**MINUTES**

Friday, May 20, 2022, 10:00 a.m, Virtual Meeting

**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.*

Karin Ford opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. A quorum of 19 members was achieved.

* **Introductions**
	+ Karin Ford reminded everyone to sign in using the link in the agenda.
* **Approval of Agenda *(Action Item)***
	+ Motion: Gary Wickering
	+ Second- Dennis Lauterbach
	+ 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.
	+ Julie Sleeper stated that the Peer-to-Peer Homeless Symposium will be held on July 12 and 13 at Hope Elim church in Des Moines. Registration for the event will be available the first part of June.
* **Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2022** *(Action Item)*
	+ Motion: Tim Wilson
	+ Second: Cody Crawford
	+ Unanimously approved
* **Committee/Task Force Reports**
* **Executive Committee** (*Karin Ford for* *Ashley Schwalm*)
	+ **Strategic Planning Update**- Karin Ford discussed the process for making recommendations for new/reappointed Council members after the upcoming membership transition.
* **Nominating Committee** (*Tim Wilson)*
	+ Tim Wilson reported that the Governor has signed code changes that will take effect on 6/30. The changes include a reduction in the number of council members. The changes will allow 9 non-voting state agency representative members and 11 voting members of the general public. Current members were asked if they wished to continue serving on the Council, and these names were forwarded to the Temporary Nominating Committee for consideration.
	+ Karin Ford noted that the new Temporary Nominating Committee, made up of the state agency representatives to the Council, met this morning and voted on a slate of applicants to recommend to the governor’s office for appointment. The Governor has until 9/1 to make appointments. Karin reminded everyone to fill out the application on the Iowa Talent Bank website if interested in membership.
* **Policy & Planning Committee** (*Crissy Canganelli*)
	+ Crissy Canganelli reported that there were no updates at this time.
* **Public Awareness Committee** (*TBD*)
	+ No updates at this time.
* **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Updates, Institute for Community Alliances** *(Gary Wickering)*
	+ Gary Wickering stated that thestatewide Point in Time (PIT) Count map has been updated for the 2022 count: https://icalliances.org/pit. He reported that there was a shift of people moving from the streets to emergency shelters. Gary stated that the numbers did not decrease but rather shifted and there are still a lot of unhoused persons. He reported that there was a reduction in Rapid Rehousing across the state.
* **Continuum of Care (CoC) Updates, as available**
	+ Iowa Balance of State CoC (96 counties)
		- Jess Bleile reported they are currently working on the grant competition for the CoC: <https://iaboscoc.org/hud-coc-competition-2022#header3>. They are currently reviewing documentation and will share with the board in June. She stated that the Coordinated Entry task group has created new work groups and are working on creating guidelines for participation. There will be a voluntary summer PIT count on 7/20. All agencies are encouraged to participate.
	+ Homeward (Polk County)
		- Abby Barrow reported that they are preparing for the CoC NOFO process. Organizations are currently submitting letters of intent due June 6. Youth Homelessness Demonstration grants will wrap up in September. The Youth Homeless Demonstration project and Youth Homelessness Prevention group are working on preventing youth homelessness in community. The next quarterly in-person meeting will be held in June. Abbey reports they are working on a multi-generational homelessness study in Des Moines with ISU. They are working to develop policy solutions for families to prevent multi-generational homelessness. The study is currently in the interview phase. Abbey stated they are also working on a second study of unsheltered homelessness with Drake University. They are working to identify the barriers to shelter, housing, and how to better work with providers and officials to refine the system. 2nd study- unsheltered homelessness.
	+ Siouxland Coalition to End Homelessness (Woodbury County)
		- None present
	+ Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (Pottawattamie County)
		- Brandy Wallar reported that they hired Jason Fieldhouse as the new executive director starting 5/31.
* **State Agency Representative Updates**
	+ Department on Aging *(Eugenia Kendall)*
		- Eugenia Kendall reports that they applied for a learning collaboration grant to help develop a master plan for aging to create policies for an aging friendly community.
	+ Office of the Attorney General *(Lori Miller)*
		- Lori Miller reported that they have been meeting with grantees that oversee victim services dollars. She stated that VOCA funds have depleted. They have experienced a15-22% cut in the victim services budget and are unsure of what that means in the state of Iowa for victims. She stated that they have ARP funding from family violence money for testing, vaccines, and mobile health units to help combat COVID.
	+ Department of Corrections *(Katrina Carter)*
		- Katrina reported that they are eager to continue working with the council and are looking forward to the opportunity for providing homeless solutions to those incarcerated or under community supervision. She stated that they had their virtual reentry conference in April.
	+ Economic Development Authority *(Joyce Brown)*
		- Not present
	+ Department of Education *(Emily Teeter)*
		- Emily Teeter reported that they are sending funds to districts for homeless children and youth funding. They are currently working with districts that have not previously received funding to serve homeless youth and families.
	+ Finance Authority *(Terri Rosonke)*
		- Terri Rosonke discussed the two programs IFA is administering with ERA funds. She reported that IRUAP expires at the end of September. The new Iowa Rapid Rehousing project has a launch date of 6/1/2022. She reports that the Refugee Resettlement Program is assisting with hotel and rental assistance costs to help refugees transition.
	+ Department on Human Rights *(Bill Brand)*
		- Bill Brand reported that therecontinues to be assistance available for emergency utility assistance and low-income home water assistance. He stated that funding is available throughout the summer.
	+ Department of Human Services *(Karen Hyatt)*
		- Karen Hyatt reported that she attended a meeting in Atlanta regarding SSI applications for those who have a mental health diagnosis, are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. She stated that last year 68 SSI applications were approved, and the average application took 110 days for those to receive their money. Karen reported that there was a 68% approval rating overall. Karen reminded attendees of Project Recovery Iowa that provides counseling, support, and workgroups. She stated they are holding a Psychological First Aid training on May 24 and 25 from 6:00-7:30. Karen reported they are holding an Anxiety Reduction and Self Care training on 6/1. Those interested should email Karen: khyatt@dhs.state.ia.us. She reported that the contracts for the PATH program were renewed on 4/1. The alignment between DHS and IDPH will be in effect on 7/1.
	+ Department on Public Health *(Karin Ford)*-
		- Karin Ford reminded the attendees of the alignment between DHS and IDPH. She did not have any other updates to report at this time.
		- Cody Crawford reported that by 7/1, recovery community centers will be available in Linn, Polk, Woodbury, and Pottawattamie counties for those in the community to access resources.
	+ Department of Public Safety *(vacant)*
		- Not present
	+ Department of Veterans Affairs *(John Ralls)*
		- John Ralls reports that he has been coordinating with the Homeless Veterans Stand Down. He stated that they will offer employment assistance, dental and medical care, flu shots, clothes, legal assistance, veterans claims, benefits for assistance, and haircuts. He reported they are also working with the CoC for grant reviews.
	+ Workforce Development *(Scott Mather)*
		- Not present
* **Old Business**
	+ None
* **New Business**
	+ None
* **Next Meeting:** Friday, July 15, 2022
* **Adjourn**
	+ Motion: Tim Wilson
	+ Second: Dennis Lauterbach
	+ Unanimously approved: the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:01am.

*Meeting minutes submitted by Mollie Brees*