**MINUTES**

Friday, March 18, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Virtual Only

**Meeting Minutes & Other Resources:** <https://www.iowafinance.com/homelessness/homeless-service-agencies/iowa-council-on-homelessness/>

*Participants self-reported attendance through a shared Google Sheet.*

<https://tinyurl.com/March2022ICH>

Chair Ashley Schwalm opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. She noted that Karin Ford would be taking over as chair at 11:15 if the meeting is not over before then. A quorum of 19 members was achieved.

* **Introductions**
  + Ashley reminded everyone to sign in using the link in the agenda.
* **Approval of Agenda *(Action Item)***
  + Motion: Dennis Lauterbach
  + Second: Karin Ford
  + Unanimously approved
* **Public Comment Period:** A public comment period for the full meeting will be held at this time to accommodate visitors. This period is limited to 2 minutes per person and 10 minutes in total.
  + None
* **Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2022** *(Action Item)*
  + Motion: David Lyons
  + Second: Karin Ford
  + Unanimously approved
* **Committee/Task Force Reports**
* **Executive Committee** (*Ashley Schwalm*)
  + **Strategic Planning Update**: Not a lot of updates, other than the discussion of what the Council will look like moving forward, as long as the legislation passes. A small group is working to get a meeting scheduled for other aspects of strategic planning.
* **Nominating Committee** (*Tim Wilson)*
  + **Proposed Code Changes Update**
  + Plan for Filling General Population Membership
  + Tim provided an update from this committee. He described the likely upcoming change in the membership of the Council. This includes a change in the makeup of the Nominating Committee, whereby the representatives of state agencies become the Nominating Committee temporarily in order to make new recommendations to fill the seats for the transition. Tim also noted the new legislation will include 11 members of the general public, 8 of which should be drawn from current members. All current members would have their memberships end on 6/31/22. Tim will send an email next week to all current general public members of the Council, asking who is interested in continuing their membership on the Council. The committee may then make recommendations from among those interested in continuing. The governor will have final authority for appointments.
* **Policy & Planning Committee** (*Crissy Canganelli*)
  + No updates.
* **Public Awareness Committee** (*TBD*)
  + Ashley noted the Council is looking for a chair for this committee.
* **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Updates, Institute for Community Alliances** *(Gary Wickering)*
  + Gary provided an update. The ICA-wide dashboard has been updated for all CoCs: <https://icalliances.org/system-performance-dash>. Any questions, let Gary know.
  + Point in Time Count: HUD had a late start and opened their data portal just two days ago. Their goal is to be done by April. ICA will have reports coming soon for this, as soon as the federal obligation is met.
  + Gary also noted that ICA is hiring, with information on their website.
* **Continuum of Care (CoC) Updates, as available**
  + Iowa Balance of State CoC (96 counties)
    - Jess Bleile, associate director, provided an update. They have some new board members. They are in the final process of consolidating the three separate Coordinated Entry grants. The annual meeting will be coming up on May 11th. New CoC awards were made by HUD. New training will be coming.
    - Rachael Falapour, staff liaison for Youth Action Board: Asked if anyone knows of youth in their area that are interested in becoming involved, including for the summer Point in Time Count, to connect with Rachael.
  + Homeward (Polk County)
    - Angie Arthur, director of the CoC, provided an update: working on the 2022 CoC NOFO. Working on the prioritization and ranking policy. Also recruiting board members. Terms run from July through June. Homeless Coordinated Council: looking at the community response to extreme weather, including getting input from unsheltered persons. Looking to do some qualitative interviews, as well as barriers to emergency shelter. Will bring back some recommendations to the City of Des Moines. Also working on the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Grant program. Working with youth to design six unique projects for young people. Grants are now over halfway through their demonstration period, and working on some assessments and looking at data to make course corrections. Intergenerational Study: partnering with Iowa State, ICA, and others. Looking at persons who experienced homelessness as children and are again experiencing homelessness as adults. Looking to learn about potential policies or system changes that could be made based on their findings.
  + Siouxland Coalition to End Homelessness (Woodbury County)
    - Clara, with the City of Sioux City, lead agency for the CoC, provided an update: CoC awards recently announced, looking to learn whether Tier 2 funding was awarded. Looking to expand homelessness prevention in the CoC.
  + Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (Pottawattamie County)
    - None
* **State Agency Representative Updates** 
  + Department on Aging *(Eugenia Kendall)*
    - Eugenia was not present, but provided a written update in advance: The Iowa Department on Aging has secured Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) grants to serve 12 Iowa counties including: Cass, Freemont, Harrison, Iowa, Keokuk, Louisa, Mahaska, Monona, Montgomery, Poweshiek, Shelby and Woodbury. There are now 66 RSVP programs in Iowa. RSVP provides opportunities for people ages 55+ to contribute to their communities through meaningful volunteer positions. In 2020-2021 the program provided 3,420 volunteers with 197,217 hrs. of service with an estimated value of $4.9M. IDA RSVP will address areas such as: offering companionship, supporting caregivers, delivering meals, providing transportation, preventing fraud/scams, Alzheimer's Disease Education & Support. For additional information visit our website at: <https://iowaaging.gov/rsvp>
  + Office of the Attorney General *(Lori Miller)*
    - Not present.
  + Department of Corrections *(Katrina Carter)*
    - Not present
  + Economic Development Authority (Joyce Brown)
    - Not present
  + Department of Education *(Emily Teeter)*
    - Not present
  + Finance Authority *(Terri Rosonke)*
    - Not present
  + Department on Human Rights *(Bill Brand)*
    - Bill provided an update: Community Action Agencies around the state are continuing to take applications for a utility assistance program, with additional funding through the American Rescue Plan Act. Some households remain eligible for the utility disconnection moratorium, but this will end on April 1. Households having trouble paying their bills should contact their local community action agency.
  + Department of Human Services *(Karen Hyatt)*
    - Karen provided an update: regarding PATH partners, the biggest issue right now is finding affordable housing. Additional Covid assistance dollars have helped some. Covid Recovery Iowa has launched into Project Recovery Iowa, and is now including tornado assistance as well. If there are needs related to workplace stress and staff, let Karen know. Also there is a promising new program for teens training teens for psychological first aid.
  + Department on Public Health *(Karin Ford)*
    - Karin provided an update: She had a chance to talk with Diogenes yesterday; he was a prior member of the Iowa Council on Homelessness; he is the current disaster manager for Madison County, where the tornado caused damage recently, and Karin was on a disaster response call recently with him; he says hello.
    - Karin will be providing some guidance soon for Covid-related assistance for persons with disabilities.
  + Department of Public Safety *(vacant)*
    - Not present
  + Department of Veterans Affairs *(Bob Steben)*
    - Not present
  + Workforce Development *(Scott Mather)*
    - Not present
* **Old Business**
  + None
* **New Business**
  + Dennis Lauterbach shared some thoughts about disaster planning/emergency preparedness. Watching the events in Ukraine made him think about the situation in the U.S. and what could happen. Dennis encouraged people to look at their own systems; for example, if utilities went down, or the internet, or if systems were hacked, if supplies were interrupted, if cash or income is disrupted, etc. Also think about whether plans take into account persons with disabilities, or other special needs.
  + Ben Brustkern noted that HUD issued CoC awards this week. However, the start date for some projects was prior to the announcement, so these programs have to continue operating while they wait, without knowing if funding will actually be there. This is a problem of timing that needs attention from CoCs.
* **Next Meeting:** Friday, May 20, 2022: Meeting will continue in a virtual format for now.
* **Adjourn**
  + Motion: Gary Wickering
  + Second: David Hagen
  + Unanimously approved: the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:40am

*Minutes submitted by Amber Lewis*