

Committee Meeting 05/10/2023 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Present: Marjorie Lewis, Chara Taylor, Priscilla Lentini, Alicia Spry, Brenda Konkel, Aurey Leslie, Charnice Anderson, John Adams, Michael Moody, Andrea Gaines, Jennifer Pryor, Jess Sims, Jessica Oswald, Kyle VonRuden, Michelle Hemp, Mike Kelly, Pam Anderson, Takisha Jordan, Taylor Rozman, Torrie Kopp-Mueller, Art Wynne, Patricia LaCross, Michael Basford(Guest Speaker)

I. State Budget (Mike Basford) - see slide deck located [here](#)

- A. State funding for homeless services programs has not kept pace with inflation and has been flat in terms of dollars spent since 2005
- B. The governor proposed a budget with a lot of affordable housing and programming to help needy individuals and families - the Republican-controlled legislature stripped almost everything he asked out of the budget
- C. There is time to reach out to legislatures to ask that items be returned to the final budget - if you know people who live in areas with Republican legislators, please encourage them to reach out to their representatives because our local legislators are already supportive of the Governor's budget
- D. Find your legislator [here](#) by putting in your address.

II. State Advocacy Opportunities (Mike Basford)

- A. There have been some efforts to modify statutory language to provide better protections for tenants against eviction.
- B. There may be opportunities to influence the guidelines that WHEDA uses to evaluate developers' applications to receive affordable housing tax credits to encourage more units for very low income individuals and families
- C. Reach out to Mike with questions or suggestions

III. Report on Housing First Advocacy Day (Torrie Kopp-Mueller)

- A. The focus was to talk to leadership of key committees that have power over funding affordable housing and homeless services - most of this leadership was Republican and not interested in funding any new programs
- B. This year was a learning experience about how to communicate effectively with fiscal conservatives - one area for future advocacy is to study how homelessness increases medical and policing costs
- C. One of the asks was the HAP funding and that was kept in the budget.

IV. Homeless Awareness Month (Kyle VonRuden)

- A. A small workgroup has started planning for Homelessness Awareness Month (HAM) in November. Our group is focused on county-level efforts, but it parallels another group focused on state-level planning.

- B. We currently have a few plans/projects in the works, including but not limited to:
1. Hosting a HAM kick-off event in early Nov at the city-county building in Madison. We hope to have local electeds join to offer some remarks or possibly announce proclamations recognizing November as Homelessness Awareness Month. We also hope to have some kind of visual display installed for the month to educate visitors about local homelessness. Details and timing TBD.
 2. The November HSC membership meeting will be held in person as a networking/mixer event. Torrie has already shared a save-the-date through the HSC listserv, but reminders will be sent as details are firmed up.
 3. We're also working on an "awareness toolkit" with information and activity ideas that individual agencies can use to recognize HAM.
- C. If you have questions or suggestions, or if you'd like to get involved with this group, please feel free to contact Jani Koester (jkoester@madison.k12.wi.us).

V. House-keeping (Marjorie Lewis)

- A. Next month's agenda - Dane County staff Casey Becker and Jenna Wuthrich will be attending to discuss ways to advance our advocacy agenda
- B. Recording attendance - Chara will follow up
- C. Note-taker for next month - Jess Sims or Kyle VonRuden
- Budget workgroup - 5/25/2023 at 11 AM; email Matt Julian at matt.julian@unitypoint.org if you have not attended before and want to attend