

## Homeless Coordinating Council Meeting

January 26, 2023

12:00-1:00 pm

Zoom Link - [Homeless Coordinating Council Meeting](#)

*Council Member Attendance: Scott Duer, Greg Hudson, Susan Judkins, Josh Mandelbaum, Matt McCoy, Mary Sellers, and Indira Sheumaker.*

*Guests: Angie Arthur, Virginia Barreda, Abbey Barrow, Cody Devereaux, Steve Eggleston, Deirdre Henriquez, Joy Ihle, Cassandra Kramer, Eric Kool, Cynthia Latcham, Luke Lynch, Dwight Long, Susan McCarragher, Carrie Moreno, Leon Negen, Melissa O'Neil, Emily Osweiler, Jill Padgett, Shelby Ridley, Dr. Matthew Record, Elizabeth Spragg, Patrick Schacherer, Dr. Elizabeth Talbert, Amanda Tugade, and Gary Wickering.*

- i. Welcome and Introductions– Josh Mandelbaum – HCC Chair**
- ii. Approval of October 27, 2022 Minutes – Voting Item**
  - a. Mary Sellers moves approval, seconded by Greg Hudson. Carried.
- iii. Unsheltered Notice of Financial Opportunity –Angie Arthur**
  - a. No update yet on the federal HUD homelessness funding process. We submitted an application for annual funding as well as a separate application for a grant specific to unsheltered homelessness. Angie will provide updates via email before the next HCC meeting.
  - b. There is now an RFP available for HOME funds via the American Rescue Plan Act.
- iv. Eviction Expungement Legislation –Angie Arthur**
  - a. Under current Iowa Law, if a renter has an eviction filed against them, it remains on their record (even if the filing was a mistake, later dismissed or happened many years ago.)
  - b. Unlike with foreclosures, there is no process in place for this information to eventually fall off a person's record, leading to people being denied housing, often unfairly.
  - c. Proposed eviction expungement legislation would allow renters to be placed on similar footing to homeowners by creating a process for sealing of eviction records.
  - d. The bill was passed by a House subcommittee and will be moving to the House Judiciary.

- e. Many organizations and partners are also working to spur a companion bill in the Senate.
- f. Of 18,000 evictions in 2022, 52% were dismissed or withdrawn, but remain on people's records, creating additional barriers to housing

**v. Winter Point in Time Count –Pat Schacherer**

- a. The 2023 Winter Point in Time count started yesterday at noon and ended today a noon.
- b. The data hasn't been compiled yet, but there is some preliminary information.
- c. ICA received 148 submissions for unsheltered individuals in the community. However, this number will fluctuate as the data is cleaned and de-duplicated
- d. Pat will present the full spectrum of the PIT Count at the next HCC meeting, including information on the number of individuals in shelters and transitional housing.
- e. There are new age categories (approximately 10 year ranges) this year so that we can get a better understanding of demographics in the communities and Polk County's aging homeless population

**vi. Unsheltered Study – Update – Dr. Elizabeth Talbert**

- a. The Unsheltered Des Moines Study is an important and innovative piece of work that emerged from the Extreme Weather Work Group (a sub-group of the HCC)
- b. It is crucially important to include the voices of people with lived experience and data in our system-wide homelessness efforts
- c. Dr. Elizabeth Talbert and Dr. Matthew Record co-authored the study and worked with a team of Drake University students. They also worked collaboratively with service providers in the community and folks experiencing unsheltered homelessness and express their thanks for the incredible partnership.
- d. The research team conducted extensive background and literature research on unsheltered homelessness as part of their data collection
- e. The researchers identified 6 major barriers to accessing and utilizing emergency shelter in our community. Understanding these barriers will help us build a better system, improve services, and get more folks safe from the elements and housed
  - i. Physical conditions of shelter
  - ii. Rules, Routines, and Norms of the shelter
  - iii. Perceptions of shelter staff
  - iv. Problems with other shelter clients
  - v. Gender-specific experiences and barriers
  - vi. Apathy and the difficult burden of daily survival while experiencing homelessness
- f. The study contains short-term, medium-term, and long-term policy recommendations for the Polk County homeless response system to improve and address the barriers identified in the surveys and in-depth interviews.
- g. The research team is also working to get feedback from services providers.

- h. Community homeless service providers will coming together to meet and discuss the study recommendations and prioritize a plan of action
  - i. The full study and an executive summary are a available at [homeardiowa.org](http://homeardiowa.org)
  
- vii. Does this meeting time work for the group?**
  - a. The group does have some conflicts with the quarterly meeting time
  - b. Angie will send out a survey to the group to determine a meeting schedule going forward
  
- viii. Final Questions, Thoughts, and Next Steps**
  - a. Indira Sheumaker moves to adjourn, seconded by Mary Sellers. Carried.