



## Pursuit of Housing Partners Meeting

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**Date:** May 03, 2017

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Thurman Brisben Center

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	<b>Kate Gibson (GWRC)</b>
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Monthly Meeting
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Sam Shoukas
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Kate Gibson (GWRC) Kim Lally (TBC) Kathy Anderson (Empowerhouse) Meghann Cotter (Micah) Tara Best (Loisann's Hope House) Tammy Torres (Empowerhouse) Sam Shoukas (AmeriCorps VISTA)
<b>ABSENT</b>	Lorena McDowell (NVFS) Lisa Crittenden (Loisann's Hope House)

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p><b>Approval of April 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kathy Anderson moved to approve the minutes and Tara Best seconded the motion. The minutes from April were approved by all committee members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rapid Re-Housing Spending</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group discussed the status of VHSP rapid re-housing funding. Micah indicated that they will be able to spend down their money from connections made with other partners since the last meeting. TBC stated that they may have some money for singles, and Empowerhouse indicated they would be able to assist with utilizing some of TBC's funding.</li> </ul>	

- TBC stated that they are pushing to get people housed by the end of the fiscal year.

### **Feedback on New Processes**

#### **Coordinated Assessment**

- Referrals are happening between agencies. At times still taking time away from staff that could be doing shelter duties. Still need to ensure all partners are carrying out the process the same way.

#### **Prevention**

- Partners stated that prevention is going better, but that there continue to be concerns. Kate Gibson suggested that partners continue to reach out to Lorena McDowell to communicate these issues with her.

#### **Housing Locator**

- Things are going well with the housing locator, but there are concerns about the number of referrals one position can handle. Right now she has about 30 referrals and others are going to be coming her way soon. Meghann Cotter stated that she would be increasing case manager capacity soon and that some of the housing locator's work may be shared with the new position. Right now the housing locator seems to be handling the load that she has.

#### **Furniture Bank**

- Meghann Cotter updated the group on the furniture bank. Micah has an abundance of furniture for those in need. Currently, deliveries are happening by maintenance man, John, but, in the future, volunteers will be taking over this duty. Empowerhouse had some concerns about who would be delivering to their clients and requested a system for a single contact or to perform background checks on the volunteers who would be working with their clients. Right now, Micah is working on a process for clients to choose furniture and Meghann asks for partners to contact her to discuss process.
- CVHC has stated that they will no longer be providing their furniture services next year.

#### **How Do I Help?**

- The communications group will be putting together a page on the website to direct community on how they are able to help. Group will be soliciting 3-5 ideas from each partner about how the community can help and will create the list for the website.

#### **FY 18 VSHP Application**

- Group will meet on May 18<sup>th</sup> 10-11 at TBC to discuss the application.

#### **System Walkthrough Discussion**

- Discussion focused on the solutions for emergency shelters. The group stated that the clinic will be helpful in strengthening shelters, but focus is also needed on diversion, prevention and RRH. It will be important to consider where people are waiting for shelter and think about a funneling process for prevention/diversion/shelter.

**Additional Items**

- TBC discussed the need for standards in case notes so that the conversation is focused on housing and not on the everyday conversations about behaviors. Hope House will share ideas about how they were able to change mind sets when changing their length of stays drastically. Micah will share their template for case notes that they use to stay goal-focused.
- The group discussed educating the community on the CoC and the process. This includes partners, clients, staff and general community to understand the housing first philosophy and approach and to create the buy-in needed to be successful.

<b>CONCLUSION</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON(s) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Solicit for ideas for “How I Can Help”	Kate Gibson	
Complete VHSP application and bring to group to review on May 18th	Kate Gibson	