

Workgroup Meeting 09/28/2022 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Present: Marie Williams, Marjorie Lewis, Chara Taylor, Johneshia Prescott, Sarah A, Matt Julian, Pam Anderson, Francesca Atkinson, Michelle Hemp, Brenda Konkel, Michael Moody, John Adams

I. 2023 Advocacy Agenda

A. Review 2019 and 2020 Advocacy Agendas - Updates on what was accomplished

1. County passed an added requirement to the Affordable Housing Fund that agencies receiving
2. Increased eviction prevention funding happened due to COVID-19 funds - what will happen once those are exhausted?
3. Many housing providers circumvent the requirements for eviction tracking by using non-renewals instead of evictions
4. State diversion funding - we got some, but was it used effectively?
5. State shelter subsidy grant was increased but unsure about how the funds were directed
6. Purpose-built shelter is in progress - expecting a robust public conversation because focus groups with shelter users and homeless service providers, public comment opportunities and conversations with the architect are being set up
7. Housing Navigation position for doubled-up households was funded by the County
8. Mental Health First Aid - unsure of what happened with this

B. Format of 2023 Advocacy Platform

1. Brenda strongly advocated for a more general advocacy platform that includes language that gives broad latitude without having to return repeatedly to the board to ask permission
2. We want to include specific examples underneath the broad categories but be clear that those are not a comprehensive list of what actions the committee may pursue
3. Matt suggested that we use the platform as a springboard to create a work plan

C. Next steps

1. Ask the rest of the committee to add to the jamboard
2. Create a draft of the advocacy platform to propose at the next committee meeting
3. Complete a final draft in the next Committee meeting on October 12.
4. Once the draft is finalized, the committee should email Torrie Kopp-Mueller and ask that the Advocacy Platform be placed on the Board of Directors meeting agenda to obtain approval.

II. Advocacy on Criminal Justice Council (Matt Julian)

- A. Matt has been attending - he has noticed that the agendas are published late, and once the meeting just did not happen, with no notification that it was canceled, another time items not on the agenda were discussed and no action could be taken because it is actually not legal to discuss items in the public meeting that are not on the agenda
- B. The committee represents an important opportunity for advocacy. Matt will send out an email about how others can attend the meeting.

III. RentSmart (Marie Williams) - Marie is a RentSmart educator and peer support specialist