

Homeless Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2024
12:00-1:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting. In-person: Community Foundation C3 Building

Present: Supervisor Matt McCoy, Supervisor Robert Brownell, Kristi Knous, Mary Sellers, Mayor Bob Andeweg, Councilmember Chris Coleman, Councilwoman Susan Judkins, Mayor Russ Trimble, Councilmember Joe Gatto, Councilmember Greg Hudson, Councilwoman Susan Skeries

Guests: Angie Dethlefs-Trettin, Meliss O’Neil, Sam Carrell, Shelby Ridley, Emily Osweiler, Monka Owczarski, Giada Morrissi, Amanda Tugade, Mayor Connie Boesen, Councilwoman Bridget Carberry Montgomery, Cynthia Latcham, Michael Oeude, Joy Esposito, Councilmember Mike Simonson, Kelsie Pinegar, Rae Luna, Kim Duede, Melissa Vine, Julie Eberbach, Amber Lewis, Scott Sanders, Ashlan Lippert, August Geisinger, Eric Kool, Lucas Grundmeier, Hannah, Ashley Harvey, Jalesha, Jessica Nelson, Kasper Kittredge, Pat Schacherer, Joy Ihle, KarLee Kearns, Katie Nelson, Luke Lynch, Ren, Renae Mauk, Susan McCarragher, , Taylor Van De Krol, Councilmember Ted Weaver, Tom Gilsenan, Susan Woody, Dannie Patrick, Rob Johnson, and others

Staff: Angie Arthur, Jim Cain, Amy Croll

1. **Welcome** – Chris Coleman, Chair
Coleman recognized and welcomed everyone to the meeting shortly after noon.
2. **Approval of May 16, 2024 Minutes – Voting Item**
Supervisor McCoy moved to approve the May 16, 2024 minutes. Supervisor Brownell seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
3. **Appointment of Representatives on Homeward Governance Committee – Voting Item**
 - **Select Homeward Board Member to chair governance Committee**
 - **Select two community/corporate advocates that aren’t on Homeward Board**

Coleman suggested that many chairs on the Homeward Governance Committee are by right, but not all. The committee requires two at-large members and a third appointment comes from the Homeward Board of Directors with the responsibility to Chair the CoC Governance Committee. Coleman recommends appointment of Mayor Andeweg and Mayor Trimble to serve as the two at-large members. Coleman recommends City of Des Moines staff member Amber Lewis to chair the Governance Committee. Supervisor Brownell moved the appointment. Councilmember Gatto seconded the appointment. All were in favor. Motion carries.
4. **Summer 2024 Point in Time Count**
 - **Presentation of Data – Pat Schacherer**

The slide presentation can be found at www.homewardiowa.org/informationandstatistics

Schacherer walked the group through the summer Point-In Time (PIT) count data, stressing that the summer PIT is not required by HUD and is a community-led, voluntary effort and therefore is not as in-depth as the winter PIT count. He stressed today's presentation is specifically about people experiencing literal homelessness.

The summer 2024 PIT total was 729 individuals. Of those, 404 were sheltered and 177 were unsheltered. It's critical to note the 100 person increase in the number of individuals using shelter from the winter to the summer PIT count. In addition, there's substantial growth in the numbers of people using family shelter.

Zip code data for the last known permanent address is also collected. Of those who responded, 78.1% reported a Polk County zip code (all within the city of Des Moines), 16.7% reported a zip code outside of Polk County and 5.2% reported a zip code from a different state.

Most notable is the large increase in sheltered families and a decrease in sheltered individuals. Sub-population data remains fairly consistent across substance use/mental health, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, ethnic demographics, and gender.

It's important to note that we continue to see a rise in homelessness in our aging population, with 17% of homeless individuals being over age 65 and many experiencing homelessness for the first time. This is an increase of 2% over the past year and is beginning to follow national trends of an older population experiencing homelessness.

Mary Sellers commented on the interconnection between homelessness and the rapid increase in food pantry usage by those over the age of 55.

Summer count total is stable as compared to winter PIT, however, numbers have increased substantially over 2023 summer count.

Coleman stated the provider network is doing great work and we continue to do great work. Trimble commented that while the numbers are increasing, the system is working and we need to continue to support the system. He suggested the HCC work toward set goals to continue to move forward. Trimble stated West Des Moines is offering incentives to builders to build affordable housing, most notably senior housing units, but given this data states that we need to keep working to increase senior housing.

Arthur stated that Homeward just received funding to bring Matt White to the community to complete a 5-year strategic plan. Arthur referred participants to the Gap analysis available on the Homeward website. Arthur stated "We will be working with the community, provider, lived experience, and others to have plenty of public

input into the strategic plan so we can work collectively to have a regional plan for our communities.”

Matt McCoy asked how resources have been expanded to increase the needs to support those who are entering into our shelters. Pat Schacherer highlighted that the HIC is only counted once/year. He stated that Section 8 housing vouchers has increased due to ARPA funds, but with a prioritized different subset population (low-income seniors with a VI-SPDAT of 4 and up) who are more likely to succeed in Section 8 housing. PSH has been at a steady number over the past few years. Emergency rental assistance is currently funded through Iowa Finance Authority as is the largest rapid rehousing project in the county, but the funds expire 9/1/25.

Trimble asked what percentage of homeless service funding is federal, state, or local? Approximately \$5M is federal funding through the CoC. At the state level, 5% (\$1.3M) of the real estate transfer fund goes to the entire state through the shelter assistance fund. Schacherer commented that as interest rates have increased, the real estate transfer fund has decreased by about \$1M over the last two years.

Kristi Knous identified the need for a multi-faceted approach including increase in affordable housing as well as an increase in homeless services.

A guest asked about the need for seniors who have medical challenges that can not be accommodated. This was identified and acknowledged as a significant gap.

5. Review Dashboard with Community Information

Kasper Kittredge highlighted the performance measures committee’s work to create a better public dashboard. The data dashboard has been live for over a year, but walked through the dashboard at www.homewardiowa.org/informationandstatistics/datadashboard

The key is to understand that this data is about those in projects, not necessarily someone who entered Centralized Intake, but never touched a project. The dashboard does not cover domestic violence to avoid duplication as domestic violence data is entered anonymously.

Brownell asked: “Of the individuals who have moved into housing, do we know how many moved into housing with supportive services?” Kittredge and Schacherer reported “that data can be found in the bottom right corner, but it’s only an approximation. Approximately 60% move from intake to housing with supports.”

6. Creating a Regional Response to Homelessness – Discussion

Angie Arthur stated the next steps is a facilitated strategic planning process with Matt White of Housing Innovations. She encouraged attendees to register for the newsletter and sign in. She highlighted that the Continuum of Care Notice of Funding

Opportunity (NOFO) funding process is currently happening now and Homeward will be applying on behalf of the community. Homeward is currently investigating a \$5M opportunity for a Permanent Supportive Housing NOFO. The CoC Builds NOFO is geared toward developers and Homeward plans to hold an open meeting on September 12th to learn more.

Matt McCoy reported on the launch of the Polk County Life Service Center (previously referred to as sobering center). McCoy requested an expanded meeting to hear from providers to address challenges to the increase in need for shelter beds. He highlighted how the majority of our Veterans are being cared for. He suggested we have traditionally been a great supporter of seniors and he wants to be made aware if there is an increase in the overall number of needs of seniors in our community. He highlighted the need for a regional discussion to address this problem.

Coleman suggested a roundtable with providers and thanked Supervisor Brownell and Supervisor McCoy for their work on the Life Service Center.

Trimble highlighted the challenges with DART and how that will impact homelessness. Trimble highlighted the need to support the hard-working individuals that rely on DART. WDSM will have 150 Low- and moderate-income apartments coming on line that will give priority to those working in the jobs by the new water park/convention center.

Gatto stated they will be opening up 250 affordable senior housing at Southridge mall and will be bringing the total to 400 housing units.

Judkins highlighted Russ Trimble on his contribution to bringing in the suburbs and thanked Mayor Andeweg and Mayor Trimble for their willingness to step up.

7. Chair and Vice Chair Report

Coleman highlighted that we will have a community roundtable with providers between now and November 21st.

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

Next Meeting Date – November 21, 2024

Meeting ended at 1:14 PM