

Homeless Coordinating Council Meeting

October 27, 2022

12:00-1:00 pm via zoom

Recording available [here](#) Passcode: j66Zs@9&

Council Member Attendance: Robert Brownell, Angela Connolly, Frank Cownie, Joseph Jones, Josh Mandelbaum, Matt McCoy, Mary Sellers, Indira Sheumaker, Greg Hudson, and Russ Trimble.

Guests: Angie Arthur, Abbey Barrow, Jim Cain, Cody Devereaux, , Carrie Moreno, Emily Osweiler, Jill Padgett, Kelsie Pinegar, Shelby Ridley, Matthew Record, Scott Sanders, Patrick Schacherer, Joe Stevens, Dr. Elizabeth Talbert, and Gary Wicking.

- i. **Welcome –**
Josh Mandelbaum – HCC Chair

- ii. **Approval of July 28, 2022 Minutes – Voting Item**
 - a. Mary Sellers moves approval, seconded by Bob Brownell. Carried.

- iii. **Unsheltered Study – Update – Dr. Elizabeth Talbert**
 - a. As a community, we are trying to understand the experience of being unsheltered and the barriers folks face so we can work towards solutions together.
 - b. Dr. Elizabeth Talbert and Dr. Matthew Record have worked on the study in collaboration with Drake students
 - c. 152 folks responded to the initial survey and 37 in-depth interviews were conducted
 - d. The study will outline perceived barriers of why folks would not access emergency shelter and other key findings and themes
 - i. These insights will help craft recommendations from program, policy, and advocacy
 - e. Folks discuss a robust history of work which dispels certain assumptions about people experiencing homelessness
 - f. Oftentimes, crisis events or traumas led to experiencing homelessness
 - g. People gave rich details about how difficult it is to live outside and what their dreams are for the future
 - h. Thank you to Dr. Talbert and Record for their insightful work!
 - i. The full study will be released within the coming months

- iv. **Summer Point in Time Count – Pat Schacherer**

- a. The Summer Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness is not required by HUD like the winter count, but does help us gather crucial data for the community.
 - i. In July, a total of 628 individuals were identified (444 in shelter and 184 unsheltered)
 - ii. Fewer people are in shelter during the summer as compared to the winter (the count took place on a temperate night)
 - iii. There was slight uptick in numbers overall and does represent the largest ever number of people counted as unsheltered
 - 1. This trend is a national one and Polk County is not immune
 - 2. This increase is due in part to the rising cost of housing, inflation, COVID-19, and other macro factors

- v. **Unsheltered Notice of Financial Opportunity – Angie Arthur**
 - a. We have submitted an application for \$4.4 million in HUD funding over 3 years to address unsheltered homelessness.
 - b. We do not yet know when awards will be announced
 - c. It would be a surprise to be awarded the dollars due to the size of our community and how the bonus points are structured.

- vi. **Current State of Homelessness in Polk County – Data and Context**
 - a. There are currently over 500 households on the waitlist for homeless services and 76 families on the waitlist, which is an increasing need
 - b. The challenging rental market and lack of affordable housing is a major barrier
 - c. The needs of people experiencing homelessness and their vulnerability is also increasing which means folks need additional supports to access and retain housing
 - i. If we invest in housing and supportive services, we can make a difference
 - ii. Good examples with investments in Veteran’s and youth populations
 - iii. Important for this group to think through funding opportunities on a local, state, and federal level and how to position messaging

- vii. **Final Questions, Thoughts, and Next Steps – 5 minutes**
 - a. Next Meeting Date – January 26, 2023
 - i. Welcome feedback on future meeting times, locations/methods
 - ii. Perhaps need a longer timeframe for future meetings