The Iowa Council on Homelessness

DRAFT MINUTES
Friday, November 18, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Virtual and in-person meeting at the Iowa Finance Authority

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

Meeting attendance (also posted separately): https://tinyurl.com/ICHNovember2022

Acting Chair for this Meeting: Ashley Schwalm (previous Council chair)

Ashley opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. A quorum of members was present.

- **Introductions (member list)**
  - **Voting members:**
    - Ben Brustkern (P)
    - Crissy Canganelli (P)
    - Mariliegh Fisher (P)
    - Rachel Geilenfeld (NP)
    - David Hagen (P)
    - Mary Ingham (P)
    - Dennis Lauterbach (P)
    - Hope Metheny (P)
    - Ashley Schwalm (P)
    - Gary Wickering (P)
    - Tim Wilson (P)
  - **Non-voting members (state agencies)**
    - Eugenia Kendall (Aging) (P)
    - Lori Miller (Attorney General) (P)
    - Katrina Carter (Corrections) (P)
    - Emily Teeter (Education) (P)
    - Terri Rosonke (Finance Authority) (P)
    - Karen Hyatt (Human Services) (P)
    - James Pender (Public Health) (P)
    - John Ralls (Veterans Affairs) (P late)
    - William Berning (Workforce Dev) (P)

- **Members present:**
  - See above; "P" noted for members present; "NP for members not present. See separate attendance document for additional participants that joined the meeting.

- **Approval of Agenda** *(Action Item)*
  - Motion: Dennis
  - Second: Gary
  - Unanimously approved

- **Public Comment Period:** None

- **Council Administration/Leadership**
  - Review of changes to Council in Iowa Code (*Kristin Hanks-Bents, IFA*)
    - Kristin provided an overview of the changes to the Council from Iowa Code last session; the new code was provided as a resource for the meeting. The biggest change was in the composition of members, from 38 to 20 total members. There was also a change in voting members; state agency members are now non-voting members. This also creates changes to quorum; seven voting members are now required for quorum. There is a Nominating Committee, made up of at least five members, elected annually.

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- o Election of Chair *(Action Item)*
    - o Motion: Tim nominated Ashley Schwalm to serve as chair again
    - o Second: Dennis
    - o Unanimously approved
- o Election of Vice-Chair *(Action Item)*
    - o Motion: Gary nominated Tim Wilson to serve as Vice Chair
    - o Second: Dennis
    - o Approved (Tim abstained)
- o Review of proposed amendments to 265 Chapter 31, Council Administrative Rules *(Kristin Hanks-Bents, IFA)*
    - o With the changes to Iowa Code, Kristin noted we also have to make updates to the Administrative Rules to match the code. Kristin reviewed these draft updates, which were provided as a resource for the meeting. A few of the updates include changes to the duties of the Council. For example, an annual report to the Governor is no longer required (beyond the Point in Time Count), although it is still the role of the Council to provide recommendations to the Governor and others regarding homelessness.

- **Committees**
- o Nominating Committee:
    - o Election of five members per code (at least two voting and two non-voting); this may be done now or at a later meeting *(Action Item)*
        1. Ashley asked Tim, as the past chair for this committee, to review what is required of this committee. Tim noted it is important for all members of the Council to help recruit interested applicants. Tim also described the process of recommending members to the governor's office for appointment.
        2. Some members volunteered to be part of this committee: Ben (voting), Hope (voting), David (voting), Lori (non-voting), William (non-voting). Furthermore, Ben volunteered to chair this committee.
        3. Motion: Dennis recommended approval of the slate of five members above to serve as the Nominating Committee.
        4. Second: Crissy
        5. Unanimously approved
- o Executive Committee
    - o This is not in code but will be addressed in Administrative Rules. Consider electing or appointing up to six members to serve as Interim Executive Committee until Administrative Rules are approved *(Action Item)*
        1. Gary volunteered to serve, as did Crissy. Ashley noted that it also made sense for Tim and herself to serve, and Tim agreed. Ben and Dennis also volunteered. There was discussion of adding one or more non-voting state agency members as well, but these may be added later.
        2. Motion to approve the slate of six volunteers above: Hope
        3. Second: Mary
        4. Unanimously approved

- o Other Committees?
    - o Ashley asked if anyone would like to propose any additional committees.
    - o Dennis suggested it would be good to address the Strategic Plan created last year. Ashley suggested getting an email out to everyone with the Strategic Plan; Amber will email this out to members, and the Council will discuss again in January.
    - o David suggested framing the committees around the duties of the Council, to ensure accountability and stay focused on these goals.

- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Updates, Institute for Community Alliances** *(Gary Wickering)*
  - o Gary provided an overview of the work of the Institute for Community Alliances, around data collection and reporting. He noted the data is important to identify greatest needs, including among subpopulations. One update to HUD data standards: HUD will move from three age breakouts to seven, so it will be possible to better identify needs among older adults and other age groups. He described the training provided across the state, and their role supporting the various Continuums of Care in Iowa. Gary volunteered various ways their agency could support the Council and provide data. He also described the upcoming Point in Time Count in January.

- **Continuum of Care (CoC) Updates, as available**
  - o Iowa Balance of State CoC (96 counties)
    - o Courtney Guntly, CoC Director, was present to provide this update. The CoC was not funded for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, but the Youth Action Board is meeting in person in Ames currently; they are a group of youth up to age 24; youth are being compensated to participate in this. They also recently applied for special HUD funding for both Rural and Unsheltered Homelessness. They are also working with the other CoCs in the state to hold CoC networking forums every other month; the next one is coming up in January. They are working to recruit for the CoC board. They are doing some work on an equity analysis for the state; their Equity and Diversity Committee is working on this. They also have a workgroup looking at how to re-envision the Coordinated Entry process to be more equitable. There is a veteran workgroup that meets monthly, working toward a national goal to house 38,000 veterans; various communities in Iowa have set their own goals and are making good progress. The Point in Time Count is scheduled for January 25th, with training prepared for agencies.
  - o Homeward (Polk County)
    - o Angie Arthur, ED of Homeward CoC, was present to provide an update. There was the annual HUD NOFO recently for unsheltered homelessness, and they submitted an application for this; over $4 million potentially over three years. They are working on a community strategic plan, as well as a plan for their own CoC organization. They are also planning for the Point in Time Count. Last night they held their annual Opening Doors event, and highlighted work being done around youth homelessness. Their Youth Homelessness Demonstration grant ended recently; these projects will be subject to the annual CoC competition, also not on a competitive basis. They are supporting

efforts for legislation to expunge eviction filings; currently, eviction filings remain online permanently, even if they were originally by mistake, or were dismissed, or are years old. Angie noted that many Covid resources are no longer available; they have more families on their waiting list than they have seen since before the pandemic. There are challenges with rent increases, decreases in affordable housing, etc.

- o Siouxland Coalition to End Homelessness (Woodbury County)
  - o Clara Coly was present to provide an update. Clara works for the City of Sioux City, the lead for the CoC. They are rolling out a new CDBG Homelessness Prevention program. They are also starting their ERA2 Rapid Rehousing program. They will also be starting on December 1st a new system for HMIS and Coordinated Entry; this will be moving to the city managing these directly.
- o Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (Pottawattamie County)
  - o Not present.

- **State Agency Representative Updates**
  - o Department on Aging *(Eugenia Kendall)*
    - o Eugenia provided an update. They are working to build a stronger relationship with the Bureau of Refugee Services, including to help people aging in place, and working with caregivers. They are also working to expand their work in equity and diversity awareness and response. They are expanding focus on person-centered care, for both older adults and persons with disabilities.
  - o Office of the Attorney General *(Lori Miller)*
    - o Lori provided an update. They are in the process of their competitive grant applications, the criminal justice applications are open now; they will be releasing their application for victim services the beginning of January. They are always looking for grant reviewers, and will be paying reviewers this year; contact Lori if interested. They are always willing to participate in community events, for training, awareness, etc.
  - o Department of Corrections *(Katrina Carter)*
    - o Katrina provided an update. Recidivism has reduced some. They noticed that some people that are eligible for parole, are actually being kept in prison longer, because of wait lists for transitional housing programs to release them to. Katrina noted that in some cases, there is no place to release people to, such as for people that have committee arson or sex offenses. In one case, a case worker called 400 places, with no success.
  - o Department of Education *(Emily Teeter)*
    - o Emily provided an update. Many local liaisons were able to participate recently in a youth homelessness conference.
  - o Finance Authority *(Terri Rosonke and Rick Peterson)*
    - o Terri provided an update. The HOME-ARP draft Allocation Plan has been posted for public comments; this program is similar to HOME, but focused more on homelessness for the qualifying populations. A public hearing for this plan will be on December 8th. Terri also described a program to assist

struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure, and the numbers of people served so far. More information is on www.IowaHousingRecovery.com. IFA will be making awards soon for the Local Housing Trust Funds in Iowa. LHTFs are required to spend at least 30% of their annual awards to serve persons that earn less than 30% Area Median Income. There is a map and contact information on IFA's website for these entities. Last, Terri described the current states of Iowa's ERA2 dollars from Treasury; the focus currently is on the new ERA2 Rapid Rehousing program, along with the new Coordinated Entry portal, www.IowaHousingHelp.com. Also under ERA2, IFA is continuing some refugee resettlement assistance.

- Department of Human Services *(Karen Hyatt)*
  - See update below from Jim.
- Department on Public Health *(James Pender)*
  - Jim provided an update for both agencies, DHS and DPH. Jim serves as grant manager for brain injury work. Project Recovery Iowa has assisted many individuals. The PATH program will be hosting a series of training starting in January; this is open for community providers, reach out to Karen Hyatt if interested. The Iowa Workforce Collaborative is taking applications for people interested in serving as recovery coaches.
  - Jim noted that effective July 1st, the two agencies joined together. This includes relocating some teams to the Lucas building. Most senior leadership is in place for the new combined agency. The department recently received over $9 million over two years for naloxone. There were more deaths due to opioids in 2021 compared to 2020. Jim noted the importance of screening for lifetime history of brain injury; a high percentage of persons experiencing homelessness also have history of brain injury. They are working on an interactive screening tool for brain injury, available online.
- Department of Veterans Affairs *(John Ralls)*
  - Not present during the update section, but noted later he was present. Tim provided some information in lieu of an update directly from this department. There is an Ending Veterans Homelessness coalition. Tim described a new possible expansion of the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program.
  - Later update from John: The agency is being brought under the umbrella of the Iowa Veterans Home.
- Workforce Development *(William Berning)*
  - William introduced himself and provided an update; he is an Operations Manager with IowaWorks. William noted we are entering the annual period of seasonal unemployment. They have been doing a lot of virtual workshops. Also working to reduce technological barriers.

- **Old Business**
  - None

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- **New Business**
  - Gary proposed some topics for future meetings:
    - Report about Aging Homelessness – they should be ready by May, and could discuss at this meeting.
    - Department of Corrections – they are working on a report related to discharge planning and how many people enter shelter after existing institutions.
    - Department of Education – interested in a mapping project, to compare populations served through schools and through homeless services providers.
    - Eviction history expungement, and how this can assist persons experiencing homelessness, and if the Council would take up a recommendation related to this.
    - Testing strips for fentanyl; possessing these is an arrestable state offense. People are dying due to overdose. Declassifying the testing strips could assist.

- **Next Meeting:** Friday, January 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m., same hybrid format

- **Adjourn**
  - Motion: Gary
  - Second: Dennis
  - Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.