

The Iowa Council on Homelessness

MINUTES

Friday, January 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Virtual/In-Person 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.

Ashley Schwalm opened the meeting at 10:00 am. A quorum of 11 members was achieved.

- **Introductions ([member list](#))**

- **Voting members:**

- Ben Brustkern
- Crissy Canganelli
- Marilieg Fisher
- Rachel Geilenfeld
- David Hagen
- Mary Ingham
- Dennis Lauterbach
- Hope Metheny
- Ashley Schwalm (chair)
- Gary Wickering
- Tim Wilson

- **Non-voting members (state agencies)**

- Eugenia Kendall (Aging)
- Lori Miller (Attorney General)
- Katrina Carter (Corrections)
- Emily Teeter (Education)
- Terri Rosonke (Finance Authority)
- Karen Hyatt (Human Services)
- James Pender (Public Health)
- John Ralls (Veterans Affairs)
- William Berning (Workforce Development)

- **Approval of Agenda (*Action Item*)**

- Motion: Ben Brustkern
- Second- David Hagen
- Unanimously approved

- **Public Comments:**

- Julie Sleeper reported that the Iowa Nebraska Peer-to-Peer Homelessness Symposium will be held on June 13 and 14.

- **Committees**

- Executive Committee:

- Volunteers needed to serve on a Strategic Plan committee to review and report back in March

1. Tim Wilson reported that the Executive Committee met last month to review the strategic plan. Anyone interested in joining the Strategic Plan committee can reach out to Ashley Schwalm. You do not have to be a voting member to participate.

- Nominating Committee:

- Tim Wilson reported that all voting members and department representatives have been appointed. He stated that they will need to provide names to the

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Governor so that there is a seamless transition. Those interested in applying can visit the Iowa Talent Bank.

- Other Committees:
 - N/A
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Updates, Institute for Community Alliances** (*Gary Wickering*)
 - Update regarding upcoming Point in Time Count
 - Gary Wickering reported that they have finished the longitudinal system analysis for all CoC's, and it has been submitted to HUD. The reports should be updated by 2/1. The Point in Time Count is on 1/25 and all tools are ready, and the training is prepared. The PIT is due to HUD on 4/1. Gary reported that he is leaving ICA on 2/10 but does not intend to step down from the Council.
- **Continuum of Care (CoC) Updates, as available**
 - Iowa Balance of State CoC (96 counties)
 - Courtney Guntly reported that they are recruiting board members. They currently have seven open seats, and the application deadline is 2/7. Those with questions can reach out to Courtney. Courtney reported that they are currently planning for the PIT. She stated that they continue to work with other CoC's on networking forums. The February session is C3 De-Escalation Training. Courtney reported that The Youth Action Board continues to meet.
 - Homeward (Polk County)
 - Angie Arthur reported that they are focusing on the upcoming PIT count. She stated they have partnered with Drake and local agencies to create an unsheltered homelessness study in Des Moines. 153 surveys have been completed with 37 in-depth interviews. The study provides insight to the barriers to shelter and housing while finding solutions to the homeless response system. Angie stated that she would like to know what the ICH funding can be used on. She stated that she would be interested in using the funds on training opportunities for the Council or advocating for additional funds for homeless response. Crissy stated that she has concerns regarding the limitation of funding based on the current need. She reported that the change in covid response funding has made it increasingly difficult to serve those in need.
 - Siouxland Coalition to End Homelessness (Woodbury County)
 - Clara Coly reported that they are also working on the PIT. She stated that they are working with TA providers to evaluate the Coordinated Entry system in the community. Clara stated that there has been an increase in barriers due to the decrease in covid funding and they are working to figure out how to keep programs running without funding.
 - Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (Pottawattamie County)

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- Jason Feldhaus reported that they are also working on the PIT. He stated that there has been an increase of about 6% in the chronically homeless population and a large increase in unsheltered homelessness. Jason reported that they are trying to find a way to make housing the outcome with the decrease in funding. He stated that they are reviewing prioritization in the Coordinated Entry program. They are looking at undergoing a 100-day challenge to house 100 people in 100 days.

- **State Agency Representative Updates**
 - Department on Aging (*Eugenia Kendall*):
 - Eugenia Kendall reported they are working on their ARP allocation plan. They pulled homeless data for those 55 and over and shared with staff to increase awareness. She reported that they implemented high risk case management in order to better serve those at risk of homelessness. They are also working towards putting together a master plan for aging in Iowa to build better partnerships. Eugenia reported that staff are taking part in SAGECare Training which provides LGBTQ+ competency training on LGBTQ+ aging issues.
 - Office of the Attorney General (*Lori Miller*):
 - Lori Miller reported that they have a new attorney general and new division director. They are working on the competitive grant process and have reviewed criminal justice grant and victim services grant which is due 2/15.
 - Department of Corrections (*Katrina Carter*):
 - Katrina Carter stated that they are partnering with Workforce Development and Project Iowa for a re-entry conference. It will be virtually held 4/25 and 4/26.
 - Department of Education (*Emily Teeter*):
 - Emily Teeter stated that in comparison to numbers last year, 15% more students are experiencing homelessness statewide. She reported that school districts are struggling to provide transportation due to shortage of bus drivers with an increase in transportation needs.
 - Finance Authority (*Terri Rosonke and Rick Peterson*):
 - Terri Rosonke stated that the HOME-ARP allocation plan was submitted to HUD last week for their review. HUD has up to 45 days to review and comment on the proposed plan. IFA continues to administer Homeowner Assistance Funds for homeowner facing foreclosure. Funding continues to remain available for that program. Terri stated that ERA2 funds continue to fund the Iowa RRH pilot program and the coordinated entry system enhancements. The refugee resettlement program remains available.
 - Department of Human Services (*Karen Hyatt*):
 - Karen reported that extra funding was received for the PATH program through SAMHSA for training. They will be setting up an opioid training and will let the Council know when it is scheduled. Other future trainings that will

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be available are person-centered case management and best practices in street outreach.

- Department on Public Health (*James Pender*):
 - James Pender stated that they have been working to find affordable housing through NARR and rent reimbursement found at this link: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/rent-reimbursement>. James provided a reminder that the crisis lifeline number has changed to 988.
- Department of Veterans Affairs (*John Ralls*):
 - John reported that they are currently working through the transition of consolidation of departments and working to fill vacancies. He stated that they have new department leadership.
- Workforce Development (*William Berning*):
 - William stated that staff is focusing on seasonal layoffs and are having more hiring events. They are connecting with libraries so that they have the tools readily available for those that have barriers to employment due to lack of internet accessibility. Library staff will be able to refer them to Workforce Development to assist with job search, resume building, and interviewing.
- **Old Business**
 - Tim stated that there are a number of issues with housing/homelessness resources at the state and local level. He reported that he would like to adopt a process for bringing issues to the Council for consideration in order to take a stand publicly. David stated that he would welcome the idea of more research but that it needs to be drafted in the strategic proposal. Dennis agreed.
 - Tim stated that he would research what models are currently out there. David will help Tim coordinate and Rachel will assist later if there is a need for legislative assistance.
- **New Business**
 - Need to develop consistent process to evaluate policies and statutes as directed by the Council statute:
 - Discuss discharge policy issues/planning:
 - Gary reported that the Department of Justice has a re-entry conference on 4/25 and 4/26. He will provide an update to providers with information from the conference. Katrina reported that she would send information about the conference in April.
 - Fentanyl testing strip discussion:
 - Gary reported that currently there is no bill. This will remain a topic of discussion until further information is available.
 - Tim reported that the Council has an allocation of \$50k and would like to spend those funds on training. He would like to discuss how those funds can be spent. Ashley reported that she would like the use of those funds to align with the strategic proposal.

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- **Next Meeting:** Friday, March 17, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

- **Adjourn**
 - Motion: Dennis Lauterbach
 - Second: Gary Wickersham
 - Unanimously approved: the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:09am.

Meeting minutes submitted by Mollie Brees