Kelly Welch welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Kelly reported on the progress of the Wyandotte/Kansas City CoC merger. Early next week members of both CoC’s will receive the merger documents, including the by-laws for the merged CoC, the interim plans for accomplishing the merger, info on the merged board, etc. At the next meeting (MARCH 23rd, 10:00AM) membership will be voting to support the merger. There will be time for a discussion of the merger at that time. Please share the documents with management staff at your agency and be prepared to cast a single vote on behalf of your agency on the 23rd of March.

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There was a discussion about the underlying reasons for the merger. Significant reasons are 1) creating a barrier free environment for clients, who do not want to base decisions on the county/state line, 2) build on the similarities between the two counties, rather than focusing on differences, 3) this first ever bi-state/bi-county merger will be on the cutting edge of the HUD/USICH goals for the future, 4) position the merged CoC to become a Unified Funding Agency in the next 5 years (UFA’s are super-CoC’s), 5) the merged CoC will support Coordinated Assessment advances and increased progress on uniform intake and 6) efficiency in operating a CoC that truly represents and serves a metropolitan area. Our Regional HUD CPD office is in support of the merger and have encouraged us to complete the process before May 2016, in anticipation that the next NOFA being announced in June 2016.

The following information was added by HSCGKC staff re: the merger. The two Boards have acknowledged the barriers that will be a part of the merger, i.e. a concern over ensuring fair funding for current projects in both CoC’s, a fair distribution of any available new funds through the NOFA process and finally, the normal concerns when two organizations become one re: identity, complexity of creating a representative board and the loss of public history/identity. Both Boards agree that the gains outweigh the challenges we will face in accomplishing the merger.

Kelly also updated the membership on the HMIS Lead Agency Governance Board work. The Board has written their by-laws and formed two committees (business plan for sustainable funding and system functionality) to go improve HMIS inter-face with agencies. It’s important to note that this is a collaboration of the three contiguous CoC’s including Jackson, Wyandotte and Johnson Counties.

Vickie Riddle reported on HSCGKC issues. There has been no information from HUD about when the 2016 NOFA awards will be published. HSCGKC has 574 PIT/VI-SPDAT surveys currently being entered into the HMIS data base and estimate that the draft PIT report will be available in mid-March 2016. We have received all of the HIC census forms.

She also noted that the HSCGKC Board, as a part of their work in reviewing agency by-laws and evaluating the over-all function of the agency, inclusive of the Continuum of Care, is looking at the HUD requirements for performance. HUD has noted that the VI-SPDAT is the current best practice tool to use for client intake and establish client prioritization for service based on acuity (including the by-name-client-registry). The Board is discussing a recommendation to the membership that all agencies use the VI-SPDAT (individual, family or youth based on agency service scope/client...
appropriate). Initially it would be a prerequisite to HUD funded project applications, and then recommended for use by all agencies represented in the continuum of care of services for homeless persons.

The third annual Project Homeless Connect/KC will be held on September 13, 2016. PHC’s around the country have found that holding the event on Tues-Wed-Thurs results in better connections/follow-through for clients with agencies providing services. It will be at the Gregg-Klice Center, at 17th and Prospect, again this year. Agencies will be able to set up starting at 7:30AM on the 13th and client services will start at 10:00AM, and end at 4:00PM. Episcopal Community Services is providing the food for the event at no charge, a great development; thanks to Beau Heyens, ED, for this donation. The planning group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Global Prairie office (1703 Wyandotte KCMO), 5:30-7:00PM—please join us.

This month’s Program Spotlight was on Domestic Violence Services within our continuum. Lisa Fleming, COO, Rose Brooks Center opened the presentation with an overview of DV services, then introduced Traci Francis, Hope House, Susie Copeland, New House and Sara Brammer, Synergy Services. They each highlighted their programs and spoke about the effective collaboration between the programs to assure a comprehensive range of needed services for victims of domestic violence. All three programs brought handouts for their services, including contact information. Robin Winner, Synergy CEO, noted that local providers are sited as a model for other DV programs throughout the state. Lisa Fleming closed the program with a discussion of the effective Lethality Assessment developed by the local network that police and others use when they are on domestic violence goals. Lisa reiterated that the goal of domestic violence services is to screen people in to avoid further harm and danger. Vickie commented that she has often heard our Kansas City providers referenced as national models during conferences, etc. She noted that we are fortunate to have this incredible resource in our community. Specific program highlights noted by program;

- **Newhouse** has an in-house accredited school, as well as
- An adult and a child therapist on site.
- **Synergy** offers off-site support and therapy groups that are open to the public as well as
- Services for transgender and male victims,
- Services for family members of the domestic violence victims and
- Coordinates services for the Platte and Clay counties.
- **Rose Brooks** offers shelter for pets of domestic violence victims,
- Economic empowerment and credit repair services,
- Hospital advocacy 24/7,
- A School Violence program.

**Committee Reports**

1. **Employment**: Arthur Diaz reported that the Comm meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at MARC, 3:00-4:30PM. They are planning a job fair for later this summer and would like participation from a variety of agencies. Scott Wagner, Mayor Pro-Tem is coordinating a Job Fair for Veterans this spring, information will follow.

2. **Mainstream Benefits**: Robbie Phillips reported that the comm is working to increase SOAR training and will begin working on access issues in the near future. Their next meeting is on 4/19/2016, at Swope Health Center. An agenda will be mailed in mid-March.

3. **HMIS**: Megan Judd reported that this morning the HMIS comm meet with the User’s Group for training. Their next meeting will be on March 23, at 9:00AM before the membership meeting. They continue to work on the new HUD performance measures; the training for the PM will be in April.

4. **Permanent Housing**: Julie Wilber Parks reported that the comm is finishing the Housing Policy for accessing RRH and PSH, including disability, housing engagement and veteran’s needs. There will be a survey (sent by HSC) to
all agencies about the criteria agencies use before the policy is finalized. When the policy is complete hopefully it will result in 1 application used by all agencies and includes policies and procedures for disability eligibility, housing engagement and veterans. The comm is also planning a training on effective use of the VI-SPDAT (time/loc to be determined-sometime in March), with information on the use of the three different instruments-individual, family and domestic violence.

Jake Pitts reported that the Housing Locators from Truman ACO, reStart and the VA will begin meeting to improve their ability to share information and maintain accurate information about clients. Contact Jake at jacob.pitts@tmcmed.org if you would like to join them.

5. **ZERO: 2016:** Howie reminded **EVERYONE THAT IT IS CRITICAL THAT ALL PSH, RRH AND TH PROVIDERS WHO SERVE VETERANS ATTEND THE NEXT ZERO; 2016 MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, FEB 22ND AT reSTART, AT 3:00PM. WE NEED DO INSURE THAT THE BY-NAME-REGISTRY-LIST IS ACCURATE.** There are 75 new VI-SPDATs from veteran’s post the 2016 PIT.

Howie thanked everyone who helped with the PIT this year.

6. **Children and Youth:** Lynn Durbin reported on the Children’s Initiative/Jackson-Clay successful campaign kick-off on January 22nd 2016. Steve Roling, the Honorary Children’s Initiative Chair facilitated the event, which included support and rationale from across the community. A community event will be held in June and the public efforts at signatures for the initiative will begin after the E-Tax vote. Lynn noted that in Jackson County the ¼ cent sales tax will produce $25-30M per year for children’s services in Jackson county and $8-10M in Clay county. The website, www.childrensfund.org is available and has broad and deep information on the performance of the 8 Children’s funds already active in MO, partners, governance, etc. Each agency that serves children is encouraged to become involved in and supportive of the initiative. Contact Robin Winner, Children and Youth Comm Ch at rwinner@synergyservices.org or 816-587-4100 for additional information.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Hillcrest** has an opening for an unpaid on-site housing supervisor that includes free rent and utilities. Please contact LuAnn Rose at 816-600-2681.

**Benilde Hall** an opening for an MSW therapist. Please contact Joanne Stovall at 816-842-5836 for information.

**USCAA** has utility funds available. Daphne Orphey recommends that people walk-in because the phone is often busy, 816-358-6868.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie L. Riddle, ACSW
HSCGKC

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