

Homeless Coordinating Council Meeting

August 17, 2023

12:00-1:00 pm

Via Zoom

Council Member Attendance: Bob Andeweg, Scott Duer, Greg Hudson, Kristi Knous, Susan Judkins, Josh Mandelbaum, Matt McCoy, Mary Sellers, Russ Trimble.

Guests: Angie Arthur, Cody Devereaux, Deirdre Henriquez, Kasperian Kittredge, Eric Kool, Amber Lewis, Luke Lynch, Carrie Moreno, Emily Osweiler, and Sue Woody.

1. **Welcome** – Josh Mandelbaum – HCC Chair
2. **Approval of May 18, 2023 Minutes – Voting Item**
Mary Sellers moves approval, seconded by Matt McCoy. Carried.
3. **Update – Unsheltered Study and Next Steps**
 - Polk County Homeless Service Providers came together for two facilitated sessions to process the results of the study and begin to prioritize a plan of action to better serve folks within the system.
 - Two work groups are moving forward. One focuses on getting different systems to work better together. The second group is working on shelter for people who identify as women.
4. **Update – Street Outreach Coordination and Connections**
 - Amber Lewis, City of DSM Homeless Policy Coordinator, shared about her role and meeting with partners in the homeless system.
 - There are different kinds of street outreach – some focus on housing conversations while others focus on basic needs.
 - Street outreach providers currently meet monthly to talk about specific people who are unsheltered that they are working to find housing.
 - Amber and Homeward staff are putting together a work group to look at street outreach policies.
5. **Point in Time – Summer Count Analysis**
 - Summer PIT took place from noon 7/19 through noon on 7/20. It is an important tool in our community to understand the number of folks experiencing unsheltered homelessness, make connections, etc.
 - Kasper Kittredge presented information regarding the Summer 2023 Point in Time count.
 - 633 people were homeless in the 2023 Summer PIT as compared to 628 in 2022. The 2023 Winter PIT had 606 people.
 - 184 people were unsheltered in the 2023 Summer PIT the same as in Summer 2022. The 2023 Winter PIT had 129 people.

- 6 people aged 18-24 were unsheltered with the remaining were 25 and over.
- 14 people living unsheltered were veterans.
- Overall, the numbers were very similar to last year's summer count.

6. New Dashboard with Community Information

- Kasper Kittredge shared a streamlined dashboard for the Polk County/DSM Continuum of Care. It is newly developed. Please provide feedback about the new dashboard.
- The new dashboard board will be shared on the Homeward and ICA websites.
- To view the [dashboard](#)

7. Final Questions, Thoughts, and Next Steps – 5 minutes

Next Meeting Date – February 15, 2024