

CORE Committee Minutes

Thursday, June 1, 2023 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

1. Assign Notetaker – Sarah Lim
2. Introductions (make sure attendance is taken)
3. Announcements/Walk on Items –None
4. Discussion on criminalization of homelessness – Takisha Jordan and Madison Street Medicine

(See Takisha’s presentation slides and Brenda’s presentation slides.)

Discussion:

- Does municipal ticket show up on CCAP? No, it’s within municipal court so won’t show up on CCAP. But if you don’t have money to find housing because you have tickets or have a record that a LL sees, that will restrict access to housing.
- What are the impact of communities that passed the homeless bill of rights? Do they see more people on the streets? What would be the impact of repealing certain city ordinances? How does this help people find housing?
- It’s important for providers to develop relationship with law enforcement to reduce criminalization. We also need to hold them accountable for equitable enforcement.
- Homeless Bill of Rights by Madison Homeless Union has been presented to the [City County Homeless Issues Committee](#) and the motion to support the bill passed at the committee. However, separate resolution about the bill needs to be drawn up to be voted at the City and County. There was also a discussion at the committee to work on repealing specific ordinances instead of passing the bill.
- Brenda shared MSM’s research on specific city ordinances that criminalize homelessness. Examples include 23.07.b (“No persons shall possess or use items commonly associated with sleeping or habitation, including but not exclusively, beds, mattresses, sleeping bags, bedrolls, blankets, pillows, sheets, quilts and comforters on the property of another without the permission of a person lawfully upon the premises”), 11.03 (“No persons shall enter or remain in a bus shelter or at a transfer point except while actually waiting for the arrival of the next scheduled bus routed to the person’s destination or except while having business to attend to in connection with waiting for a bus.”) and 8.26 (“No person, group or corporation may erect, build, maintain or store any temporary structure in any City park without first paying a fee and receiving a permit to erect, build, maintain or store same.” See the list in Brenda’s attachment.
- Do these actually get enforced? Can we get a list of people who got those tickets, compare with HMIS, and work on service coordination? Brenda wondered if it’s an okay use of HMIS so hasn’t used HMIS to look up. Maybe we can use the outreach client list instead of HMIS.
- These city ordinances don’t say “homeless people can’t be here” but they describe characteristics of people experiencing homelessness.

- Can we work with National Law Center? Brenda has approached them in the past but they weren't interested in Madison cases. You also need to find a client who were affected by the ordinance and have them challenge the ordinance.
- Do we have a sense of how many tickets are given annually for each of these things? Brenda has done an open records request only on the first ordinance (23.07).
- We would want to have an agreement whether we would be behind trying to repeal these ordinances.
- Voting restriction in Madison/Dane County? City and County clerk's offices had quarterly meetings that worked on helping people experiencing homelessness be able to vote. The clerk's office staff seem well educated on how they can help people establish residency. Alicia shared her experience being able to vote wherever she was in Illinois.
- Who should we connect with at the state and national level to work on this issue together? Takisha will connect with Torrie to get some ideas. American Civil Liberties Union, Atty. Molly McGrath (voter rights, not municipal tickets, but important data about protecting rights of individuals who do not have a "residence". Is this being worked on by or discussed with the WI Coalition to End Homelessness?
- Should this go to HSC Education and Advocacy Committee? Education and Advocacy Committee plan for 2023 has six goals, and it seems to work under #5. Would working on repealing a city ordinance need the HSC board approval?
- Could we start by working on repealing one ordinance? Core Committee members present at the meeting voted. City and County staff recused, other members agreed that HSC can start working on ordinance 23.07b to start with and the item should be referred to the HSC Education and Advocacy Committee.
- HSC Education and Advocacy Committee members present at Core Committee thought they could bring this issue to the Committee. Michelle will ask Marjorie to add the agenda possibly in July. Brenda can present at Education and Advocacy Committee in July.
- There was a question whether it's against the ordinance to install popup tents to make shade in parks? That is done frequently with sports event without citations.

a. HUD NOFO – This is the question from last year's application. How do you think we would answer these?

i. Select yes or no in the chart to indicate strategies your CoC implemented to ensure homelessness is not criminalized and to reverse existing criminalization policies in your CoC's geographic area:

1. Engaged/educated local policymakers
2. Engaged/educated law enforcement
3. Engaged/educated business leaders
4. Implemented community wide plans
5. Other: "homeless bill of rights being considered"

- More people are becoming unsheltered – weather, hotel to housing program ending, etc. And we will see more pushback from law enforcement and business leaders.

- How can we fit this into community plan to address this?
- Individual agencies are doing a lot of different things (Dairy Drive, Beacon, Men's shelter teams' meeting with MPD and neighborhood, etc.). Based on these agency and program specific experiences, we could draft CoC's recommendation on best practices on how to educate, how to engage, how to advocate, etc. We will pick this up at the next meeting.

5. Discussion on coordination with County agencies – Melissa Mennig

(Melissa had to leave at 2:40pm so we skipped.)

6. Action Step Review :

The committee reviewed the 2022 action items and added follow up notes:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13ZcNFYjt9ZqhSnPTpnYo80MKIbehsPPEUunvP4505Qw/edit#gid=0>

Do we have 2023 list? Let's start drafting action steps for 2024 soon.

7. Next Meeting: Thursday, July 6, 2023 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm