



Homeless Services Consortium Membership Meeting

Tuesday May 18, 2021

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Via Zoom

Meeting ID: 854 1765 3871 Password: 518431

Phone Option (312) 626-6799

Board & Committee Updates - Committee Chairs

- **Governance and Nominating Committee** – HSC members no longer need to submit Google Form for attendance at HSC Committee meetings for voting eligibility purposes, as the Committee chairs are now responsible for recording attendance. Attendance for HSC monthly membership meetings (only) will still be taken via Google Form.
- **Committee to End Youth Homelessness** – The committee is still waiting for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP to be released), which is a HUD funding opportunity for youth specific services that the committee is coordinating the application for. HUD announced they will release 2 rounds of funding at once for 2020 and 2021. Committee is also currently trying to provide some advocacy with the HSC and Dane County for increased prioritization of youth and closing service gaps.
- **Written Standards Committee** – The committee is going to pause work on reviewing and updating Written Standards temporarily because continuing to use the VI-SPDAT has been called into question, and when that changes it will affect how people are prioritized on the Priority List.
- **Doubled Up Workgroup**- The workgroup is trying to increase awareness through local news articles and provide advocacy for identifying and serving doubled up households who are experiencing homelessness.
- **Board of Directors** – The Board is wanting to have better communication with the HSC membership about issues affecting our community and what the HSC Board does/can do, and today's Listening Session is an example of how they are trying to do that.
- **Funding Committee** – The committee is reviewing what the Funding Committee does/what it should do, and what it's purpose is in ahead of the process to re-write Dane County's Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.
- **Core Committee** – Looked at different State funding sources for housing and homelessness to see if there are opportunities, determined that it would be great to have stronger relationships with the entities that receive these funds. Will discuss ways to develop relationships.

*If you are interested in presenting at a future HSC meeting, or need meeting materials in an alternate format, please contact Chair Jael Currie at jcurrie@ywcamadison.org or (608) 395-2190.

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- **Education and**

Advocacy Committee – The committee has drafted a letter to local government officials ahead of the County finalizing its annual budget to advocate for homeless services. They have also created a new page on the HSC website under the ‘Get Involved’ tab, that lists local meetings where HSC members may want to attend to get information or provide advocacy such as City Council meetings.

- **Community Plan Committee** – Currently working on preparations to write new Community Plan in 2022, the last plan was created with the help of a consultant, and committee is trying to acquire funding for similar help with planning process this time around. Committee is also working on tracking progress on current Plan’s goals, and will be asking for input from HSC Committee Chairs this month.

- **Youth Action Board** – Meeting every Monday 4:30-5:30, seeking youth with lived experience of homelessness ages 24 and under who want to meet with peers to share their experience and provide advocacy within the HSC. *Post meeting note: youth with lived experience under the age of 24 are eligible for compensation to participate in meetings at a rate of \$20/hour.*

Reindahl Park Update from CCHIC - Kathy Kamp, Linda Ketcham

- Kathy Kamp gave an update that the Doubled Up Workgroup presented at the April CCHIC meeting, and as a result the CCHIC (City County Homeless Issues Committee) sent a letter to the Dane County Executive recommending a Coordinator position be created to serve households experiencing homelessness who are doubled up and not eligible for most funding through our current homeless service system.
- Regarding the encampment at Reindahl Park, Kathy stated that about 8-10 people are sleeping at Reindahl Park, and the City has issued notices for them to leave but no one has been kicked out by law enforcement yet.
- Kathy stated another CCHIC member has proposed Dane County Resolution 11 (you can read the full Resolution [here](#)) to provide relief funds to house individuals living in Reindahl Park in hotels.

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Post-meeting note:

This was later contested by others in attendance at the meeting, and the resolution as it is written does not include unsheltered individuals.

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Heidi Wegleitner stated that based on her research, Res. 11 does not currently include services for people who are unsheltered, and as it is currently written would only serve individuals who are being housed with a hotel voucher in the vulnerable population hotel. It was also clarified that Res. 11 is a proposal to provide Rapid Rehousing services to vulnerable populations. For the notetaker it is unclear if Res. 11 is meant to include individuals residing in Reindahl Park, or if CCHIC intends to amend it to include unsheltered individuals staying at Reindahl.

- Also noted that funding for the vulnerable population hotel for individuals is ending August 2021, and HSC members may email all county board supervisors at county_board_recipients@countyofdane.com with questions or to provide advocacy.
- It was noted that Alder Bennett put forward a (city) resolution that proposed some other sites where people could camp.
- Brian Benford stated that individuals staying at Reindahl is a complex issue involving the City who has a different perspective than homeless services. Brian also states that the City has proposed moving the encampment to a different site near a marsh but many people have agreed that is not the best location, and noted the increased presence of mosquitos and ticks and therefore larger risk of Lyme's disease, West Nile, and other illnesses carried by insects. Brian stated more advocacy is needed on this issue.
- Kathy Kamp stated at last night's CCHIC meeting, many people gave public comments and most people were supportive of NOT move people out of Reindahl Park until everyone can get vaccinated against covid-19, and they actually have an appropriate site to move to.
- Kathy also noted that there was some advocacy to change policy or legislation that would result in some type of permanent encampment site, but writer was not able to record what type of policy change Kathy was referring to.

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- Maddie with Connecting the Dots stated that her organization is currently housing about 25 individuals who were staying at Reindahl Park with hotel vouchers with their own agency funds, and asked if the HSC have funds available to help her agency continue to provide hotel vouchers and get them into permanent housing?
 - McKenna from Housing Navigation states there is \$16,000 left in Housing Navigation funds for move-in costs for people who meet Category 1 definition of homelessness, so that is one option.
 - Maddie from Connecting the Dots asked if next RFP process will include funding for single men that aren't in shelter?
 - Jael responded and described the RFP process and noted that there are other types of funding that are used for homeless services that the HSC Board does not have control over and transitioned to Listening session.

Listening Session w/Board Members – Jael Currie, Catherine Reiersen, Lane Hanson, Jalateefa Joe-Myers, Brian Benford, Brad Hinkfuss

Summary of main points/themes of comments:

- HUD definition of homelessness is limiting and creates barriers to serving entire population of people experiencing homelessness
- Even when funding is available, there is a struggle to physically get people housed, stemming from both a lack of affordable housing stock and landlords who are willing to rent to people with housing barriers
- There were questions about funding that is received by agencies, City and County and where it goes, and there is a need to develop housing (new housing and ability to access existing housing)
- Community members are frustrated and don't know where to access resources
- There was a desire to know how can HSC can help with these issues and how they can be held accountable

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- It was noted that Black women and children are disproportionately affected by homelessness
- There is a need for community and unity, to set aside competition and to work together on the best solutions for these issues.
- Board members welcome independent and/or group feedback separate from this forum

Catherine Reiersen - cmreier@sunprairieschools.org; Jalateefa Joe-Myers - jalateefa@sankofaelu.com; Lane Hanson - lane@patientpartnerships.org; Brian Benford - brianbenford00@gmail.com; Jael Currie (HSC/YWCA capacity – jcurrie@ywcamadison.org (City/Alder capacity) district16@cityofmadison.com; Brad Hinkfuss - bhinkfuss@housinginitiatives.org;

About The Early Childhood Homeless Workgroup (ECHW)

ECHW is a collaboration/network of shelter representation, child care facilities, school district personnel, individuals connected to the child care world who care about our most vulnerable population of children not yet school aged and their care/well being. A short blurb about ECHW:

The Madison area Early Childhood Homelessness Work-group (ECHW) was formed in early 2017 in response to the reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Act which included an extension to include referral and connections to children age birth to 5. The mission of the ECHW is to provide outreach, education and support to early childhood professionals working directly with children experiencing homelessness and high mobility, to connect families with young children to local resources, provide access to developmental screening for all children in our community, and to advocate for fair and adequate housing for all.

Minutes recorded by Allie Grant.

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