



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

City-County Homeless Issues Committee

Thursday, July 23, 2015

6:30 PM

CCB 354

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A. Call To Order

Present 10 - HEIDI WEGLEITNER, LELAND PAN, LINDA KETCHAM, DEEDRA ATKINSON, ULYSSES WILLIAMS, CARL GLOEDE, KRISTOPHER WACHOWIAK, LARRY PALM, MARSHA RUMMEL, and BRADLEY HINKFUSS

Absent 2 - KATHRYN (KAT) KOSKI, and RONNIE BARBETT

Others present: Sue Wallinger, Casey Becker, Melissa Sorensen, Torrie Kopp Mueller, Kristin Rucinski, Brenda Konkel, Kevin Gray, Kimberlyann Wilken

A1. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

City members of the body should make any required disclosures or recusals under the City Ethics Code.

B. Consideration of Minutes

C. Action Items

D. Presentations

1. Shelter needs of pregnant women and postpartum mothers, infants and their families

[2015](#) Project Babies Presentation

[PRES-042](#)

Attachments: [Project Babies Presentation.pdf](#)

2. Panel with family shelter providers, Project Babies – Melissa Sorensen, Salvation Army; Torrie Kopp Mueller, YWCA; Kristin Rucinski, The Road Home; Jeanne Erickson, Project Babies.
- Discussion of shelter capacity, priority list for shelter and intake determinations, considerations made for pregnant women to provide them with shelter after delivery, Salvation Army's role as gatekeeper for family shelter system, and shelter stay limits and extension policies.
 - Discussion of relationship between hospital discharge planners and housing providers. Erickson reports that women are reluctant to disclose homeless status out of fear that their babies will be taken away.
 - Discussion of resources available for families who arrive in community after shelters are closed.
 - Discussion of shelter capacity limits and whether challenges are with lack of available space, or lack of funding. Sorensen reports that Salvation Army must balance limits of facility with comfort of guests and facilities available (one shower, one bathroom). Salvation Army does not turn away families when temperature is 20 degrees and below.
 - Discussion of Salvation Army hotel vouchers as an extension of family shelter and program limitations.
 - Discussion of how many pregnant post-partum women the family shelter system works with. Rucinski reports that majority of families staying with The Road Home have children under the age of five.
 - Erickson reports that Project Babies is looking to coordinate with shelter providers to coordinate services and help post-partum women access shelter.
 - Discussion of priority list and entrance into shelter. Sorensen reports that families with children three months and younger are priorities, also take into consideration who was denied previous night or multiple nights. Families with medical conditions that cannot be accommodated at the Salvation Army shelter will be given a hotel voucher.
 - Discussion of family VI-SPDAT as assessment tool for prioritizing families in need of shelter. Rucinski reports 70 families are currently on the list, 40 most likely have a child under the age of 2.
 - Discussion of pending County Board action to authorize additional \$100,000 in funding and use portion for family shelter. Providers report that capacity is an issue. Summer is a busier time when more families in need. Discussion of potential partnership with Porchlight congregations to activate unused winter shelter space in the summer.
 - Discussion of resources for people who stay at Salvation Army and can access The Road Home's day shelter. Erickson identifies other challenges for families with babies, including need for storing diapers, formula, etc.
 - Discussion of transportation available for guests. Providers policies vary, but offer bus passes, gas vouchers, when needed and depending on resources available.
 - Discussion of breastfeeding education/space available for guests in family shelter.
 - Unanimous consent to allow PUBLIC COMMENT
 - Kimberlyann Wilken: Family has recently become homeless and is in need of resources. Pregnant and out of shelter days at the Salvation Army. Does not want large family to be separated.

E. Reports to Committee

1. Update on Zero 2016 Efforts:

- National program with goal of housing homeless vets by the end of 2015 and chronically homeless by the end of 2016.
- Initiative has identified 121 chronically homeless (non vets) and 120 homeless veterans.
- Next task is to convene a group of housing professionals and housing providers, outreach workers, with the intent of going through the list name by name to try and find housing for individuals.
- Discussion of assistance committee can provide to the effort.

[2015](#) Zero 2016 Background
[RPT-345](#)

Attachments: [Zero 2016 Background.pdf](#)

2. Update on the Day Resource Center:

- The county is pursuing a conditional use permit to continue pursuit of a site on the Martin St. property through the Town of Madison.
- Staff visited an additional site, the Bellini Restaurant in downtown Madison. The county's Department of Administration is initiating an analysis of the site to determine if it will meet the recommendations for a day resource center as approved by the former County Homeless Issues Committee.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next Meeting Date: TBD

- County Budget Discussion
- Storage for Individuals Who Are Homeless

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

8:19 p.m.

Recorded by Casey Becker