Ramsey County Housing Collaborative Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2018 at Avivo

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Attendance** was taken: Heidi Olson, HIRED; Majida Handzic, Avivo; Donyella Smith, Wilder Project Quest and Malena Vang, Wilder ROOF; Sara Hesseltine, Solid Ground; Hua Moua, WFS. Guest speakers: Isabel Schneider, Financial Assistance Counselor, Ramsey County

**Sign in and Check in**

Everyone checked in and introduced themselves. Heidi Olson brought Intern Larrick with her.

Sara Hesseltine, Solid Ground, let group know that Solid Ground was currently hiring for two positions – Housing Navigator and Transition Specialist. Information on the career opportunities are listed on Solid Ground’s website.

**Employment Counselor Co-Facilitator**

* Nicki Hanson, WFS, has confirmed she will take over as Employment Counselor Co-Facilitator, starting in November. Nicki will work with Sara and Hua to set the agendas and facilitate the meetings.

**Discussion of Meeting Structures**

* There were not enough people at the meeting to be able to move forward with discussion around meeting structures, however, some ideas that were thrown out there to see if they would stick and resonate with other members were:
  + Being deliberate about checking in on what each agency is doing specifically, how their programs function in contrast and in conjunction with other agencies.
  + Also being more deliberate about using time to network between housing providers and employment counselors for benefit of residents.
  + There was discussion about how different structures could look, as far as number of meetings held per year; who is hosting and facilitating; means of communication
  + It was suggested there be a change up in topic/themes, ie:
    - Every couple months have an open discussion time
    - Be deliberate about updates from Ramsey County
  + On member would like more information on Veterans and Veterans benefits
  + Another resident would like more information on Toys for Tots, Adopt-A-Family programs, and other Christmas/Holiday drives for families – it was pointed out this is timely and we will not want to wait until the next meeting. Sara will find out information and send it out to the group.
* Hua will check to see if she can get financial workers to begin attending meetings again, to be more timely in answering county questions for employment counselors and housing providers.

**MFIP Update Sheets and Networking:**

Hua provided latest transmittal sheet. Hua has been emailing transmittal sheets out monthly.

**Next meeting:**

Next meeting will be at Avivo on Thursday, November 8, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Next meeting will be potluck and moved to earlier time. This will be for this meeting only; all meetings after November 8 will be 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Sara will send out potluck sign up. Majida wanted everyone to know there is a microwave, and there is no stove or oven. Please be aware when planning on what to bring for potluck.