

Homeless Coordinating Council Meeting

November 17, 2023

12:00-1:00 pm

Via Zoom

Council Member Attendance: Joseph Jones, Bob Andeweg, Kristi Knous, Josh Mandelbaum, Matt McCoy, Mary Sellers.

Guests: Angie Arthur, Dutch Geisinger, Cynthia Latcham, Jill Padget, David Eberbach, Eric Kool, Amber Lewis, Luke Lynch, Carrie Moreno, Jim Cain, Joe Stevens, Julie Eberbach, Melissa O'Neil, Randy Jansen, Pat Schacherer, Scott Sander, and Sue Woody.

1. **Welcome** – Josh Mandelbaum – HCC Chair
2. **Approval of August 17, 2023 Minutes – Voting Item**
Mary Sellers moves approval, seconded by Matt McCoy. Carried.
3. **Update – Homeless System Gap Analysis**
 - Jim Cain, Homeward, shared about the gap analysis currently taking place in Polk County. Matt White, Housing Innovations, is the person leading the work. Matt White will be coming to Des Moines in December to share projected numbers.
 - 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. **Information from the Homeless System**
 - Angie Arthur, Homeward executive director, shared data and information about the homeless system. Discussed the services and providers.
 - The role of Homeward in the community was also shared.
 - There are currently 95 families on the emergency shelter waitlist.
 - Over 700 households are on the housing waitlist. Unfortunately, there are not enough local resources to provide housing.
 - The needs of households are increasing. Through October 2023, 50% of households going through Centralized Intake score in the highest need category.
 - 46% of Des Moines metro renters are rent burdened.
 - We can make homelessness a **rare, brief, and one-time experience** for Polk County residents with sufficient investments in housing and supportive services. Ex. Veterans homelessness has been functional zero since 2016.
5. **Winter Weather Preparedness**
 - Dutch Geisinger, Polk County Emergency Management (PCEM) deputy director, shared about the emergency planning that has taken place through

their organization - EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #6:MASS CARE AND SHELTERING

- To better address extreme weather, PCEM has drafted SECTION C: EXTREME TEMPERATURES with input from community partners. They would like additional community input on the document.
- Dutch will forward the document to Angie for distribution to the HCC.

6. New Dashboard with Community Information

- Patrick Schacherer reviewed the Polk County/DSM Continuum of Care dashboard data with the HCC.
- This agenda item will be on future meetings to keep the HCC updated.

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

- Email any agenda topics to Angie Arthur's attention.
- Agenda item for the next meeting is Gaps Analysis Next Steps for HC

Next Meeting Date – February 15, 2024