



Homeless Services Consortium Membership Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday March 16, 2021

1-2:30 pm

Zoom

Welcome & Entering Zoom Room

Board & Committee Updates Board Member, Committee Chairs

- **Governance and Nominating Committee –**
 - 3rd Tuesday of the month, 2:30pm-4:00pm *Tuesday March 16, 2021*
 - Last meeting reviewed Board of Directors Code of Conduct and will continue today, required to review every 2 years
 - Will look at attendance tracking to see how it is working
- **Committee to End Youth Homelessness –**
 - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10:30am-12:00pm *Wednesday March 17, 2021*
 - Gloria Reyes from Briarpatch has joined as co-chair
 - Have identified priorities for the committee and working on those
 - Waiting on YHDP
- **Written Standards Work Group –**
 - 3rd Thursday of the month, 1:00pm-3:00pm *Thursday March 18, 2021*
 - Last meeting went through case management and personnel sections
 - Next meeting will finalize those and work on housing first, emergency shelter and transitional housing
- **Doubled Up Work Group –**
 - 4th Tuesday of the month, 3:00pm-4:15pm *Tuesday March 23, 2021*
 - Working to provide education to the community about doubled-up populations and homelessness outside of the City of Madison
 - Balance of State will come to talk about their Coordinated Entry process for prevention funds to serve people who are doubled-up to obtain housing
- **HSC Board of Directors –**
 - 4th Thursday of the month, 11:00am-1:00pm *Thursday March 25, 2021*
 - Approved funding slate for ESG-CV funds, very difficult decisions to make
- **Core Committee –**
 - 1st Thursday of the month, 1:00pm-3:00 pm *Thursday April 1, 2021*
 - Last meeting reviewed the CoC funding process and competition documents, received feedback from the group on ways to improve and will look at what other communities are doing
 - Board has final approval on all competition documents, hope to present them with improved materials
- **Funders Committee –**
 - 1st Tuesday of the month, 10:30am-11:30am, *Tuesday April 6, 2021*
 - Started work on survey for participants for Gaps Analysis
 - Working with Lived Experience Committee

- **Shelter Providers Committee –**
 - 9:00am-10:30am, Wednesday April 7, 2021
 - No updates, haven't met since last HSC Meeting
- **Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness Oversight Committee –**
 - 2nd Friday of the month, 9:30am-10:30am; *Friday April 9, 2021*
 - Planning for update/revamp of Community Plan
 - Figuring out what we might want, setting up meetings with agencies who might help, figuring out funding for process
- **Education and Advocacy Committee –**
 - 2nd Thursday of the month, 9:30am-11:00am
 - Working with Core Committee on connections to local representatives to help them understand homelessness in Dane County
- **City County Homeless Issues Committee**
 - Last meeting talked about men's shelter and McPike Park

Men's Purpose Built Shelter Presentation Linette Rhodes

- See Power Point Presentation.
- Early 2019 started talking about need for purpose built shelter.
- During COVID, temporary shelter for men at Warner Park. Now at First Street.
- Vulnerable Population hotels have about 140 men, Warner Park served about 80 per night and First Street serves about 110 each night
- No final numbers yet, but looking at space for 100 in the summer and 200-250 in the winter
- Goal: a housing-focused shelter that helps men move into stable housing
- Some public comment has not been in support of the shelter and have not provided accurate information. Please note that the numbers above are what we are looking at for a shelter.
- Site selection started in April 2020, have some required criteria
- Proposed site: 2002 Zeier Rd., City and County have agreed to move forward with purchase
- Transportation has been a major question. There are 2 years before a shelter location is opened and we are communicating with transportation folks on how to best serve people.
- Currently we are still in the process of being able to purchase the property. We will then look for architects and providers. There are minimum requirements of how long we have bids out. Will be fall of 2022 before a shelter opens at this site, if it is purchased
- Community Input is key as we move forward. Looking to engage with this group and people who use the shelter. Just completed a survey with shelter guests.

NEXT STEPS

- March 1st- 5:30pm City County Homeless Issues Committee- **Approved**
- March 4th- 5:30pm Community Development Block Grant Committee- **No recommendation**
- March 12th- 6:00pm Neighborhood Meeting- **Completed**
- March 16th- 4:30pm Common Council Executive Committee
- March 22nd- 4:30pm Finance Committee
- March 30th- 6:30pm Common Council Action

- We had put an offer on a property in the past and when it was made public about the use, we were outbid. Thus, we have been more confidential in conversations, happy to come back in April with a panel to talk through more details.

Serving Doubled Up Families: Panel Discussion Emily Thibedeau, Catherine

Rierson, Nicole Norris, Jani Koester, Andrea Gaines

- Please tell us your name, job title, and a little bit about your work and its role within housing & homeless services.
 - Andrea Gaines: Family Housing Stability at YWCA, program is for diversion population or people who are doubled-up/hotels, provide rent assistance and case management
 - Emily Thibedeau: Joining Forces for Families – Dane County Human Services, 15 community social workers in communities, work is not limited to housing/homelessness, general support of families and help connect them to resources and navigate systems, have a scope on the impact of doubled up, often support households that aren't already connected to housing/homeless services
 - Catherine Rierson- Sun Prairie School District, McKinney Vento Coordinator, identify students experiencing homelessness and support their educational needs, this includes doubled-up families and those in shelter, about 75% of families are doubled up, currently on HSC Board
 - Jani Koester- Works for MMSD in same roles as Catherine, focus on education of those students, we are not a housing program, involved with HSC and work to figure out how to support families
 - Nicole Norris: family shelter diversion at The Salvation Army, help explore other options for families who are requesting shelter, help them to resolve immediate crisis
 - Shannon Stevens – works for Transition Education Program with Jani, focus is on middle and high schoolers, specifically unaccompanied youth, looking to improve access to services, numbers have increased due to COVID and families splitting up their families
- Describe diversion/prevention services as you all provide them and how it compares/contrast to other services in HSC.
 - Nicole and Andrea work very closely together
 - Housing search, case management
 - A lot of programs are focused on 'literal homelessness' which is the population I serve, the population is not considered homeless because they are staying with someone
 - Help people who are in housing and help them stabilize in that housing
 - Read diversion description from Written Standards.
<https://www.danecountyhomeless.org/governance>
 - Often times if a family doesn't have a place to stay, there won't be shelter available for them so often are staying in places that are unsafe or hard to be in for a variety of reasons
- What benefits do diversion and prevention play in our system and what barriers have you identified?
 - Diversion has a lot of benefits, serves as a triage tool, everyone requesting shelter has different experiences and if a small number can find a safe option to stay, it opens up shelter space for people who do not have those options, provide longer term support

- towards housing for families accessing diversion, some families get housing without accessing shelter
 - Barrier: difficult to find permanent housing, have the same barriers that families in shelter have around
- Please describe housing services most frequently requested. How does it compare/contrast to services available in HSC?
 - Flexible landlord list, help to get into shelter, assistance with stable housing, complete subsidized housing applications/appeals/follow-up, general housing search, talk about housing history and getting it on paper, what shows up on credit or on background (CCAP), walk through what exists and doesn't exist for housing support, help through process of applying for resources, provide advocacy or help people self-advocate and know what questions to ask
 - Education about rights for a student experiencing homelessness, referrals for services & community resources
 - Basic needs, not just hand a phone number, but really make the connections to meet basic needs, make sure we know housing resources and how to access them,
 - Connect people to housing navigation services, work with JFF,
- Populations of Latinx or Southeast Asian who do not utilize or underutilize homeless services. Any perspective to add?
 - People do not always know what resources do exist, language barrier, can be really challenging to navigate the system if the family does not speak English as a first language and time consuming, hesitant to seek services especially if they are working through documentation processes, want to keep families together
- Successes/Creative solutions that you have found in the work. What are main barriers families you work with experience?
 - Connect with larger community via zoom, easy to connect with HSC and JFF in ways that we couldn't before, will be able to continue with these partnerships
 - Personal relationships have been really important for young people
 - Addition of doubled-up work group to HSC, let Jani know if you would like to join
 - Early Childhood Homeless Workgroup – works with early childhood providers who are working with families experiencing homelessness
 - Have ROI with shelters so that we are able to connect with families to make sure education needs are being met
 - Work with Project Babies, Urban Triage and Greater Madison Resource Center
 - Great things are happening, but families who are doubled-up feel invisible, they feel like they are not homeless enough, feel like their voices aren't heard
 - Some families feel that being diverted does not allow them to access services they need
 - When we do see successes, it seems that families have had to work very hard to get there
 - Don't have necessary tools to help people figure out housing, talking to a case manager won't guarantee housing, there is not enough affordable housing
 - Flexible money has been really important to help families who are doubled-up
 - Hard if you have been doubled up and can't put down a reference, if moving a lot might miss mail about coming up on a waitlist
 - Exhausting to sustain living in someone else's home
 - Sunshine Place has been great for households in Sun Prairie
 - In rural communities, doubled-up is what families do as shelter isn't an option in those communities

- Verona – 90% of McKinney identified students are doubled-up, hard to save money for security deposit/first month's rent, has great relationship with JFF worker and other community agencies, Badger Prairie Needs Network, families can't always stay in the district because can't find housing here
- Hard to find housing, I don't have secret places for people, I do a lot of advocating and work to find spaces, places will accept people and then when agency calls to arrange move-in costs then landlord starts having hesitancy, end up using the same landlords again and again
- Middleton Outreach Ministry- do not receive any government funding, financial assistance is pretty unrestricted, people have to be within our service area far west side of Madison and Middleton/Cross Plains School District attendance area, can help with rent, security deposit, utilities, serve singles and families, do not have to be literally homeless, can email Shannon Ash with any questions shannon@momhelps.org
- What is one thing that you can think of that those who prioritize literal homelessness can do to support your work or amplify the voice of double dup population
 - Keep conversation going about how we can support everyone who has been evicted or lost housing, how to support more affordable housing in our community, if there is an agency who would be willing to apply for ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) prevention funds to work with doubled-up population that would be great
 - Help to tell the story of what it means to be doubled-up and how they end up in other system and the impact that has had, how to get a better idea of number of households impacted and the cost of that
 - Assessment for people on the shelter waitlist and doubled-up and have been there a long time to see if they could use some more assistance and have some programming available for them
 - Gap in system for youth under 18 who are parenting
 - Sankofa and Shelter from the Storm provide support to households in Sun Prairie
 - JFF services are happening virtually or outside.

Announcements

- Kelly Knutowski is the new case manager at Shelter From The Storm: Kelly.knutowski@sftsm.org

Relevant Chat

13:38:30 From Torrie to Everyone: Nicole is reading from our Written Standards which can be found here: <https://www.danecountyhomeless.org/governance>

13:48:41 from Torrie to Everyone: YHDP = Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

13:55:05 From Jalatefa JoeMeyers to Everyone : 1026 W Main st in Sun Prairie is Sankofa Educational Leadership United's main office and we are open for walk ins . Our housing search and Rapid rehousing managers are there everyday .

13:59:48 From Jalatefa JoeMeyers to Everyone : You do have to be homeless category 1 to be in our rapid rehousing program , but not to receive help with housing search .

14:00:49 From Catherine Reiersen to Everyone : What's the phone # for housing search with Sankofa?

14:03:02 From Nicole Lion to Everyone : I agree with Jani. When there isn't a great diversion option and also not a shelter option, families really struggle day to day.

14:03:40 From Jalateefa JoeMeyers to Everyone : I agree with Jani . I hear that often .

14:04:24 From Melissa Salisbury to Everyone : Just wanted to throw in a Verona Area School District perspective: A success would be that we have developed great communication and teaming with our local JFF worker & community food pantry (BPNN), JFF is a lifeline for our school social workers when trying to find more stable/consistent community case management for families who have many needs beyond the educational environment; some barriers our families deal with in Verona: Lack of access to affordable housing outside of Madison; lack of transportation to/from the district - especially for our Fitchburg and 53711 area code families; community resources being primarily located in Madison, not easy access for many of our families. 90% of our homeless families are doubled-up, and housing options for our families to maintain their kids in our district are very hard to come by.

14:04:37 From jeremys to Everyone : self sufficiency and self advocacy is very important

14:04:56 From Jalateefa JoeMeyers to Everyone : Catherine you can call the same number 618-9977 and select Rapid rehousing from phone tree

14:05:57 From Samantha Green-Milon to Everyone : No security deposit help

14:06:54 From Andrea-FHS (YWCA) to Everyone : I totally agree with Emily

14:13:50 From Marjorie Lewis - Porchlight Safe Haven to Everyone : The US has expected the private sector to care about people's needs and develop safe affordable housing for everyone, and it just hasn't been happening. Until the government actually develops the housing needed, we're going to continue to hit these walls.

14:17:38 From Shannon Ash to Everyone : Shannon Ash, Program Director at Middleton Outreach Ministry - shannon@momhelps.org

14:22:32 From Allie Grant to Everyone : Here is a link to project supported by UW that is wanting to get more housing data available throughout Wisconsin. "The DataCore links data covering a long period of program history, including data from nearly all social welfare programs in Wisconsin, as well as information on incarceration from the Department of Corrections and children's educational outcomes from the Department of Public Instruction." <https://research.wisc.edu/building-a-transformational-data-resource-to-support-housing-research/>

14:23:32 From Allie Grant to Everyone: We only have limited initial information but the Committee to End Youth Homelessness is trying to stay up to date with this project

14:25:05 From Shannon Stevens to Everyone: I think financial literacy and understanding the rental and employment processes are vital for young people's education and success too