

DeKalb County Continuum of Care

January 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Shelly Perkins, Jill Morgan & Jennifer Yochem, HACD; Joy Sobczak, MSHV; Colleen Bredesen, Voluntary Action Center; Linda Drake, DeKalb County Veterans Administration; Eric Hicks, DeKalb Fire Department; JoEllen Charlton, City of DeKalb; Anita Zurburgg, DeKalb County Community Foundation; Mike Verbic, City of DeKalb 6th Ward; Deanna Cada, DeKalb County Mental Health Board; Lesa Eames, DeKalb County Community Action Group; Cindy Graves, DeKalb County Health Department; Dawn Guler, AID; Mike Newman, Hope Haven; Jim Fisher, Formerly Homeless Representative; Diana Hulst, Youth Service Bureau; Dawn Littlefield, Kishwaukee United Way; Jason Leverton, DeKalb Police Department; Tynisha Clegg & Jennifer Cataldo, Family Service Agency; Yashira Alegria, Center for Family Health

Business began at 10:35 AM with Perkins welcoming attendees. New members were present and general introductions were done. Perkins reviewed the September 11, 2017 Minutes and asked for any corrections or changes to those minutes. Lesa Eames noted a change seeking correction to remove the word ‘group’ after DeKalb County Community Action. No other changes were requested, Perkins noted the changes and asked for a motion to approve the minutes as requested. Anita Zurburgg made a Motion to approve, Dawn Littlefield seconded the Motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

Perkins reviewed the 2017 CoC grant noting that the CoC was fully funded and no cuts were received. The bonus project applied for was not awarded/received. No grant debrief has been received and no scoring information is available at this time. Based upon notices coming from HUD it is suspected that next grant cycle will include focus on the Coordinated Entry System, changes in the PITC and significant focus (for improvement) on our System Performance Measures for our Continuum as a whole. Perkins noted the AHAR was submitted on December 1, 2017 and that the annual Point In Time Count (PITC) will be conducted by Hope Haven this year and will be done on January 26, 2018. Mike Newman provided hardcopy forms for data collection the night of the count and stated that further information will be coming via email by Lesly Wicks.

Members engaged in good discussion of homelessness within DeKalb. Discussion revolved around what to do when you see a homeless person, what outreach options are available and how the police department and Hope Haven work together along with many other agencies to assist homeless persons. Discussion focused on persons with mental illness and the freedom of choice and not wanting services which can be perceived as “nothing being done”. The conversation was very good among the members with the thoughts of promoting the discussion to more community members.

Mike gave an overview of the Homeless Prevention funds received noting that as of the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2017 22 households consisting of 40 children were assisted, however prevention funds are at a low balance of \$1,600. Mike noted that January – March is generally a “grace period” due to tax returns and hopes the funds can sustain the need through the end of the fiscal year.

Perkins noted that Veteran support programs are doing well. Monthly calls targeting homeless Veterans continue. With discussion of revisiting “Functional Zero” application.

General updates from group members included the following:

- Hope Haven is at capacity and during the winter months has activated their “no turn away policy”.
- DeKalb County Community Action Agency welcomes Joanne Dunbar as a second Family Support Specialist. They are referring many calls to Hope Haven and they have worked their way through the waiting list that had accrued. Deanna Cada will take over as the Executive Director.

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- 2-1-1 calls are slightly down but the volume is still good. Please continue to promote 2-1-1 and review and update your listing as needed. January 22, 2017 will be a 2-1-1 Partners meeting at 9:00 AM in this same location.
- Community Support Program is active at the main Ben Gordon Center site with a program designed to prevent homelessness with extreme and intense case management. They currently can serve 54 clients and they have expanded the Payee Program.
- The Housing Authority of the County of DeKalb – please remember to use the CoC preference when working with clients.
- Jason Leverton provided a Mental Health Grant update. Grant will be a 1-year grant for \$75K that includes hiring a coordinator to do a strategic plan to devise a plan to address the people who slip the cracks due to issues revolving around mental illness. There will be an RFP issues for an independent research partner to do a study. A potential goal could be to have a mental health triage center.

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 asked for a motion to adjourn. Dawn Littlefield made a motion seconded by Colleen Bredesen. All were in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM.