

**Homeless Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 16, 2024**  
**12:00-1:00 pm**

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**PRESENT:** Chris Coleman, Joe Gatto, Kristi Knous, Robert Brownell, Scott Duer, Shawn McAninch, Matt McCoy, Bob Andeweg, Russ Trimble

**GUESTS:** Angie Dethlefs-Trettin, August Geisinger, Cynthia Latcham, Amber Lewis, Ehren Stover-Wright, Emily Osweiler, Eric Kool, Jenna, Joe Stevens, Joy Ihle, Julie Eberbach, Melissa O'Neil, Jennifer Miner, Susan McCarragher, Leon Negen, Scott Sanders,

**STAFF:** Angie Arthur, Amy Croll

**WELCOME**

Chris Coleman welcomed the group.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 15, 2024 MINUTES**

Kristi Knous moved to approve the February 15, 2024 minutes. Joe Gatto seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

**CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR REPORT**

Chris Coleman addressed concerns within public spaces. He highlighted he would like the next meeting to be in-person and extended to two hours.

**UPDATE ON HOMELESS SYSTEM GAP ANALYSIS**

**a. Polk County and State of Iowa**

Angie Arthur reported that the Polk County gap analysis continues to drive the priorities of the homeless system as it identified the needs within Polk County as we work towards creation of an optimum system to address homelessness. Angie addressed the items identified in the gaps analysis and current work towards developing a family and women's shelter. A gap analysis is being performed for Iowa to help better understand statewide needs.

**b. Next Steps – How does the HCC want to be involved?**

Angie Arthur asked how the HCC would like to be involved. Kristi Knous suggested a more holistic and comprehensive planning effort particularly since we know homelessness is ultimately a housing problem. The business community would like to see the Homeless Coordinating Council take the lead in addressing the concerns identified in the gap analysis. Chris Coleman echoed that he and Joe Gatto have been hearing similar messages.

**WINTER 2024 POINT IN TIME COUNT**

**c. Presentation**

Susan McCarragher from ICA presented the Point in Time Count that occurred from Jan 24 (noon) to January 25 (noon). In 2024, the PIT total number was 715. Of those 715 individuals, 400 were in Emergency Shelter, 147 were unsheltered, 14 were in Supported Housing, and 154 participate in Transitional Housing. It's important to note that 715 is the highest PIT count

number in the last 10 years. The PIT Chronic population has also increased to 175. While chronicity is self-reported, this is also the largest number in the past six years. The Veteran population and the youth population have remained stable with the Veteran number at 54 and the youth number at 41 for the January 2024 PIT count.

The bed utilization rates as reported in the HIC for this timeframe are also at an all-time high, with rates at 90% for ES, 80% for TH, and 98-100% for all other classes (PSH, OPH, and SH). Given that PIT numbers are at an all-time high as are utilization rates, it's an indicator that the system is serving at max capacity.

The data demonstrated an increase in all areas of homelessness as well as the highest rate of usage of the available beds on the night of the PIT count. Nationally, there is a trend that is increasing and we continue to match that national trend. Nationally, the age of first-time homelessness has been significantly increasing and we are starting to see that pattern although not as significantly here in the metro.

Joe Gatto requested a list of which service providers, projects, and project types are included in the count. Susie will follow-up with that information following the presentation. The presentation will also be sent to the HCC and posted to the Homeward website.

Scott Sanders requested a way to delineate that additional beds in the HIC count are identified as consistent capacity rather than additional capacity. This change in reported HIC capacity is only due to HUD reporting rather than actual capacity.

Scott Sanders identified that mental illness has increased dramatically and substance abuse has decreased dramatically. Suzie reminded the group that the data is self-reported and Ehren Stover-Wright identified that individuals could report both mental illness and substance abuse. All projects are nearly at capacity with housing rates higher than it has ever been.

Angie Arthur stated that Emergency Rental Assistance Program is State COVID funded housing that will expire next year. It's important to consider the implications of the sunseting of this funding.

## **REVIEW DASHBOARD WITH COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

Susan McCarragher reviewed and explained the Homeward dashboard on the Homeward website. The data is set to default to a one-month view but has the flexibility to look at other date ranges. This information can be accessed in real time at <https://www.homewardiowa.org/informationandstatistics/datadashboard> The Homeward dashboard can be modified, if desired.

## **FINAL QUESTIONS, THOUGHTS, AND NEXT STEPS**

The summer Point in Time Count will be from noon July 31<sup>st</sup> to noon August 1<sup>st</sup>. Individuals are welcome to volunteer. This date aligns with the Balance of State Point in Time Count date.

Next Meeting Date – August 15, 2024