

Education & Advocacy Committee: March 23, 2020 - Minutes

Agenda 3/23/20

Attendees: Jani Koester, Jo Chalhoub, Heidi, Lauren, Robin, Lisa, Brenda Konkel, Jenna

1. There must be a need for funds to cover past internet bills. Can you work on advocacy and getting a fund started for that?

Can funds that have been collected already be used for this? Maybe B/G club or GMRC

Sending an email to the internet providers so that families and individuals have access to the internet so that everyone has access during social distancing. JENNA will do this to consider temporary waive their requirement about past bills.

JFF heard that city was going to support and looking into denied access to the internet -

2. There was mention of hotels for people leaving jail. This hasn't been something we have worked on as we have focused on people currently in shelter and on the streets. Would you all want to work on figuring out what is happening for these folks?

3. EA Grants. Can you figure out and educate the public on how best to access EA grants at this time?

Until rules are changed to make the process more accessible it doesn't make too much sense to educate on this right now. Legal Action is advocating with the state to make access over the phone more available.

Lisa (JFF) can send a link out and send to hydren and they can be sent via email. County is trying to update the website.

Does it need to still be signed by the person? She understood it can be signed remotely - an electronic signature

4. A big answer to what we are working through right now is housing. Can you put together a campaign to get more landlords? They probably don't want to spend money on advertising and showing units and such. Is this a time where we can work on guaranteeing tenants and rent and get more folks housed? I see this as a time where we might be able to engage with some folks we typically don't engage with so this might be our chance. I think of people who have vouchers and are shopping right now too.

5. Ask the HSC what the biggest need is right now? Maybe the group can help with this. I think that if you make an ask and then work on what is requested people won't get so bristly.

Some kind of assessment of folks directly affected by COVIT 19 short google form quickest?????? Services providers - google form to start with. What needs are not being met that is not being provided, Or where to focus advocacy on - what supports are not being met.

6. Laundry is a big need for folks in hotels. For one of the hotels, there is a laundromat about a block away. We are looking into laundry services, but if that isn't an option. We need detergent, quarters, shopping carts (to transport laundry). This made me think of Bubbles and if there could be a similar set up at the laundromat that is nearby. Something to consider and I will let you know if this need gets resolved. Just thought it would be something for the group to consider as an advocacy need.

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Gov. Evers:

Statewide freeze on evictions,

No new Dane COunty cases today

STAY IN PLACE starts tomorrow

Mens shelter:

115 come into the shelter last night (3/22) and 2 went to the hotels - where is everyone else

Working on a larger space

Moving at risk folks to hotels still
SA coordinating medical shelter
Continuing to negotiate with other hotels for more space

CDA

Is only extending the application deadline if you ask... but can't it just be extended for all?
Folks dont have access to the pieces they need to have...offices are not open for some of the documents they need
Remail that directly to Tom and Debra or the whole board.
Making lots of changes right now and this might be one that can actually do - ask them to at least amend the deadline but maybe to even remove deadlines form now

Families accessing shelter

If families have not used shelter or called in before they stay at the SA

If families have used the SA system before they can be offered a possible hotel spot

12:30 on Thursday 3/26

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Yes, be kind. AND assume good intentions.

Questions are not criticisms, they are simply requests for information in a world where information is in short supply and often incorrect.