Doubled Up Committee October 2023

October 24, 2023, 3pm

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

- Introduction and notetaker/attendance: Emily Gebheim, Lisa Hemauer, Jani Koester, Bridget Rogers, Katie Castern, Nicole Verhagen, Claire Bergman, Takisha Jordan, Johneisha Prescott, Patti Lacrosse via otterpilot, Janie Riebe on phone, Alicia Spry, Emily Daniels, Leticia Hockenberry
- 2. We are an official committee! If you are interested/willing to be a chair or co-chair, let us know. Johneisha would be willing to be a co-chair. Would involve agenda setting, how to go forward. Please feel free to ask questions or email us.
- 3. Johneisha update:
- RFP, DU program: launching early November. WFR will serve Middleton, Cross Plains, part of west Madison and UT, the rest of Dane County. Similar work flow process of how they are serving their folks. In quarter 1 of next year, community referrals will roll out via a portal. This will help control referral flow, and ensure eligibility on front end. Will serve high risk/high need families. Those at most risk of becoming category 1. Want to address affordability of the units families are housed in, whether or not it is sustainable. App fees, SD, rent assistance, arrears, utilities - all included via program. Based on vendor recommendations. Additional training will be needed for referring agencies. More info to come, waiting for all to be approved by the board before further information. Funds eligible to be spent through 9/30/2025
- Info Management System: This is the portal people will use to make referrals - application and assessment. This would automatically enter people onto a prioritization list. One more component: data tracking element. Want to get local data on people experiencing DU homelessness, similar to get a Point in Time count. Full announcement in November
- **Medicaid benefit for supportive services:** can be connected to receive supportive services, doing weekly meetings to get people familiarized with process. Johneisha will send invite -

https://www.npr.org/2023/10/11/1205033632/states-grappling-with-the-hom eless-crisis-turn-to-medicaid-for-a-solution ***NEXT WEEK: Wear purple Nov 1st - kickoff event at 12pm at the capitol! Wear green Nov 3rd local event at CCB at 10am.***

- 4. Advocacy issue: winter and unsheltered homelessness. Brainstorm ideas, what could advocacy look like? See related article: <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/17/realestate/car-homeless-rent-debt-mortgage.</u> <u>html?smid=url-share</u>
 - What is really apparent esp. for the schools right now is unsheltered homelessness, and no available resources if you can't get into shelter. Looking for a conversation about what we are seeing, brainstorming thoughts and ideas for responses. Over 60 families on waitlist for shelter; at least 21 of those are unsheltered/in cars.
 - Families are having trouble connecting with shelter weekly
 - People are having to travel significant distances to find people they can stay with
 - Suggestion: reach out to faith based community to determine interest in hosting cold weather shelter at their church(es)
 - Comment: we need to be having these conversations in the summer months; perhaps a committee designated to work toward responses, building capacity. We lean heavily on faith community
 - School as shelter: <u>https://youtu.be/bV0EUmislzk</u> This is an idea being piloted in some communities in other states. https://schoolhouseconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/SOP-Rev amp.pdf
 - Does it need to be a county-wide initiative? Has it been done before? Explanation of TRH/IHN that previously oversaw the rotating churches for housing program. Faith groups were all in the Madison area at that time.
 - Currently, this has been discussed but there is no one/no agency who has stepped up interested in facilitating/leading this.
 - Tomorrow night: personnel and finance, on agenda is amendment to increase funding for overflow shelter. Would be for 10 families, using money leftover from COVID funding
 - Idea: put this on agenda at an HSC meeting? Touches on more than doubled up - reach out to Torrie, advocate for Heidi's amendment at HHN meeting. Reach out to other committees, membership. Opps during awareness month to raise the issue and get it out there. Big issue in capacity to serve all the families in need right now
 - We need to start this conversation earlier in the year
 - Is there a component of this involving awareness need to build awareness, but what is the ask?

- https://dane.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=1060786&GUID=B8D5AD7 7-5200-4AF0-AB36-449387FB1877 Item 3; Attachment HHN Operating Amnds for P&F 10-25-23; Amend HHN-0-11
- •

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 3PM