

**CJCC Jail & Jail Alternatives Committee**  
**Supportive Housing Workgroup**  
**December 3, 2021 at 9:00 p.m.**

Present: Linda Soderstrom, Laura Madsen, Kalene Engel, Audrey Rivenburg, Crystal Hegge, Aimee Buckmaster, Chris Meyer, Judy Gilow, Karen Bunkowski, Rachel Stoll, Marie Kovecs1

**Thoughts on Institute:** Judy felt that it was a good idea and feels that we need something to move forward. Rachel noted that it involves a good deal of commitment from leadership, which is a good thing, because we are all interested, but it is difficult to carve out space. Audrey felt that if we are going to move forward, we need someone from the City or County involved—it cannot just be nonprofits. Crystal believes we need to create buy-in and find the right mix of people. The consensus was that the Institute would be beneficial, but that we would need to have the right people attending the meetings.

**Area of Focus:** Discussion was held on what type of project or focus area we would have if awarded the grant. The grant proposal references a supportive housing project, but maybe that needs to be further explored.

Karen Bunkowski provided an overview of Housing Support (Group Residential Housing) as follows:

- It is referred to as “eats and sheets”—providing lodging and meals plus some basic hygiene and grooming products and cleaning once a week.
- If the vendor doesn’t actually provide food, it must give the tenant enough money for food.
- Staff time or supportive services are not required. It looks more like some of the things you might see in a hotel room.
- To be eligible for Housing Support, a person must be blind, aged or disabled and the disability must impact the person’s ability to be employed.
- A professional statement of need must be signed by the appropriate professional to verify the disability
- Some vendors choose to pay for staff
- The amount per person is over \$900 so it is typically not a situation where the landlord loses money on it.
- A person getting out of treatment could be considered disabled, but the statement of need would have to be put in place in advance to get the funding.
- The disability can be reviewed.

Karen also discussed Rate 2 Housing Support funding. Rate 2 is a separate payment of \$460 per month to pay for supportive services. All of Winona County’s Rate 2 beds are used on Hiawatha Bluffs Living. The county cannot authorize more Rate 2 beds, but must get them from other counties. The County doesn’t have a lot of experience with Rate 2. Adult Foster Homes (now called Community Residential services) also receive Housing Support and can get MA Waivers.

Laura noted that SEMCIL is or soon will be enrolled as a Housing Stabilization Services provider. Audrey stated that Catholic Charities is also applying to be a HSS provider.

Kalene screen-shared the housing continuum diagram. Attendees confirmed that the main area of focus should be in the transitional housing to permanent supportive housing area.

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 a.m.

Minutes by Kalene Engel