**DRAFT MINUTES**

Friday, September 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m., Virtual Meeting

**Meeting Minutes & Other Resources:** <http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/Public/Pages/PC46LN13>

*Participants self-report attendance through a shared Google Sheet:*

[**https://tinyurl.com/ICH-Attendance**](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftinyurl.com%2FICH-Attendance&data=02%7C01%7CAmber.Lewis%40iowafinance.com%7C647d4999c28d4dcd8db208d73dc28981%7C0e7d394658c840c4b5ca04ab67de9145%7C0%7C0%7C637045778053829965&sdata=0DYp6cvDa%2B9RhYcLJ5fwJEFXlGNvu%2FkQe%2FJ7sW4rsP4%3D&reserved=0)

Chair Ashley Odom opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Participants reported attendance through the shared Google sheet. Quorum was attained with 25 voting members reporting.

* **Approval of Agenda *(Action Item)***
  + Motion: Dennis
  + Second: Gary
  + Unanimously approved
* **Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2020** *(Action Item)*
  + Motion: Karin
  + Second: Tim
  + Unanimously approved
* **Committee/Task Force Reports**
* **Executive Committee** (*Ashley Odom*)
  + Last meeting, reviewed letter to HUD Secretary regarding proposed Equal Access rule change.
  + Also discussed which direction to head with the Council, since the Council no longer oversees the Continuum of Care Program. Will continue to have more conversation regarding where we want to head with the Council. Lots of opportunities ahead, with more time to focus on other priorities.
* **Nominating Committee** (*Tim Wilson)*
  + Tim discussed the recent Member Orientation held earlier this week. There are three new members, with 100% participation from new members. New member Stefanie Munsterman introduced herself and her background. Tim briefly introduced Cody Crawford. New member Clare Lindahl also introduced herself and her background. Final update is that the Council has a pending application/representative from the Iowa Association of Counties, Suzanne Watson, but the governor has not confirmed this membership. Tim will also follow up with an attendance letter as needed for one current member that has missed multiple meetings recently.
* **Research and Analysis Committee** *(David Hagen)*
  + Through Covid, have not had any formal meetings, just some emails. Thinking about how to best serve the Council as we continue with the governance transformation. One idea: maybe it’s time for a different committee, and step this one aside. Second idea: continue to be this committee when some special issue comes up that the Council wants to dig into, such as racial disparity. A third idea: research and advocacy to lift up the voices of those experiencing homelessness, to better understand where there may be gaps in services and prevailing needs. Interested in really getting representation from all 99 counties on the Council as we move forward.
  + Karin: Asked if there is any interest in addressing the lack of available affordable housing. Could we use our knowledge to graphically make this available to elected officials? Karin noted the sentence is always, “there is no housing available.” May be a big lift, but important. David responded he liked this and would bring back to those involved in the committee.
  + Crissy: Noted this is a really important conversation and great project, but concerned about the Council not having an overarching strategic focus, whether we call this a formal plan or not. We need to figure out how to get into a more cohesive process as soon as possible, to reconfigure what the Council will really be about. Crissy also mentioned the national housing study, “Out of Reach.” Could amplify some of the materials that are already available. Crissy also noted she was devasted by her experience on the recent state housing recovery workgroup to see none of their recommendations reach the top-level group.
* **Policy & Planning** (*Crissy Canganelli*)
  + Crissy reported that in the short-term, they know they need to begin work on the letter to the governor. She also noted they never received any response to last year’s letter, let alone even acknowledgement of receipt. Clare asked to be added to this committee.
  + Alex noted his experience as well working with the governor and the recent task forces, and his confidence that housing is high on the governor’s radar even if specific recommendations didn’t make it through to the brief written report. Alex also asked more about the process of submitting last year’s letter to the governor and Crissy described. Alex suggested making the governor’s letter a two-way street with staff at the governor’s office, at least at the start, asking for their input to begin with regarding housing/homelessness issues. Crissy welcomed this input and asked Alex to help make those connections if he knows specific staff there.
* **Public Awareness Committee** (*Alex Freeman*)
  + Alex provided an update. In October there are two events planned for site visits; invitations will be firmed up this week and Alex will share with Council members. Will also invite some local elected officials. Will do five by the end of the year and before the next legislative session. Alex also invited input from others at any time related to Public Awareness – news stories, updates about what providers are doing, etc.
  + Crissy asked about the process for identifying which communities were identified. Alex described it is a pilot process, looking at geographic diversity, and connections to the Council, or unique practices, and would like to expand further in the future. Crissy would like to make sure the Council is fully on board with the agencies selected before moving forward with a new initiative like this. Karin Ford also noted the importance of transparency with the Council.
  + Alex specifically mentioned Central Iowa Shelter & Services, YSS, Friends of the Family, and New Visions.
* **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Report, Institute for Community Alliances** *(Gary Wickering)*
  + Gary provided a brief report. Still expects the official HUD LSA reporting process to continue. Not clear what may happen with this year’s Point in Time unsheltered count due to Covid, although the sheltered report is likely to continue as usual.
  + Gary also reiterated to providers that for anyone receiving ESG-CV1 (Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act Round 1) funding, these projects have to be set up differently in HMIS, and agencies need to reach out to ICA (Institute for Community Alliances) to ensure these are set up. First reports will start in October. Some special challenges such as in Pottawattamie County, with agencies on a different HMIS system but still receiving state funding. Crissy asked and Gary also discussed how Homelessness Prevention is handled with Coordinated Entry and HMIS.
* **Iowa Finance Authority Staff Updates** *(Amber Lewis)*
  + Amber noted that administratively, things are going smoothly with the Council. Virtual meetings have been going well and these will continue for the time being.
* **Old Business**
  + None
* **New Business**
  + Jess Bleile shared an overview of the new Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care website. The site is <http://iaboscoc.org>.
  + Dennis also provided a brief update overall about the work of the new Continuum of Care Board, including a new strategic planning initiative they intend to pursue.
  + Tim noted Cody Crawford has now joined, and Cody provided a brief introduction.
  + Amber provided an update on plans for the second allocation of funding to Iowa from the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV2). A Plan Summary is available on IFA’s website and was distributed by email to ESG stakeholders.
* **Public Comments**
* **Next Meeting:** Friday, **November 13**, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
* **Adjourn**
  + Motion: Ben
  + Second: David
  + Unanimously approved
  + The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m.

*Minutes submitted by Amber Lewis*