Participants:
Keshia Meissner, Melissa O'Neil, Catherine Gerdes, Roberta Victor, Jim Cain, Pam Carmichael, Leon Negan, Kate Polush, Doug Stodgel, Margo Miller-Ramirez, Cindy Rybolt

Call to Order:
Catherine called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M.

Approval of Minutes of January 2017 meeting:
Leon moved for approval of the minutes and Keshia seconded the motion. The January minutes were approved.

By-Laws:
Catherine asked that everyone review the proposed changes which have been sent out and come to the March meeting prepared to discuss and vote on them.

Data:
No data report.

Emerging Issues and Trends:
Ideas to address shortage of landlords who will accept TBRA/Rapid Re-housing: Pam reported that IFA’s consolidated plan includes an increase in HOME (including TBRA) funds. The concerns of landlords need to be addressed so that they are more willing to accept tenants with subsidies. One important component is for the subsidy to be for a longer time, especially for chronic homeless. Landlords are understandably leery when the lease is a year but the subsidy is much shorter. Pam proposed putting together a package of services for landlords and a pool of money that could be used to pay for substantiated damages up to one month’s rent beyond the deposit paid by the tenant. Inspections by a neutral third party would be done at move-in and move-out. Pam would be willing to write a grant application and use H.O.M.E. Inc.’s counselors and mediation. The council expressed support for this proposal. Jim suggested this proposal go up through the coordinated services committee and that it include education of landlords, not just about rights, but also about the needs of clients. Margo mentioned that Amanda, PHC’s housing navigator, is doing some of these things, including: mediation, heading off problems and asking landlords to contact the case manager when problems start.

Jim reported from the COC webinar that HUD is moving to systemic outcomes and Length of Stay is going to be a problem for Polk County for future applications. Melissa commented that we have to do something differently. We are competing against each other for the same funds and doing the same thing over and over and nothing is changing. CISS served 2068 unduplicated people in 2016. It is the most ever and more people
are from outside of Polk County. Leon and Catherine report the same trend. Pam mentioned that the Capitol Crossroads 2.0 plan has a section on housing and building/designing housing for different income groups, but nothing about homeless people. They are trying to get people to come into the area. They need to understand that 10% of the people coming in are going to be vulnerable/homeless and have need for services when they cross the county line. Pam proposed preparing a white paper that conveys the message about the work that is being done to house people but that new people keep coming. 179 people from CISS were placed into housing but 173 new people took their place. Pam will talk to her marketing person and think about what data would be helpful. Melissa will forward the draft white paper that CISS had started. Family data will be included as well.

**Community Mapping of Services and Committees:**

There are a multitude of meetings that are essentially the same meeting. One could spend 7-8 hours/month attending them. A better understanding of their function and overlap would be beneficial.

**The meeting adjourned at 11:29 AM**

**Minutes submitted by Cindy Rybolt**