

November Doubled Up Committee

November 28, 2023, 3:15pm, Zoom

<https://countyofdane.zoom.us/j/91630864969?pwd=bnJvMGplQTFvRkhNVFNrMi85SGFPdz09>

In attendance: Lisa Hemauer, Claire Bergman, Kimi Waller, Janie Riebe, Alicia Spry, Tiara Smith's AI assistant, Emily Gebheim, Nicole Verhagen, Bridget Rogers, Virginia Lee's AI assistant, Andrea Gaines, Drea White, Tamaha Shepherd-Jones, Katie Castern, Jani Koester

1. Recap of Homelessness Awareness Month events - drive in SP going very well. Mayor made proclamation; put out ribbons and a banner in major traffic area. Jani reported that Madison Schools also put up a ribbon display with 730 ribbons, but the number as of today should be 830 ribbons for the number of children attending Madison Schools who are living in homeless families. Madison Schools has been taking donations of basic essentials and the drive has been very successful. The November is Homeless Awareness Month displays will be taken down on November 30. Members of DU are invited to join the November awareness committee, which will not be meeting again until February. Contact Jani if interested.
2. Winter Unsheltered Homelessness discussion; meeting December 4th, 12-1:30pm. Info share
3. Chair/Co-Chair discussion:
 - Lisa asked if there were any volunteers to serve as co-chairs for the Doubled Up Workgroup in 2024. Claire Bergman and Andrea Gaines stated that they were interested in serving as long as it was a co-chair situation. Lisa said that she would need to check into whether a formal vote was necessary or if their statements of willingness to serve were sufficient to appoint them.
4. Jani reported that one of the local TV stations (either Channel 3 or 15) will be doing some publicity on unaccompanied youth and food accessibility with Second Harvest soon.
5. Discussion about Doubled Up Advocacy Issues for 2024:
 - Continue to search for funding to advance our cause
 - Our advocacy on the county budget amendments was successful
 - Cold weather nights and repercussions

- Have our radar on the “Plan to End Homelessness” when it is released in draft form and make sure that DU shows up where it needs to, and make recommendations for additions, and ensure that DU is represented as it should be (Jani will try to get a sense of when it will be released in draft form)
- Schoolhouse Connection (a national advocacy organization) recommends that advocates reach out to Senator Tammy Baldwin to take the lead and sign into legislation that deceased Senator Dianne Feinstein had been working on to get HUD to include Doubled Up in their funding stream for homeless programs. There was discussion whether it was the National Homeless Alliance or the National Alliance to End Homelessness that has come out against HUD including DU. Why? Possibly because the pie is so small already, more requests dilute it further, local autonomy issues, or DU perceived as not as vulnerable
- Suggest that DU connect with the Institute on Research on Poverty
- Language issues require our attention. “Language access issue needs to be an HSC-wide topic.” Most agencies don’t have enough bilingual staff and Language Line is expensive.
- One-Stop Shop would help alleviate language and other issues affecting DU. Many resources, but fragmented. But recommend not just in Madison; would need to be a mobile outreach team throughout the county. Beacon isn’t working for everyone. Housing search support is a huge need.
- How do Porchlight and Salvation Army handle non-English speaking people?
- Could we ask HSC to have a language access panel discussion for an upcoming meeting?

No meeting in December. Next meeting January.