

Committee meeting on 02/03/22, 3:00-4:00 pm (In attendance: Jael Currie, Brenda Konkel, Torrie Kopp-Mueller, Rose Manjon, Hannah Renfro, Chara Taylor, Heidi Wegleitner)

- Issues that the Committee would like to tackle in 2022?
 - What are issues that elected officials in the City, County and State are considering that have an impact on the populations we serve, and what are steps we can take to advocate for positive systems change?
 - Racial equity
 - Minors in shelter
 - Decriminalization of homelessness/ behaviors related to mental illness
 - 335 people who have been incarcerated 10 or more times in the last 3 years, look at housing needs for them, work on getting to root causes
 - Heidi suggests an aggressive plan for providing housing and ending the incarceration cycle
 - Is the Municipal Defense Project still running? They used to provide legal services for homeless people in municipal court - to help with tickets related to criminal trespass, panhandling, or other ordinance violations
 - Heidi and others on the County Board are actively working to advocate shifting resources away from law enforcement and into social supports; planning for '23 gudget
 - Lawful camping and car camping options report from the County may come out in June
 - Jael - services for older populations are needed, current system focuses on assessing needs and giving referrals, but there are big gaps when it comes to appropriate placement for elders who are homeless, or suffer from addiction and/ or severe mental illness in addition to physical disabilities
 - What will happen when hotel shelter ends? It is only funded until the end of June, there are hundreds of people in hotels.
 - Look into working on the transition and presenting to Shelter providers committee meeting
 - 30 to 40 percent of people in hotels have been there since the beginning
 - Many folks need assistance and medical intervention/complex issues that are not being addressed
 - Heidi will bring up at County Health and Human Needs, needs better solutions
 - Access to behavioral health services
 - CCS (Comprehensive Community Services) provides a great system of wrap-around supports for individuals who have mental illness and/or addiction and who have Medicaid - unfortunately, resources are limited for people whose mental illness is too severe for CCS services, for those who have traumatic brain injuries, or for those who do not qualify for Medicaid
 - Treatment for substance abuse is severely limited for individuals with Medicaid
- Committee previously set a goal of engaging city and county elected officials and starting with the City/County Homeless Issues Committee
 - Need more info on election cycle and how it affects membership of the City County Homeless Issues Committee

- 6 outreach providers will speak on a panel at the next meeting on Monday Feb 7th at 5:30pm
 - around that before the county releases the RFP (Request For Proposals)
 - Discussed a possible meet and greet event with the City County Homeless Issues Committee after the County Board election
 - County Board Member Michelle Doolan is interested in expanding non-law enforcement crisis response and other resources outside of the city
- Next Steps
 - Attend the City/ County Homeless Issues Committee Meeting Monday, February 7 if you can
 - Email Marjorie at mlewis@porchlightinc.org if you have suggestions of issues or ideas you want her to bring up to the committee
 - Heidi will reach out to Colleen Clark to get access to a study that Dane County did regarding “frequent utilizers” of Dane County Jail, and what County is working on to help stabilize folks that need help; Heidi will send information to the Committee
 - Torrie will reach out to CARES team (mental health ambulance pilot program) to set up a presentation for the HSC about the program. It recently expanded to serve all of Madison.
 - HSC Core Committee is currently working to evaluate how homeless individuals and families access Coordinated Entry and needed services - Torrie will keep us posted
 - Torrie’s boss, Linette Rhodes, provides staff an update when housing and homelessness issues that may come up at City Council meetings - Torrie will plan to share updates with us; Jael and Brian Benford also could help with this.
 - Marjorie will report back any updates about Wisconsin State Bill AB60 which proposes to allow municipalities to fine individuals for sleeping outdoors
 - County has \$300,000 in 2022 budget for outreach services, may include camping/car camping site. Heidi will keep us posted about opportunities to make recommendations
 - Outstanding items
 - Who can research what’s going on with the Municipal Defense Project?
 - Who can find out when the City/ County Homeless Issues Committee membership will change?
 - Jani wants to participate but this meeting time doesn’t work for her.