

CJCC Jail & Jail Alternatives Committee

Supportive Housing Workgroup

September 23, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Tim Hunter, Marie Kovacs, Kalene Engel, Crystal Hegge, Rosemary Fagrelus, Chris Meyer, Audrey Rivenburg, Linda Soderstrom

1. **Scattered Sites Supportive Housing Program:** Catholic Charities is without a controller or lead staff accountant so the hiring of the Housing Support Specialist has stalled out. Audrey suggests that the team refocus its efforts on the housing trust fund project until we know when the housing resource specialist can be hired. Karin Sonneman is willing to seek preapproval from the County Board for the county to apply for the Community Living Infrastructure Grant, which is the sustainability plan for the Housing Resource Specialist position. The preapproval is necessary because the request for proposals, when released by the Dept. of Human Services, has a very short turnaround time.

Workgroup members discussed how to proceed on the Supportive Housing Program in light of Catholic Charities current challenges. After extensive discussion the group agreed to temporarily pause the Scattered Sites project, while completing a concept paper or fact sheet to update others on the project update (which Kalene offered to draft). This would allow the group to shift gears towards the Housing Trust Fund project while remaining ready to pursue the Scattered Sites Project when appropriate.

2. **Housing Trust Fund (HTF):** Rosemary previously provided the group with information on a Housing Trust Fund. The Winona Community Foundation was identified as an entity that could possibly hold and manage the funds. Funding can come from anywhere—private donations, possibly EDA revolving loan fund money, the City of Winona, grants, etc. The funds, once donated, could only be used for housing purposes and those purposes should be defined in the documents which establish the trust fund. Rosemary suggested making the trust fund as broad as possible but incorporate a group of people (like a board of directors) who review the requests for funding and determine recipients. If the HTF monies could be used to rehab apartments for the Scattered Sites Rosemary and Crystal will schedule a meeting with Nancy Brown of Winona Community Foundation to discuss a possible HTF.
3. **Strengthening Rural Communities Grant:** Rosemary reminded the group of the grant, which would provide up to \$10,000 in funding for groups participating in the Institute. There is a 1:1 match required and the funds should be used for something related to the project(s) being pursued in the Institute. She suggested that funds could be used for drafting legal documents for the HTF. Another suggestion was to host community listening sessions about the project(s).
4. **Leadership:** The original plan for the Scattered Sites was to have Advocacy Center of Winona serve as the overseeing agency, but that has shifted to Catholic Charities. Given the change in direction, Crystal feels that it might be more effective to have a different char, as the nature of the relationship of ACW is more distant than originally anticipated. The possibility of having a rotating chairperson was discussed. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.
5. **Lived Experience Input:** Linda asked if there is anyone that can provide lived experience input in addition to her. Tim stated that Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center is looking into a shift in focus for its local advisory council. With the shift, he felt that the advisory council could possibly be levered for this group.

Next steps:

- Crystal and Rosemary meet with Nancy Brown on HTF.
- Kalene draft concept paper.
- October 12th Landlord Event at noon at Sobieski Park sponsored by ACW; Crystal will take a targeted approach to introducing the Scattered Sites Housing Project.

Meeting adjourned: 4:03 p.m.

Minutes by Kalene Engel