



**Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2022  
5:00-7:00 pm; Zoom**

**Board Members Present:** Pat Chen, Julie Cole, Paul Lenzmeier, Stephen Nash, Don Phillips, JJ Slag

**Board Members Absent:** Brad Konik, Stephen Spears, Anna VonRueden, Sue Woodward

**Staff and Guests Present:** Angie Forsman, Brooke Limanen, Mark McNamer, Julie Orlando, LaChelle Williams

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03pm by Steve Nash.

**Mission Moment (LaChelle Williams)**

LaChelle shared the following for 2021:

- There were nearly 2500 visits to the Drop-In Center.
- 222 youth received case management services.
- 1450 meals were served.
- Daily referrals were made for housing, mental health, chemical addiction, education, employment and so much more through our youth connections.
- HOPE 4 Youth brought in \$400,000 in the month of December, moving our year-end results from a deficit to a surplus.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

**Motion** made by Paul Lenzmeier, seconded by Don Phillips, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda and November 2021 minutes.

**Board Member Engagement (Steve Nash)**

HOPE 4 Youth will be decreasing board meetings to six per year to help accommodate our successful and busy Board of Directors. There will be an increased focus on committee work with monthly written reports from each committee. We will begin utilizing the board packets to get information so that more discussion can happen during the board meetings.

One of the goals is to use board more effectively to fundraise. HOPE 4 Youth has an aggressive budget this year. Board members are encouraged to think outside the box to help expand the fundraising efforts.

### **Executive Director Report (LaChelle Williams)**

In 2021 HOPE 4 Youth reached 341 youth and successfully turned a trending deficit into a surplus. We have secured HR resources through MACC, which will provide us ongoing support with HR practices and improvements. The HOPE 4 Youth culture has improved with our team being able to work creatively and collaboratively. We will fill our open Administrative Coordinator position by March 1 and are looking to expand our current parttime role of HOPE Homes Specialist to fulltime if we receive Pohlad funding. We are filling gaps in marketing, grant writing, social media etc., by partnering with contractors. Our financial situation is strong and perception by our partners has improved.

The Senior Leadership team has unpacked the Strategic Plan work of the Steering Committee. Julie, LaChelle and Mark have begun the process of operationalizing the plan.

There is a meeting scheduled on Thursday with Representative Stephenson on the BUILDING HOPE project. A question was asked about the current Drop-In Center and what it to become of it. It was stated that while we would be reducing our presence in Anoka, we would possibly be keeping offices in Anoka to maintain that relationship. A discussion was had about mental health services being available in the new space, and the benefit of having the drop-in and Admin in in same building. We have been steadily outgrowing our current drop-in center and funding is available now. The options are finding vacant land to build on or securing one of the limited number of properties for sale. The question was put to the board, does anyone have a contact?

### **Finance & Administration December Financial Report (Angie Forsman and LaChelle Williams)**

HOPE 4 Youth ended the year with a surplus. 30% of HOPE 4 Youth's total revenue for the year came in December. Government grants and individual donors were the major contributors. 50% of the year expenses is salaries and benefits.

It was asked how HOPE 4 Youth turned a planned deficit into a surplus. LaChelle explained that there were OEO reimbursement funds that were found and that the team really pushed to raise the extra funds.

### **Program Update (Mark McNamer)**

Mark talked about HOPE 4 Youth's plan to socialize and execute the four program pillars and four outcomes based on nationally recognized models. He also spoke about how youth move the program at HOPE 4 Youth. At HOPE Place, Mica has decreased the vacancies to an average of 7 days. And 9 out of the 12 youth at HOPE Place have successfully moved to stable housing.

HOPE Homes has served 23 youth since inception. Mark referred to Jack's story which is posted on the website for further insight into the success of this program. At the Drop-In Center 59% of the youth that walked through the door received case management services. Delfina, Youth Services Coordinator, is in the process of attaining her Outreach certification. There are currently two interns working at the drop-in center.

Other goals discussed for 2022, were to amplify program attainment, create and strengthen partnerships and elevate communication.

**Advancement Update (Julie Orlando)**

Julie offered that part of the fourth quarter success was due to the format of HOPE 4 Youth's annual appeal. The communication was changed from a letter to an easier to read pamphlet in 2020. Advancement goals for 2022 include engaging and retaining stakeholders, to fundraise over \$1,485,000 and to amplify our mission with compelling content on social media, our website and e-communications.

Upcoming Events:

A Night 4 HOPE - Apr 23, at The Mill Site in Anoka

May One Run in St Paul - May 1, HOPE 4 Youth is a beneficiary along with Treehouse

The Darkest Night 4K - Sept 30

Out of the Cold - Nov 7-11, mornings and evenings

**Open Business (Steve Nash)**

Discussion about creating a Program Committee and a Diversity Equity Committee. The board was asked if there was any committee, they would like to be a part of.

**Adjourn**

The meeting ended at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Limanen, Finance and Data Specialist

