

MINUTES
of the
WAYNE COUNTY HOUSING COALITION
Wednesday, January 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chair Krista Kidney at 7:40 a.m. Those present were:

Krista Kidney	Liberty Center Connections
Scott Morgan	Wayne Savings Community Bank
Stan Popp	Wayne Metropolitan Housing Authority
Deb Catlett	Wayne Metropolitan Housing Authority
Rebecca Civittolo	Wayne/Holmes Mental Health & Recovery Board
Tim Monea	City of Wooster
Donna Holmes	Community Action Wayne/Medina
Mary Reed	College Hills Village
David Kiefer	Community Member
Eric Killinger	Wayne County Children Services
Carol Labuza	Viola Startzman Free Clinic
Janie Grosjean	The Salvation Army
Megan Ward	OMCDC
Mary Lloyd	Outreach Community Living Services
Lydia Stahl	People to People Ministries
Donn Aukerman	Wayne County Department of Job & Family Services
Beverly Theil	Outreach Community Living Services
Brenda Linnick	United Way
Todd Jasin	United Way
Ron Leatherman	Landlord
Melissa Pearce	Community Action Wayne/Medina
Melinda Hill	OSU Extension Office
Leslie Baus	Wooster Transit, Wayne County Mobility Management
Beth Weaver	Habitat for Humanity
Thomas Doohan	The Daily Record
Nelson Weirick	Wayne County Veterans Services
Chad Laubenthal	Wayne County Veterans Services

Self introductions were made around the room.

Mary Lloyd made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2014 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Scott Morgan. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer Scott Morgan reported at balance of \$954.57 in the treasury. He gave a recap of the funds for 2014, which included membership dues income of \$719.00, and expenses including COHHIO Membership Dues, COHHIO conference registration of \$285, and gift cards for the 2014 Point-In-Time count event for \$110, for a total of expenses at \$435.

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Old Business

None

New Business

Leslie Baus shared information about the need for a transportation coalition as a forum for identifying needs and finding solutions. Following some discussion, there was a consensus that the need for a transportation coalition could be met by a forming an ad hoc committee of the Housing Coalition that could meet following the regular Housing Coalition meetings. That committee will begin meeting following the February Housing Coalition meeting.

Krista also shared information that COHHIO now has a Fair Housing attorney on staff that would be available to provide training to communities around the state on fair housing issues. Following some discussion, Krista advised she would be in contact with COHHIO and we would try to plan something for maybe this coming spring.

Committee Reports

Krista announced it was time for folks to sign up for committees again. The committee structure has been left the same. A list was circulated if anyone wanted to sign up for a specific committee today, or Rebecca Civittolo has set up an on-line sign up option that can be done later.

Announcements and Census Updates

Rebecca Civittolo reported they are working on their advocacy for the next budget cycle, and asked if anyone had a client that has really benefited from the Medicaid expansion and would be willing to write a testimonial, please let her know so they can coordinate something.

Deb Catlett reported the Housing Choice Voucher Program has 877 under lease with 589 on the waiting list and the Public Housing Waiting list is at 511.

Beverly Thiel announced the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary is having their annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser on February 7th. All the proceeds go to support children's programs in Wayne County.

Brenda Linnick reminded everyone that United Way is partnering with AARP again to do free tax returns for qualified persons with scheduling through 211. There is also a web site: myfreetaxes.org that is available. Todd Jasin noted that he had posters available with information on the tax service.

Donna Holmes announced they are doing free tax service as well starting February 2nd and they offer Monday evening appointments as well as the first Saturday of every month.

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They have seen an 8% increase in HEAP Winter Crisis already from November and December of last year. They have funds for prescription assistance, car repair, and transportation but they do need to get a new application for 2015. They are on track to move into Lincoln Way in April.

Lydia Stahl reported they still have funding but it's not as much as it used to be.

Melinda Hill announced they will begin their Steps To Homeownership classes this year in February. They run four consecutive weeks and then the next series will be in May. Stan Popp pointed out that Wayne Savings Community Bank is underwriting the largest portion of the cost of the Steps To Homeownership classes, thanks in large part to Scott Morgan. The OSU Extension office is also working with United Way to offer budgeting assistance for non-custodial parents through the Child Support Enforcement Agency.

Beth Weaver announced they are working on a new construction on Vine Street in Orrville and rehabbing a unit on Henry Street in Wooster, as well as offering some help to the neighbors in that area to spruce up their houses in the spring.

Janie Grosjean announced that the Salvation Army would like to thank everyone for their help during the kettle drive. She reported that Ronda Mullet has left the Salvation Army and is now working at The Counseling Center, and her replacement is Becky Wagner who formerly worked at Job and Family Services.

Carol Labuza reported they saw 1,134 people last year that they got Medicaid and insurance for through the market place. They are accepting children now in both the medical part of the clinic and in dental.

Leslie Baus announced that Wooster Transit is applying for funds to get two wheel chair accessible vehicles. One they will use to expand the city route and the other possibly used for paratransit and possibly some kind of door-to-door service.

Donn Aukerman announced they do have PRC funds available for rent, utilities, car repair, and if they do get assistance from Metro Housing, they are not eligible for assistance with rent, etc. as they are just moving to a different unit for cheaper rent, whereas if they were homeless and found an apartment, the funds could help with that.

Krista announced that they just received their grant agreement from the State for HCRP, so they are able to start moving again with people off their waiting list. They continue to do assessments and use a preference system. They also received recovery funding and have purchased a home in Wooster which will have 4 beds for women, but there is renovation that needs to take place, which should start soon. They also purchased a house in Millersburg for men.

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Program

Krista distributed some forms and provided training on the process and use of documents for the Point-In-Time Homeless Count which is to take place on January 27th. The dinner will be provide by and at the Knights of Columbus on Buckeye Street. Agency staff will be present to provide applications for service and housing opportunities as well as Ohio Benefit Bank staff will be available. There will also be a nurse there to provide some basic health assessment type things. Information was shared regarding how to obtain the most accurate count and who would be handling specific geographic areas.

Brenda Linnick and Todd Jasin from United Way facilitated an exercise to identify causes or contributions to poverty. There was much discussion and interaction during the process.

With no additional business to come before the Housing Coalition, and without objection, Chairperson Krista Kidney adjourned the meeting at 9:24 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan W. Popp, Secretary