

**Rice County Homeless Prevention Team
June 9th 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Attending

- Dayna Cemensky, TRCA
- Cathy Theilbar, Salvation Army
- Kari Lynn, Hope Center
- Jennifer Toth, Northfield CAC
- Kurt Halverson, Hometown Credit Union
- John Buhta, SMRLS

Agency updates

Dayna Cemensky, TRCA

- Office is closed to walk ins, can meet with clients by appointment only
- EAP is still accepting applications until July 1st.
- Dayna is still doing SNAP application assistance
- There is an on-call advocate every day doing coordinated entry assessments
 - o If you know of someone who needs one, call front desk at TRCA
- PCC: Keeping in touch with the rotary, waiting to hear about next steps for partnership, if the event is able to happen.

Administrative Office

1414 North Star Drive
Zumbrota, MN 55992
Phone: 507-316-0610
www.threeriverscap.org
TTY: MN Relay Service:
1-800-627-3529

Faribault Office

201 South Lyndale Avenue
Faribault, MN 55021

Plainview Office

55049 241st Avenue
Plainview, MN 55964

Red Wing Office

614 Plum Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Rochester Office

300 11th Avenue NW
#110
Rochester, MN 55901

Wabasha Office

Suite 120
611 Broadway Avenue
Wabasha, MN 55981

Jennifer Toth, Northfield CAC

- CAC has emergency shelter funds for things like hotel stays. Funds are going quick.
- Agency is operating in a drive through manner. Large tent out front, and client stays in car while it is determined what they need. If it is food, it is brought out to them.
- Staff is rotating in three teams. They have one team on site at a time while the other two teams support from home.

Cathy Theilbar, Salvation Army

- St. Vincent de Paul may be her new office space, just waiting for it to be approved by the Board.
- Cathy's hours would likely change to mirror St. Vincent's hours. She would be in Faribault on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-3. Her Owatonna hours would change to Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - o Her contact information would stay the same. 507-333-1337
- The goal for this move would be July 1st.
- At this time Cathy is able to help with things such as first month's rent or deposit. She is unable to assist with back rent right now.

- Cathy will still be getting school supplies and toys this year from Salvation Army. She said that if any agencies need school supplies, or know of places that she can donate to, please let her know.
- Cathy will not be able to attend the PCC if it is held on 11/7 with the rotary, but she plans to ask a board member to attend to have the Salvation Army be present at the event.
- Cathy received a grant from the HRA for hotel stays for the Rice County Area.

Kari Lynn, Hope Center

- Hope Center is very busy. They are still working from home but providing all services. Two people are typically on phones with other staff providing back up as needed.
- At this time, any court hearings that need to happen, such as order for protection hearings, are taking place via Zoom, so they are still able to be present with their client.
- Hope Center did receive COVID relief funding for safe home placement. Refer to Hope Center if you think someone could utilize this.

Kurt Halverson, Hometown Credit Union

- Kurt is still able to meet with clients via Zoom.
- His services are free as always and he welcomes referrals.
- Right now he provides evening classes as well as a "Lunch & Learn" on Fridays from 11-11:30.
 - o If anyone is interested in presenting for these Lunch & Learn sessions, contact Kurt.
 - o The Sessions are available for viewing through Hometown Credit Union's website, and the sessions are recording and uploaded to YouTube.

John Buhta, SMRLS

- Reminded everyone of the "Can I be evicted" flowchart
 - o Provided link in chat during Zoom call (attached with meeting minutes) <https://www.lawhelpmn.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/COVID-19%20Renters%20-%20Eviction%20Flow%20Chart.pdf>
- At this point, the eviction moratorium is in place until June 12th but may be extended
- John discussed the CARES Act and how housing that is backed by federal funding is protected against non-payment of rent. This goes until the end of August.
- John encourages everyone to reach out to him or Mary Vrieze with any specific questions.

- Court is not happening, especially with no evictions. Focus is on anything criminal related at this point. Evictions are coming and it will likely be a large amount to hit the courts as soon as the eviction moratorium is lifted.
- SMRLS hired another housing attorney.
- John will be transitioned into working with some consumer law. This may include credit report issues, loan issues, debt, etc.
 - o A lot of things may be considered consumer law, reach out to John directly if you think you have a situation that may apply for this.
- SMRLS is looking into services for staff to avoid burnout/emotional toll that the current events can take on services providers.

Next Meeting:

July 14th 2020 @ 10am

will likely take place via Zoom – more info to follow