**Polk County Youth Action Council Meeting**

**February 2024**

**Vision**: All people in Polk County will have a safe, supportive, and stable place to call home.

**Mission**: The Youth Action Council’s mission is to empower and motivate our community to be the change by ending the stigma and stereotypes associated with homelessness, connecting at-risk youth with resources, and promoting compassion within our community.

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Budget –** Luke reported on the current budget$2,194

**Des Moines Register Story**

Amy presented the possibility of a Des Moines Register Story, similar to the New York Times story. The goal being to show invisible homelessness, dispel myths, show people outside of camps, humanize and open eyes.

Concerns – While there was interest and a majority of YAC approved, there were a number of concerns brought up: sterilization of homelessness, privacy and safety of those participating and not outing location of camps or if they’re doubled up, clear consent,

Questions on practical aspects – What would this actually look like (shadowing for a day)? Some YAC members suggested interviews with unidentifiable backdrops

**What organization spotlight/type of speaker do you want?**

Narcan, Sexual health, your life iowa, law 101, how to use healthcare/clinics, nutrition + cooking/recipe reading + food safety classes, americore, Budgeting/credit/financial literacy, home maintenance, youth homelessness data, full circle recovery

**Committee Work**

**Presentation**

* Grandview confirmed April 17th
* Spark conference (July 25, 2024)

A quick update was provided on the virtual Grandview presentation as logistics are worked through. Spark application was submitted. Dahlia presented the outline and Luke spoke through what has been done on the powerpoint so far.

**Website**

* General Update
* How to gain attendance w/o advertising meeting times?
* Quotes from individuals

An update was given on the website, meeting times have been removed, activity examples, FAQ, myths, stats, and problems faced, link to safe spaces doc, link to powerpoint. YAC agreed that Amy’s contact information would be used for those wanting to join. A call was put out for quotes from individuals for the website.

**Service Project**

* Grant submission update

**Next steps**

Continue to work on the powerpoint and website. Continue to ask how we gain membership of motivated individuals?