

CJCC Jail & Jail Alternatives Committee
Supportive Housing Workgroup
February 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Crystal Hegge, Kalene Engel, Judy Gilow, Chris Meyer, Ken Fritz, Bill Moe, Justin Green, Christy Ferrington, Anne Vandeberg, Amanda Hedlund, Karen Bunkowski, Marie Kovcesi, Rachel Stoll

I. Update from workplan assignments

- a. Gather Data on Licenses in the County (Karen Bunkowski): See the Housing Licenses in Winona County and Housing Support Agreement – Group Settings attachments. Karen provided the following information at the meeting:
- The Department of Health licenses structures for board and lodge. Board and lodges are simply food and a place to sleep. Board and lodges do not have to have staff.
 - Group homes have a different type of license; they get housing support and have more scrutiny because they have staffing.
 - Common Ground is not approved or inspected by the county.
 - Rate 2 beds:
 - Winona County has no available Rate 2 beds, nor are there any beds available in Region 10 (which Winona County is a part of). Three available Rate 2 beds have been committed to the Waters Edge development for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and two more beds are being sought from other counties.
 - The Rate 2 beds that were allocated to Hiawatha Bluff Living were from other projects that closed and other regions.
 - The reason there are so few Rate 2 beds is that about 10 years ago, people became aware of them and started building more.
 - HPH or LTH: There are beds available for High Priority Homeless (HPH) or Long Term Homeless (LTH) under a separate funding stream. For the Waters Edge Program, Zumbro Valley will be managing the HPH and Hiawatha Valley will be managing the PWD. These beds are separate from Rate 2.
- b. List of Supportive Housing Types and Capacity at HVMHC (Christy Ferrington):
- Capacity in HVMHC is different right now because a major flood at Hiawatha Bluffs Living destroyed 7 apartments and displaced several residents. (Amanda Hedlund suggested Christy contact her about workers to help repairing the damaged apartments). Typically there is room for up to 58 clients.
 - HVMHC has 4 Board and Lodge Facilities with 38 beds available. These are Rate 1 and Rate 2 Housing Support Beds. (Rate 2 allows additional staffing support, some transportation, medication monitoring, and some care coordination services.) There are approximately 30-33 Rate 2 beds for those facilities.
 - The names of those facilities are: Bluffview B & L, Winona Hall B &L, Gheel B&L, and Parkview B & L.

- Hiawatha Bluffs Living has 20 1-bedroom apartments that are also licensed as a Board and Lodge and receives Rate 2 Housing Support.

- c. Review Framework of Zumbro Valley Scattered Sites (Kalene): Kalene has arranged for representatives of ZVSS to give a presentation during the March meeting.
- d. Examples from Other Jurisdictions (Justin Green & Linda Soderstrom): See attached document entitled Supportive Housing - pros and cons of programs that are happening in other jurisdictions. Justin noted that it would be helpful to narrow the focus to one population because there is a lot of information to wade through. Kalene noted that the original “ask” in the MN Housing Partnership (MHP) grant application was for a scattered sites supportive housing model like ZVSS. Karen noted that it is important to clarify expectations when vendors approach you about developments in your community so that you know what you are committing to up front. As noted above, some resources—such as Rate 2 beds—are not currently available in Winona County. Justin stated that if we focus on who we want to serve, rather than what we want to do, it may help narrow the focus.
- e. Update from Jay Palmer at Day Center: See attached Day Center conversation notes.

II. **Update on Minnesota Housing Partnership**: We still have not been assigned a liaison yet. Kalene will contact Harlan Buckalew and set up a Zoom meeting with him and Crystal to talk about next steps and a timeline.

III. **Housing Initiatives:**

- a. Engage Winona: See the attached excerpt from the Phase 1 Engagement Report. Housing is listed as one of the top three areas that residents wanted Winona County to work on.
- b. Walz Flannagan proposed housing budget: See attached proposal. The Governor is recommending \$12 million in FY 2023 and \$30 million in FY 2024-25 to strengthen supportive housing for individuals and families who are at-risk of or have experienced homelessness. See page 8 for full budget details.

IV. **Other Discussion**: Per Ken Fritz, the county will soon be opening up the funding portal for ARPA funding proposals. Administration will be reviewing projects and making recommendations to the County Board. This presents an opportunity to secure funding for a project, but the project needs to be defined in a way that makes sense to the county board for funding. Advocacy Center is willing to serve as fiscal agent for ARPA funding as well as for the Housing Institute project. Ideas for proposals included SHOCC administrative support, a “slush fund” as a safety net for landlords who were willing to rent to people with less than stellar rental histories and start-up funding for a program like ZVSS. Kalene will reach out to the ZVSS representatives to inquire about start-up costs, which could then be incorporated into a proposal.

Next Steps:

- Kalene/Crystal speak with MHP's Harlan Buckalew about assigned expert and timeline.
- Kalene follow up with ZVSS representatives about start-up costs
- Reconvene on Mach 11, 2022 at 10 a.m.; meetings will be on the 2nd Friday of the month at 10 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 9:50 a.m.

Minutes by Kalene Engel