

Iowa Council on Homelessness and CoC Peer to Peer Meeting  
Wednesday May 13, 2020  
Minutes

Topic- Forging New Partnerships During COVID-19

- Attendance:

**Julie Eberbach**, ICA, **Courtney Guntly**, ICA, **Jessica Bleile**, ICA, **Carrie Moreno**, VA, **Gary Wickersing**, ICA, **Tim Wilson**, Home Forward Iowa, **Patti Robinson**, YWCA Clinton, **KarLee Kearns**, FOFIA, **Sabrina Schaeffer**, Community Action of Eastern Iowa, **Cody Crawford**, ASAC, **Kara Nutt**, Family Crisis Centers, **Grace Fee**, Salvation Army Waterloo/Cedar Falls, **Malia Dunn**, Salvation Army Quad Cities, **Jennifer Leirness**, MCSA, **Alison Justice**, Bridges West Transitional Housing, **Jan Zeleke**, Home Inc, **Leslie Van Der Molen**, Catholic Charities, **Hope Metheny**, YSS, **Zeb Beilke-McCallum**, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, **Linda Munden**, Emergency Residence Project, **Joanna Green and Teresa Cardoza**, MCSA, **Lisa Pelz**, YSS, **Mary Ingham**, Crisis Intervention Service, **Dennis Lauterbach**, ICH member, **Amanda Hohmann**, ECIA, **Allison Hannah**, VA, **Mark Sertterh**, Shelter House, **Jen Perez**, YESS, **Angie Arthur**, Polk County CoC, **Debbie Peck**, Shelter House, **Tess Cody**, ACCESS, **Maria Machua**, Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless, **Pearl Hammes**, Crisis Intervention Services, **Rachel Olson**, Crisis Intervention Services, **Cecelia Aguilera**, Family Resources Davenport, **Karin Ford**, ICH member, **Melissa O'Neil**, Central Iowa Shelter & Services, **Erin Sullivan**, Shelter House, **Jennifer Tibbetts**, Catherine McCauley Center, **Kim Motl**, Upper Des Moines Opportunity Inc., **Angie Williams**, MICAH House.

- **What partnerships have you created and why?**

Jen- YESS Biggest partnership in Polk County with Primary Health Care. The shelter is dealing with people becoming homeless, not being able to pay rent or get jobs. 12 children that are homeless between 2 families in last month and trying to get room for family of 5-7 is difficult in metro. They are working with DHS and Juvenile Courts, did have a positive case a week and a half ago. Visits have stopped and things have gotten tighter and looking for funding. Still have parents coming for visits onsite, but kids are not able to go out of the building for home visits. Also have hard time finding foster homes, doing zoom meetings to ensure proper placement. Have set up crisis respite for kids.

Amanda- CSEI in Dubuque they utilize access points for Coordinated Entry with hotline. In Dubuque county they have partnered with Dubuque Area Labor Harvest for emergency food deliveries to those who are unable to leave their home at this time. Right now, the hotline is a little slower due to moratorium being in effect.

Cecelia- Family Resources- moved all clients to offsite hotels and Salvation Army delivers food to these households.

Melissa- Central Iowa Shelter and Services- been on phone nonstop with community partners to start forging relationships and governance policies and procedures to launch when need arises in Balance of Counties area of the state. Working with Indian Hills Community College to use student housing. Energized and excited to have great partnerships in communities.

Sabrina- Community Action of Eastern Iowa- community members go online and apply for emergency food and diapers and utility bills to get assistance.

- **What barriers are you encountering and how could partnerships alleviate those barriers?**

Melissa- CISS- biggest barrier, what is the state looking for. Financial side of supporting individuals, how do we know what we will financially have to help. May 27<sup>th</sup> is right around the corner.

Angie-Polk County Continuum of Care- agrees with Melissa with timeframe being concern, we are trying to work ahead of time, but funding from federal perspective and HUD guidance, we may not have funding available to community right when we need it. Working to find other options.

Amber Lewis - IFA- ESG is one component, there are conversations at the state regarding rental assistance and what may be possible and helpful. Some waiting to see what the governor wants to do and her direction. CDBG was just awarded a second allocation through CARES just this week and conversation is actively going on this. We hopefully should know more within a week or so.

Dennis Lauterbach- is there any way to get in front of governor?- to Amber, she is unsure.

Jan- Home Inc.- could governor extend eviction moratorium until we know what we are doing with those dollars.

Julie Eberbach- ICA- remember that state eviction moratorium ends, federal does not end. So, if rental property has any federal dollars involved in any level, then their moratorium does not end at end of May. Hearing in communities, particularly in Des Moines, growing concern around medical respite, what happens when people who are literally homeless become infected with Covid-19 and require medical respite care? Are there medical services clients could access at this medical respite care?

Jess-ICA- other resources to consider are FEMA and local Community Foundation—Dubuque Community Foundation has a fund set aside for assistance.

Amanda- CSEI- Local city housing authority has worked with a private landlord and hotel and have emergency COVID-19 shelter in place. Been working with hospitals, shelters, and providers and offered up the shelter. Had some EMT's volunteering throughout the process. May be good to connect with your community's emergency manager and Health Preparedness Committee.

Karin Ford- Folks that have had good outcomes could write us that process and we could post it. To get in front of governor, would it be helpful sending a letter of concern we have, showing barriers.

Zeb-Iowa Coalition against Domestic Violence- sent a letter with 22 other community groups at the end of April urging an extension of moratorium and use that letter as a basis with a follow up with letter from folks on council. Dennis asked for letter and it is publicly posted but will be send to Karin or Amber. (available here: [https://www.aclu-ia.org/sites/default/files/2020-04-30\\_eviction\\_moratoria\\_letter.pdf](https://www.aclu-ia.org/sites/default/files/2020-04-30_eviction_moratoria_letter.pdf))

Dennis- are we pushing out the homeless need enough? Try to get word out about homeless need in addition to the need of food that is in media.

Karin Ford- responded that Rebecca at The Des Moines Register is a good contact.

- **What partnerships are missing and what can CoC do to help forge those?**

Tim Wilson with Home Forward Iowa- this is the time with so many funds coming from different streams to have conversations with city and county officials around solutions to permanent housing.

Jess-ICA-Now that we can see where the gaps are, we can use those to talk with local leaders so they know where needs are.

- **How do/can you engage organizations/people to create new partnerships?**

Jen-YESS-school counselors are getting emails about parents having struggles with children. Met with Des Moines Public Schools about family having crisis sessions and helping provide services through Zoom.

Karin- has anyone been involved with faith-based community? In Smaller and rural communities they can provide an outlet we do not always think about. Emphasis should be on partnering to support and receive funding to alleviate pressure on shelters to get people into housing and items for housing and personal items.

Melissa-CISS -had a call with 4 faith leaders across entire state, very concerned about homelessness and ability to pay rent in the future.

Dennis- respond to Karin, challenge is what is the request and what is the purpose for our contact? Is it a statewide funding mechanism or will it be towards individualized work? New CoC Board has a meeting tomorrow afternoon at 2pm, we can make that a topic we discuss.

Karin- There is also a need to get stuff into an apartment for individuals. Getting new CoC up and running has taken most of the effort.

Angie- need for conversation and having flexibility of funds for prevention. Work group in Polk county working on prevention, it is not funding they have had in community last few years. Discussion on operational, prioritization, etc. Also make sure from racial equity perspective that people can utilize their services. Wells Fargo funding assisted in putting some structure in place and we could look at that structure to utilize for funds from other private funds.

Jess-ICA-Another resource is the Community Organizations Active in Disaster. They have a process to get funds out quickly.

- **Next Steps- Engage your region- documents will be provided with minutes focusing on how to work collaboratively with other homeless programs within your region and more.**
- **Other discussion.**

Carrie- VA- getting veterans housed, but do not have access to beds. Does anyone have a connection- PHC had a bunch of beds donated in Polk County and have already utilized?

Muscatine for Center for Action- Idea to ask community to donate new air mattresses until a new bed can be provided.

Jen- YESS- contacting a hotel and seeing if any of their roll away cots would be available as a donation

Cecelia- Avocado Mattress Company- cannot accept returns so for their region they send all their stuff to them, purple mattress company does this as well.

Dennis- mask situation- organization on Facebook called Masks For Frontline Iowa. People making masks and doing free of charge.

- Does 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month work for everyone moving forward in June?
  - Works well, will not change.
- Survey monkey will be sent for feedback on future topics.

Survey Monkey Link- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/59968YY>

**Next meeting- Wednesday May 27, 2020 9-10 am**  
**Topic- Virtual Apartment/Housing Hunting**