**DRAFT MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Virtual meeting

**Meeting Minutes & Other Resources:** [https://www.iowafinance.com/homelessness/homeless-service-agencies/iowa-council-on-homelessness/](about:blank)

**Meeting attendance (also posted separately):** http://tinyurl.com/Jan2024ICH

Tim Wilson, chair, opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

* **Introductions** [**(member list)**](about:blank)
  + **Voting members:**
    - Ben Brustkern (P)
    - Crissy Canganelli (P)
    - Mariliegh Fisher (P)
    - Rachel Geilenfeld (P)
    - David Hagen (P)
    - Mary Ingham (P)
    - Dennis Lauterbach (P)
    - Hope Metheny (vice-chair) (P)
    - Ashley Schwalm (P)
    - Tim Wilson (chair) (P)
  + **Non-voting members (state agencies)**
    - Eugenia Kendall (DHHS)
    - James Pender (DHHS) (P)
    - Karen Hyatt (DHHS) (P)
    - Lori Miller (Attorney General)
    - Katrina Carter (Corrections) (P)
    - Tyler Navin (Education) (P)
    - Terri Rosonke (IFA) (P)
    - John Ralls (Veterans Affairs) (P)
    - William Berning (Workforce Development) (P)
    - Vacant
* **Approval of Agenda** *(Action Item)*
  + Motion: David
  + Second: Ashley
  + Unanimously approved
* **Approval of November 2023 meeting minutes** *(Action Item)*
  + Motion: Hope
  + Second: Dennis
  + 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.
  + Tyler Navin, the State Homeless Coordinator for the Department of Education, introduced himself.
* **Committees**
  + Executive Committee
    - Tim Wilson reported that the committee met briefly in December but there are currently no updates.
  + Nominating Committee
    - Ben Brustkern reported no updates for the nominating committee.
* **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Updates, Institute for Community Alliances** *(ICA)*
  + Update on January 2024 Point in Time Count
    - Susan Mccarragher reported that the PIT count is on 1/24. She stated that unsheltered training is available on the ICA website as well as a PIT 101 video and training on how to complete the unsheltered PIT survey. Susan reported that the housing inventory count and shelter PIT count trainings will be made available closer to the PIT. The sheltered and unsheltered counts need to submitted ICA by 2/6.
    - **IFA’s new MySidewalk® Data Dashboard** Terri Rosonke
      1. Terri provided a presentation on the new Iowa profile that IFA created in partnership with MySidewalk. The dashboard is scheduled to launch on the IFA website by next week.
* **Continuum of Care (CoC) Updates, as available**
  + Iowa Balance of State CoC (96 counties)
    - Courtney stated that they are recruiting board members. Those interested in applying can do so at the Iowa BoS website. There are seven spots available, and applications will be accepted until 2/9. The next DEI training on unconscious bias is on 1/23 and another on 2/14. They will be available on the BoS website. Courtney reported that the Rural Special Funding projects started on 1/1. The Day on the Hill was cancelled due to weather. Those who were registered to attend will receive information including talking points and handouts. If you were not registered, and would like to receive information, contact Courney.
  + Homeward (Polk County)
    - Angie reported that they are focusing on the PIT scheduled for 1/24. They are currently working on t the application process to add board members by 7/1. Homeward is also working on a gap analysis to identify significant gaps in resources available in the community. They will publicly share the final report when available. Angie shared and update on HF548 on eviction expungement. She reported that Iowa Legal Aid shared the 2023 eviction numbers and it showed that there has been a 16% increase in eviction fillings in Iowa.
  + Siouxland Coalition to End Homelessness (Woodbury County)
    - Not present
  + Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (Pottawattamie County)
    - Not present
    - **New HOME/ARP Program** Jason Hall
  + Jason provided information on the new HOME-ARP program. He stated that currently the funds are for rental assistance and the development of units to serve low income and homeless populations. The funds can also be used for developing and expanding rental units. The application is currently open until 3/5. IFA plans to open a supportive services only funding round in May or June.
* **State Agency Representative Updates** 
  + Department of Health & Human Services *(Eugenia Kendall,*

*James Pender, Karen Hyatt)*

* James stated that every five years, a health assessment is completed to identify what the top health issues are in Iowa. The completed assessment can be found on the HHS website when available.
  + Office of the Attorney General *(Lori Miller)*
    - Not present
  + Department of Corrections *(Katrina Carter)*
    - Katrina reported that they continue to face challenges with housing individuals with criminal records. She stated that they continue to look for avenues to find housing and are starting a workgroup to look at housing options for those that are considered difficult to place.
  + Department of Education *(Tyler Navin)*
    - Tyler stated that they still have ARP funds remaining for students experiencing homelessness in Iowa. The funds need to be spent down by 2024.
  + Finance Authority *(Terri Rosonke)*
    - Terri provided an update on the current pilot programs at IFA. She stated that the ICARE Re-entry pilot program is officially under contract and will launch in January. The partnership is with Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa and Fountain of Youth in Dubuque. The funding is focused on providing rent, security and utility deposits for populations that are leaving incarceration. Terri stated that the Home Repair pilot program, funded under HAF, continues to operate. These funds can be used for critical home assistance and health related modifications. Eligible recipients are homeowners at or below 80% AMI and has to have suffered a financial hardship due to COVID. The application is open through 1/31 and subject to available funding. The BOS CoC has submitted a request to IFA for financing a report to assist with identifying gaps in resources. IFA is supportive and is recommending that the $50k appropriation be used to finance the report. IFA will tentatively take this request to the IFA board meeting in February.
  + Department of Veterans Affairs *(John Ralls)*
    - John reported that the Veterans Day on the Hill is scheduled for 1/17.
  + Workforce Development *(William Berning)*
    - William stated that they are currently assisting those facing temporary layoffs and assisting with unemployment benefits. He reported that the career fairs will begin later this year.
* **Old Business**
  + None
* **New Business**
  + None

**Next Meeting:** Friday, March 15 10:00 a.m.

* **Adjourn**
  + Ben
  + David
  + Meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.