

Education & Advocacy Minutes

Committee Meeting 07/12/2023 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Present: Torrie Kopp Mueller, Marjorie Lewis, Brenda Konkel, Ali Hellenbrand, Katrina Burnett, Mike Kelly, Takisha Jordan, Matt Julian, Linette Rhodes, Aurelius Leslie, Jennifer Pryor, Michael Moody, John Adams, Alicia Spry, Jani Koester, Andrea Gaines, Octavia Bogan, Jessica Sims

1. Decriminalization of Homelessness
 - a. Brenda presented on this topic, Madison Street Medicine has done some work on this issue
 - b. **Add Brenda's Slides**
 - Reviewed ordinances and City policies that affect people experiencing homelessness
 - Panhandling Prohibited - during the pandemic, MPD did not respond to calls on this ordinance, but it is still in place. This ordinance was passed under the lens of public safety - unsafe for people to be in medians/cars to stop!
 - Gave this presentation to the Core Committee because criminalization of homelessness is asked about in the CoC Funding Competition (NOFO)m!
 - At the committee asked if the Core Committee would support the first enhancer described, many members felt they couldn't vote to support, some were opposed and four voted to support this. It was suggested to bring this to the Education & Advocacy Committee.
 - c. Discussion to advocate for repealing of the ordinance enhancer for trespassing that give an additional fine for carrying a sleeping bag or other sleeping materials.
 - d. Not much conversation to be had. Government employees are not able to vote on this. Some agency folks do not feel comfortable taking a stance on an advocacy item without approval from their agency leadership. No one spoke out against the repealing the ordinance
 - e. Next steps: MSM volunteers have been lobbying alders on this issue, Brenda is involved with Progressive Dane, City Attorney had some questions on this request, but alders then changed. Need to email alders.