**MINUTES**

Friday, May 19th, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Virtual and In-Person

**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/19May2023-ICH>

Tim Wilson, filling in for Ashely Schwalm, opened the meeting at 10:09 a.m. A quorum of 10 members was achieved.

* **Introductions** 
  + Tim reminded everyone to sign in using the link in the agenda.
* **Approval of Agenda *(Action Item)***
  + Motion: Dennis Lauterbach
  + Second: Mariliegh Fisher
  + 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
* **Committees**
  + **Executive Committee:**
    - Tim Wilson reported that he received further clarification of the council’s role in providing advocacy from Nicole Hansen and Kristin Hanks-Bents with IFA. He stated that the council can form a policy or advocacy committee and set legislative agendas and goals. He clarified that the council is basically free to establish their own legislative priorities at the state and local level as issues arise. Gary Wickering stated that if the council wants to accomplish more in the legislative realm, they may need to make changes to the ICH. He reported that since the council is currently a part of IFA, they cannot lobby for laws or any direct legislative actions. Rita Grimm with IFA confirmed Gary’s comments. Ashley Schwalm reported that Crissy is working with Kristin at IFA to develop and process and plan for an RFP.
    - $500 for the HUD Peer to Peer Conference: The council voted on using $500 of the ICH funds towards the HUD Peer to Peer Conference in June.
      1. Unanimously approved
  + **Nominating Committee**:
    - Ben Brustkern stated that the nominating committee would like to recommend all individuals that have reapplied for the council to the governor.
      1. Unanimously approved
  + Strategic Plan Committee: Tim Wilson stated that they are moving forward with creating an RFP. Crissy is currently working with IFA on a draft.
* **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Updates, Institute for Community Alliances** *(ICA):* Not present
* **Continuum of Care (CoC) Updates, as available**
  + Iowa Balance of State CoC (96 counties):
    - Courtney Guntly reported that they held their annual meeting in Ames. She stated that they had approximately 50 attend in-person and 30 online. Courtney reported that they are working on competition preparation coming sometime soon in the summer. Agencies that are interested in applying for funds need to complete a letter of intent. They were awarded rural funding last year and are in the beginning stages of working with HUD technical assistance on what they can offer and how they can support new projects in rural communities. They are hoping to have those projects up and running soon. Courtney reported that they received 27 stability vouchers to assist with affordable housing. They are looking forward to the summer PIT count in July.
  + Homeward (Polk County):
    - Abbey Barrow reported that they had their Polk County homeless council meeting yesterday where ICA presented the PIT count results. The Youth Action Council led the YDPH grant process. She reported that it continues to grow, and they regularly have over 20 members at each meeting. Abbey reported that a select subgroup presented at the Prevent Child Abuse Conference. They have released the unsheltered Des Moines study with Drake University hoping to elevate the voice of those experiencing homelessness. She stated that they are using those studies to process recommendations and reduce unsheltered homelessness.
  + Siouxland Coalition to End Homelessness (Woodbury County):
    - Not present
  + Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (Pottawattamie County):
    - Not Present
* **State Agency Representative Updates** 
  + Department on Aging *(Eugenia Kendall):* 
    - Not present
  + Office of the Attorney General *(Lori Miller):*
    - Lori Miller provided an update on the recent funding competition that was held. She stated that they are in the process of awarding funds but need to go through appeals process first. They received 32.5 million in funding requests but have 21.3 million available. These funds are for domestic/sexual assault victims, shelters, and survivors of homicide and violent crimes. She reported that they are not currently funding a lot of programs that were funded in the past due to lack of available funds. Lori reported that they are considering having regional meetings across Iowa to discuss victim services. They are concerned about providing the same services with less funds. Lori reported that they are submitting a multi-year implementation plan pointing out issues they see in the state as far as lack of affordable, safe housing and how that relates to domestic violence. They hope to expand the availability of affordable housing options to reduce the risk of homicide.
  + Department of Corrections *(Katrina Carter):* 
    - Katrina Carter reported that they are preparing for the alignment with the Community Based Corrections. She reports that 8 districts are coming together under the DOC. She reported that they have quite a few transitional housing options but there are not enough as most have waitlists. Katrina stated that they are looking for options for a seamless transition for those going from prison to the community. Please contact [Katrina.Carter@Iowa.gov](mailto:Katrina.Carter@Iowa.gov) with any ideas.
  + Department of Education *(Emily Teeter):* 
    - Emily Teeter stated that they were a part of the Burlington Community School District Conference about youth homelessness last month. They are working to develop training opportunities for this upcoming school year for homeless liaisons and community partners. She reported that they are working with school districts to utilize emergency relief funding for students experiencing homelessness but stated that the funds are being depleted at a rapid rate. They are working with school districts to discuss what will happen when all the funds are used.
  + Finance Authority *(Terri Rosonke):*
    - Terri Rosonke reported that IFA has approved a $500 contribution for the Iowa Nebraska Peer to Peer Conference. She stated that IFA is currently working on some RFP’s*.* Wilder Research was selected to conduct a study on Permanent Supportive Housing and cost effectiveness in Iowa. That study will be paid for using NHTF admin funds. The data collection piece will be partnered with Shelter House. There is an 18–24 month timeline. Terri reported that IFA continues to administer HAF funds that assists eligible homeowners facing foreclosure. They are currently working on a HAF home repaid RFP. Those eligible would meet the 80% AMI and have suffered a financial hardship due to Covid. These funds will be used on repairs to keep people in their homes. IFA hopes to launch this program this summer. She reported that there is another RFP to conduct a State of Iowa demographic, economic, and housing profile. This will be an online dashboard for all data related to housing that will show the housing needs in Iowa. Terri reminded the council of the Housing Iowa Conference September 5-7 in Cedar Rapids.
  + Department of Human Services *(Karen Hyatt):* 
    - Not present
  + Department on Public Health *(James Pender):* 
    - Not present
  + Department of Veterans Affairs *(John Ralls):* 
    - Not present
  + Workforce Development *(William Berning):* 
    - William Berning reported that they had their Build My Future event last month where 150 students attended. He stated that there are a little over 71k jobs in the job bank on the Iowa Works website. He stated that they added a veterans portal to the website. William reported that there are different hiring events going on. They are working with corrections to connect job seekers to second chance employers. He reported that they are also connecting refugees with employment opportunities. Events can be found on www.iowaworks.gov.
* **Old Business:** 
  + None
* **New Business:** 
  + Gary Wickering reported that he is stepping down from the Council effective immediately. He will notify the appropriate parties of his resignation.
* **Next Meeting:** Friday, July 21st, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
* **Adjourn**
  + Motion: Dennis Lauterbach
  + Second: David Hagen
  + Unanimously approved: the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:04 a.m.

*Minutes submitted by Mollie Brees*