins asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mary Ellen Schaid made a Motion to approve, Kim Wilkerson seconded the Motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

Perkins introduced special guest Todd Kisner of the Winnebago County Health Department and Chairman of the Rocker River Coalition for the Homeless (IL-501 Continuum of Care). Kisner was present at the meeting to give DeKalb County Continuum members information about the Rock River Coalition and to discuss concepts and ideas regarding a possible merger of both Continuums. Kisner shared data regarding homeless Point In Time Count numbers, \$1.8Million in funding, goals that IL-501 are trying to achieve and the overall set up and function of IL-501 and where DeKalb County Continuum would fit in. Members of IL-509 engaged in detailed discussion noting several concerns. Concerns noted were ability to compete within the IL-501 CoC and current funding being absorbed and reallocated outside of DeKalb County. Another concern was the possibility of the “exchange” of regional homeless persons due to the “one list” (Rockford homeless persons being placed in DeKalb permanent housing and DeKalb homeless persons being placed in Rockford permanent housing) and the 12 month DeKalb County residency preference at Hope Haven.

Members asked for homeless numbers for other Continuums, specifically mentioning the NorthWestern Continuum IL-518, data was unknown but comments were made in regards to their CoC structure being under development and encompassing Rock Island, Moline and into Iowa was a concern.

CoC members were reminded that the current census numbers (PITC, etc) for the 2017 competition have increased, which in turn will not be good for CY2017 reporting. While there may be many reasons for the increase, HUD will see this as a flaw in our homeless system and will be reflected in a lower score on the grant and thus additional funding loss. Valuable discussion among the members continued.

Perkins stated that time is a critical factor and as of this point in the year, a merger would not be possible due to the details that need to be finalized. The discussion rounded out with participants agreeing that a merger will not be able to take place this year and that our CoC IL-509 would continue as is for another grant cycle and will be again at risk for funding loss.

As there were no further announcements and no other further business to discuss the meeting of the DeKalb County Continuum of Care, Perkins thanked participants for the time and adjourned at 11:45 AM.