

CJCC Jail & Jail Alternatives Committee
Supportive Housing Workgroup
October 14, 2022 10:00 AM

Present: Crystal Hegge, Judy Gilow, Tim Hunger, Audrey Rivenburg, Kalene Engel, Rebecca Lundeen, Nick Larson, Heather Stillwill, Linda Soderstrom, Marie Kovecsi, Nancy Brown, Rosemary Fagrelus

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Recap of Housing Institute Programs (Crystal): Our primary project was the Scattered Sites Supportive Housing Project. Catholic Charities has received the funding and the next step is to hire the Housing Resource Specialist and then the Housing Advocate. We have a commitment from Karin Sonneman to ask the County Board for permission to apply for the Community Living Infrastructure Grant, which would provide funding for the Housing Specialist. While waiting for the positions to be hired, we decided to shift to the second project, which is the establishment of a Housing Trust Fund.

3. Local Housing Trust Fund:

- a. **Winona Community Foundation (Crystal & Rosemary):** Crystal and Rosemary talked to Nancy Brown at Winona Community Foundation (WCF) and she confirmed that WCF would be willing to hold the fund. Nancy sent out a request to her organization of community foundations to see if any of them were repositories for HTF and go no response. She believes this fund would be a field of interest fund with advisory privileges. Nancy is not supportive of a loan program where WCF collects payments. They would be in favor of a system whereby they collect funds and distribute them out. No more than 10% of the funding can go for administrative expenses; Nancy said that would not be a problem. Nancy also suggested that someone from the foundation be on the advisory board for the LHTF.
- b. **Procedure to Establish (Crystal and Rosemary):** To establish a local housing trust fund, an ordinance would need to be passed by a government agency that established an HRA. Thus, if the City of Winona HRA wanted to establish a HTF, the City of Winona would have to pass an ordinance. However, since Winona County does not have an HRA, Winona's situation is unique and we could work with the City of Winona HRA. Buffy from SEMMCHRA would consider holding the trust but is not interested in establishing it. Winona County and the City of Winona (or another municipality) could enter into a Joint Powers Agreement to form a regional HTF. The joint powers agreement would specify where the funds could be used, could specify the process for application and could also contain information about how the advisory board is chosen. The parameters of what can be funded can change, but it all must be related to housing. All funds must be used for housing and specific uses could be defined. This would require an annual commitment of funding, which could be from any entity that commits to provide funding and which could be in any amount. Rosemary intends to speak with the attorney who establishes HTF and will get examples of Joint Powers Agreements.
- c. **Funding a HTF:** Discussion was had on the source of the funding to establish a HTF. Debate was held on whether ARPA funding could be used for this purpose, although there is no known ARPA funding available. We can apply to the state for matching funds.

4. **Scattered Sites Housing Update:** Kalene created a FAQ handout to describe the SS project and current status. She asked that everyone review the document and provide her with corrections. Rosemary feels that the group should present the FAQ as a team at the Housing Institute. Karin agreed to bring the Community Living Infrastructure Grant to the County Board but is waiting for some information from Audrey. Crystal did not bring up the SS project at ACW's landlord education event at Sobieski because it was not the right time. Audrey noted that Sherry from Zumbro Valley was having difficulty finding people to place at the Water's Edge Apartments, mostly due to issues with how Coordinated Entry works.
5. **Education about HI Projects:** Nick noted that educating the City Council and County Commissioners (and others) about a HTF would be very important. Marie stated that she did not believe the County Board was aware of the Supportive Housing Program progress. Crystal suggested that Nancy and Rosemary be the ones to present the ideas to the County Board. Tim noted that the CREST Regional Housing Evaluation Report would be released in January and would be a nice tie-in to the SS project. The report does outline different housing options and might be helpful with the education piece.
6. **Workgroup Chair:** Marie agreed to chair the group going forward.

Next steps:

- Rosemary speak with attorney on LHTF legal documents and draft an outline of the LHTF project for presentation at the Institute.
- Everyone review the FAQs paper on SS and provide Kalene with any changes.
- Travel Team will present the papers at the next Housing Institute as a team

Meeting adjourned: 11:20 p.m.

Minutes by Kalene Engel