

I Introductions

Introductions were made by those present at the remote ICN sites and the Host site by conference call. A quorum was established.

II ICN Etiquette Overview

Lyle Schwery reminded everyone on the usage of the ICN Network

Chairman Manders called the November 20, 2009 meeting of the Iowa Council on Homelessness to order at 10:15 a.m.

III Approval of Agenda

Chairman Manders introduced the agenda for the November 20, 2009 meeting

Action: On motion by Jeff Gronstall and seconded by Sue Dawson, the council approved the agenda

IV Approval of Minutes

Chairman Manders Called for approval of the July meeting minutes and September meeting Minutes.

Action: On motion by Nicky Stajcar and seconded by Diane Foss, the council approved the minutes of the July Meeting

Action: On motion by Donna Phillips and seconded by Nesbit, the council approved the minutes of the September Council meeting

V Committee/Task force reports

Executive Committee Report

Lyle Schwery stated the Executive Committee has formed a new committee for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP). All agencies involved have met by conference call. 17 regions are set up around the state for administering over 11 million dollars. This committee will coordinate with the Continuum of Care committee as we look to the future and the changes that are expected to take place. Lyle will send out an e-mail for people to indicate their interest in serving on the committee. The committee can elect their own chairs and establish their goals and missions.

In other business, Lyle Shewery will be sending out a letter regarding attendance of Council meetings. The Governor appoints all members now and a letter must go to the Governor and to the heads of state agencies.

Lyle also stated that the rental assistant programs are not ready. Most agencies are up and running and a few had to hire personnel and train them and won't be ready for a few weeks.

Nominating Committee

James Walker reported Mario Hazlett accepted a new position and has resigned from serving on the Council. His position on the Council needs to be filled and we have three on file that meet the criteria. Lyle Schwery has contacted the Governor's office, but has not heard back. On behalf of the Council, we want to thank him for his service.

Continuum of Care Committee

Sue Dawson stated applications are due the day before Thanksgiving. Exhibit 2's, renewals and new projects were sent out to the Continuum of Care Committee for them to vote. Lyle Schwery reported that ranking is different this year. Renewals do not have to be ranked, only new applications and there was only one new project which is for chronically homeless men in Mason City and two Shelter Plus Care renewals. They do not impact our pro-rata amount. No new projects go into bonus. We have 26 renewals. The application is about done and will probably be submitted today.

On another related matter, Lyle has requested a report from HUD. We did a preliminary review and several agencies have not spent all they were awarded. Some of the amounts are substantial. One project has over \$100,000.00. We are going to contact them and find out why they are not performing as they said they would. The Continuum of Care Committee can reduce their award or choose not to award them at all. If that becomes the case, it would free up some money. The drawback is that HUD does not share that information with us because we are not considered the grantee. This information comes to us after it is almost a year old. Lyle stated he has sent off an e-mail to HUD asking for a spreadsheet for all the spending for last year and explained why. This could be problematic if it continues year after year.

Policy and Planning Committee

Doug Keats stated a meeting is planned in early Dec. to lay out the process for reviewing policies and work with the Council.

Public Awareness Committee

Nicki Stajcar Committee has met a couple of times. The web site is updated except for one item. Information is refreshed or reviewed to see if it is current. Included is a schedule of sleepouts in November.

Mike Wood reported on his sleepout event. They had nice weather, 250 people and one dog. \$50,000 was raised and it will go to two area shelters. Mike Wood requested that we get more organized with providers across the state to share resources and get more media exposure statewide next year.

Nicki Stajcar stated it is difficult for the public to find information on the IFA website, so on behalf of the Public Awareness Committee, she prepared a typed resolution that a new link be on the IFA home page.

Action: Motion to add link to IFA Web page made by Sue Dawson and seconded by Donna Phillips. Motion passed.

The date for the Legislative Breakfast has changed from January 14th to January 20th. It will be held in the Rotunda of the Capital. The committee needs a donation of jersey gloves to hand out to legislators with homeless statistics. Invitations to the legislators will be by e-mail and placing invites in their mailbox at the capital.

Planning on doing outreach in the schools

Looking at Omaha's successful event "Project Hope" It will be a lot of work. Possibly try for 2011.

Research and Analysis Committee

Al Axeen asked that the committee approve the Institutes report to the governor. Copies have not been mailed out. Everyone on the Council lists is going to get copies.

HMIS Report

Dave Eberbach stated the annual report is on the web site. There is a PDF for mailing purposes. It has a different color scheme – blue this year. Same style of format. This is the third year of this report, so we have a trend. IFA has offered to pay for the postage. We have folks from everywhere in Iowa that are homeless this year.

From a data Perspective, we have a new hire that is training people now.

AHAR report data runs are complete at the end of September. Council Bluffs if finished. Council Bluffs has a 50 page report. Council Bluffs is separate from Omaha Continuum of Care for statistical reasons.

Ehren Wright reported on Supportive housing programs – we have been doing the data piece for supportive housing. Des Moines is complete. The Homeless migration study is still in process. Not just for where they came from but it is a look back to when they were suddenly homeless. Looking at folks discharged from one place where did they discharge to? Another system somewhere else?

For HMIS users, you have causes of homeless for the last 4 years. What are the reported causes and how did they change. Economics, evicted or relocated, sickness, family issues, other, discharged from an institution, choice. Economics is the largest category followed by evicted. Des Moines has a lot of singles. Economics and evictions lead. We looked closer to how it has changed over time and found interesting results. Evictions is second. But decreases especially for families which suggest programs are working. There is a strong relationship between family and economics. Economic problems causing family instability, causing homeless. Now we have proof. There is universal decline in disability causing homeless – but more prevalent in Des Moines because Des Moines has more singles. Disability can be defined as personal illness,

mental illness. It does not have to be diagnosed, they just self proclaim it. This needs to be posted on the web page. Because of the way data is structured it is hard to use bed lists.

VI Reports/Activities

Scott Nash and Jennifer Miner from VA Central Iowa Central Iowa Health Care System spoke about a cooperative partnership between HUD and VA to help veterans and their families move out of homelessness. The program is called HUD-VASH. This program is available for the cities of Iowa City, Mason City and in Des Moines they have to reside in Polk County, because it is a partnership with Polk County. 35 vouchers are available for Mason City and about 35 are available in Iowa City. Information they provided will be posted on the web site.

Homeless Coordinator

Lyle Schwery reported Homeless Assistance Program is due December 18. Send him an e-mail.

HPRP Program – minor changes are being made daily to the web page.

HSOG grants – there is concern about the funding. There will be less money for the next round because it comes from the Real Estate Transfer tax which is down dramatically.

I-Jobs - 10 Million available for construction and re-hab of homeless shelters. Made 17 awards. We received 42 applications and were only able to fund 17. They had to be shovel ready and we were able to fund 17. All the money has been awarded.

VII Public Comments

Chairman Manders invited Public comments and there were none.

VIII Old Business

No old business

IX New Business

Date of the next meeting is January 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.