

McHenry County Continuum of Care to End Homelessness

Full Board Agenda – June 22, 2022



Meeting location: Virtual

To attend virtually: <https://meet.goto.com/CDDivision/coc-full-board-meeting>

To attend by phone: 1-669-224-3412 **Access code:** 116-042-629

1.0 Call to order

2.0 Roll Call and Guest Introductions

3.0 Public Comment Period

4.0 Presentation

4.1 Association for Individual Development – Alejandra Gutierrez

5.0 Consent Agenda Items

5.1 Approval of the 4/21/22 Full Board meeting minutes

5.2 Approval of the 5/19/22 Full Board meeting minutes

5.3 Community Awareness Minutes – 4/18/22

6.0 Consent Agenda – For Discussion Items

7.0 Old Business

7.1 HMIS / Coordinated Entry / Built-for-Zero

7.2 Shelter Inventory Status

7.3 Community Awareness Committee

7.4 CoC – Steering Council & Board Meetings

8.0 New Business

8.1 Upcoming CoC Competition and Review

8.2 Homeless Equity Data

8.3 Current Rental Inventory Trend

9.0 Open Forum

10.0 Member Announcements

11.0 Motion to Adjourn



McHenry County Continuum of Care to End Homelessness MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DESCRIPTION: CoC Board Meeting ~ Hybrid Meeting

DATE/TIME/LOCATION: April 21, 2022, 9:01 am; via Hybrid **ATTENDANCE:**

Agency	Voting Member	Present?	Alternate Voting Member	Present?
4-C:Community Coordinated Child Care	Nicole Davis	X		
Advocate Good Shepherd AID	Suzanne Martinez Alejandra Gutierrez	X X	Gabrielle Kitchell	
Catholic Charities	Amber Emmert		Catherine Weightman-Moore	
CCCS	Donna Jackowiak		Donna Rasmussen	
FHPC	Suzanne Hoban		Jaret Ross	
HOS	Debbie DeGraw	X	Liz Heneks	X
Hope Takes Action	Bill Meath	X	n/a	
Housing Authority	Sue Rose		Kim Ulbrich	X
Independence Health	Shannon Guzick		Marie Barnhart	
Lake McHenry ROE	James "Jim" Menzer	X	Matt Tabar	
Lovell FHCC	Lillie Prince		Kya Hays	
Makrograde	Andrew Stuckey			
MC Comm Devt Div	Brandon Kyker	X	Hans Mach	X
McHenry Savings Bank	Kathrine Violet	X		
McHenry Township	Deborah Macrito		Gary Barla	
Mental Health Board	Terry Braune		Karin Frisk	X
New Directions	Bobby Gattone	X		
New Life Transitions	Charles Sprague		David Johnson	
Options and Advocacy	Noelle Dodge		Elyse Sereyka	
Pioneer Center	Carrie Freund	X	Gina Zinck	X
Prairie State Legal	Ario Harmon	X	Ryan Sugas	X
Refuge for Women	Meredith Hodge	X	Sandi Moore	
Restoration America	Anna Hill		Chris Samuels	X
Ridgefield-CL Pres Church	Michael Rugh		Sarah Kelewae	
Salvation Army, MC	Mercent Smith	X	Nancy Rivera	
Senior Care Vol Ntwork	Sarah Schrempf		Erica Snooks	
Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA)	David Esposito		Merredith Montgomery	
Thresholds	Kim McCoy	X	Aaron Neal	X
Turning Point	Mike Neumann	X	Nancy Erickson	X
VAC MC	Jane Dorfner	X	Mike Iwanicki	
Veterans Path to Hope	Laura Franz	X	Angela Wood-Zuzevich	
Warp Corps	Andrew Turner	X	Clay Mutert	
Willow CL	Julie Davis		Tim Seyler	
Woodstock Food Pantry	Virginia Peschke	X	Jan Parker	
Workforce Netwrk	Jake Rohn	X	Elizabeth Del Rio	X
Community Member:	Rich Ring	X		
Community Member:	Nancy Portincaso			

Non-Voting Members Present: Aileen Zei, CD; Kristin Miller, HOS; Kim Roush, PC; Thomas Riley, PC; Sam Tenuto, PC; Stephanie Schlappi, CC; Megan Bennett, MCHA

Non-Members Present:

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION: May 19, 2022 9:00 am **hybrid** at **Conference Room A in the County Administration Building**

- 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER ~ 9:01 am**
- 2.0 **ROLL CALL AND GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**



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3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments

4.0 PRESENTATION

McHenry County Workforce Network, Jake Rohn.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 Approval of 3/24/2022 CoC Full Board meeting minutes

5.2 CoC Awareness 3/17/2022 Steering Council Minutes

J Menzer moved to approve the consent agenda items, seconded by L Heneks, no discussion, all in favor and motion carried.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA-FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Not applicable

7.0 OLD BUSINESS

7.1 HMIS/BFZ Updates

G Zinck reported that the By-Name is growing, currently at 78 names with 15 being veterans.

Veteran numbers might be off so BFZ is assisting to correct this in HMIS. Live training for BFZ on May 11/12.

H Mach pointed out that HMIS responsibility is now with Joe Davis; annual training will be announced today.

7.2 ESG Post Funding

B Kyker stated the State will send out the announcements of funding and the packets to complete.

7.3 DHS Grant

Prairie State Legal Services and Consumer Credit are splitting the DHS grant.

7.4 Winter Overnight Homeless Shelter

B Kyker stated we're looking at being more proactive next year for being prepared for cold weather crises. There will be a conversation about how it has been handled as a way to improve preparation for next year. Pioneer hotel program will continue, as there are dedicated funds for emergency motel stays during extreme weather events like polar vortex. Interested CoC members can attend Housing and Services Committee to discuss this.

7.5 PIT Count

S Tenuto stated Pioneer is grateful for the collaboration and will meet in the fall to discuss further. Empower Shower was a good opportunity for PIT. Reminder to let G Zinck know what beds are available currently. H Mach stated the housing inventory count number is very important for the CoC reporting. H Mach also stated that 11 is a high number of unsheltered for the county (we normally identify 1-2), and we assume the Empower Shower is the reason we were able to identify them. G Zinck pointed out that the lack of housing inventory is also contributing. 29 names at this time with no PSH beds available.



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8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Continuum of Care Strategic Plan

K Violett pointed out our **goals** in the **CoC's Strategic Plan on page 19** and that all committees should be using this page to guide us. We will discuss this more frequently to keep this in mind; it goes through 2023. It is good to look at the County's Strategic Plan also. The County Board is more in tune with the CoC at this time, which is a positive.

8.2 Chair of Community Awareness Committee

K Violett acknowledged that B Kyker has stepped into the Chair role following J Davis needing to step down. L Franz made a motion to formally appoint B Kyker to the Chair role seconded by J Menzer, and a voice vote was held as follows, resulting in the motion carrying:

Agency	Voting Member	Present?	Alternate Voting Member	Present?
4-C:Community Coordinated Child Care	Nicole Davis	Y		
Advocate Good Shepherd	Suzanne Martinez			
AID	Alejandra Gutierrez	Y	Gabrielle Kitchell	
Catholic Charities	Amber Emmert		Catherine Weightman-Moore	
CCCS	Donna Jackowiak		Donna Rasmussen	
FHPC	Suzanne Hoban		Jaret Ross	
HOS	Debbie DeGraw	Y	Liz Heneks	
Hope Takes Action	Bill Meath	Y	n/a	
Housing Authority	Sue Rose		Kim Ulbrich	Y
Independence Health	Shannon Guzick		Marie Barnhart	
Lake McHenry ROE	James "Jim" Menzer	Y	Matt Tabar	
Lovell FHCC	Lillie Prince		Kya Hays	
Makrograde	Andrew Stuckey			
MC Comm Devt Div	Brandon Kyker	A	Hans Mach	
McHenry Savings Bank	Kathrine Violett	A		
McHenry Township	Deborah Macrito		Gary Barla	
Mental Health Board	Terry Braune		Karin Frisk	A
New Directions	Bobby Gattone	Y		
New Life Transitions	Charles Sprague		David Johnson	
Options and Advocacy	Noelle Dodge		Elyse Sereyka	
Pioneer Center	Carrie Freund		Gina Zinck	Y
Prairie State Legal	Arlo Harmon	Y	Ryan Sugas	
Refuge for Women	Meredith Hodge	Y	Sandi Moore	
Restoration America	Anna Hill		Chris Samuels	
Ridgefield-CL Pres Church	Michael Rugh		Sarah Kelewae	
Salvation Army, MC	Mercent Smith	Y	Nancy Rivera	
Senior Care Vol Ntwork	Sarah Schrempf		Erica Snooks	
Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA)	David Esposito		Merredith Montgomery	
Thresholds	Kim McCoy	Y	Aaron Neal	
Turning Point	Mike Neumann	Y	Nancy Erickson	
VAC MC	Jane Dorfner	Y	Mike Iwanicki	
Veterans Path to Hope	Laura Franz	Y	Angela Wood-Zuzevich	
Warp Corps	Andrew Turner	Y	Clay Mutert	
Willow CL	Julie Davis		Tim Seyler	
Woodstock Food Pantry	Virginia Peschke	Y	Jan Parker	
Workforce Netwrk	Jake Rohn	Y	Elizabeth Del Rio	Y
Community Member:	Rich Ring	Y		
Community Member:	Nancy Portincaso			

8.3 Rental Assistance Program

H Mach stated the data is being massaged and entered without negatively impacting the



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CoC. Congress may approve a similar program at a lower level. The program is now closed to new applicants due to the money being exhausted. Various agencies worked together to administer the program. K Ulbrich stated the 100 per month recertifications are challenging to complete. 780 families/households have been served through this program.

8.4 New Affordable Housing ~ HOME/APR funds

B Kyker stated the Taylor Place Apartments are being added to our inventory (54); they should be prepared for move-in in 2 years, 30% AMI. Pearl Street Commons II is also being planned, for 2025 ~ 28 additional units. Watch for email updates from Community Development. K Violett commented on the current gap between what people can afford vs what places are renting for.

8.5 CoC June Meeting Dates

2 dates needing to be moved due to lack of meeting spaces: June 8 for Steering Council and full CoC Board June 22. Motion made by L Heneks and seconded by J Dorfner to move the dates accordingly; all were in favor and motion carried.

9.0 **OPEN FORUM**– Agency Conversations, Success Stories

J Menzer stated there is a local motel that closed so there are hygiene items available. Senior living places might find these to be useful.

H Mach stated tomorrow the Senior Services Grant Commission will meet and the application process will begin; A zei will keep us informed. All grant agreements will generally start 7.1 but will move to 10.1.

10.0 **Member Announcements**

11.0 **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion made by J Menzer and seconded by G Zinck, approved by all, to adjourn at 10:22 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Franz, Secretary



McHenry County Continuum of Care to End Homelessness MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DESCRIPTION: CoC Board Meeting ~ Hybrid Meeting

DATE/TIME/LOCATION: May 19, 2022, 9:01 am; via Hybrid **ATTENDANCE:**

Agency	Voting Member	Present?	Alternate Voting Member	Present?
4-C:Community Coordinated Child Care	Nicole Davis	X		
Advocate Good Shepherd AID	Suzanne Martinez	X		
	Alejandra Gutierrez	X	Gabrielle Kitchell	
Catholic Charities	Amber Emmert	X	Catherine Weightman-Moore	
CCCS	Donna Jackowiak	X	Donna Rasmussen	
FHPC	Suzanne Hoban	X	Jaret Ross	
HOS	Debbie DeGraw	X	Liz Heneks	X
Hope Takes Action	Bill Meath	X	n/a	
Housing Authority	Sue Rose	X	Kim Ulbrich	X
Independence Health	Shannon Guzick	X	Marie Barnhart	X
Lake McHenry ROE	James "Jim" Menzer		Matt Tabar	
Lovell FHCC	Lillie Prince		Kya Hays	
Makrograde	Andrew Stuckey			
MC Comm Devt Div	Brandon Kyker	X	Hans Mach	X
McHenry Savings Bank	Kathrine Violett	X		
McHenry Township	Deborah Macrito	X	Gary Barla	
Mental Health Board	Terry Braune		Karin Frisk	
New Directions	Bobby Gattone	X		
New Life Transitions	Charles Sprague		David Johnson	
Options and Advocacy	Noelle Dodge	X	Elyse Sereyka	X
Pioneer Center	Carrie Freund	X	Gina Zinck	X
Prairie State Legal	Ario Harmon	X	Ryan Sugas	X
Refuge for Women	Meredith Hodge	X	Sandi Moore	
Restoration America	Anna Hill		Chris Samuels	
Ridgefield-CL Pres Church	Michael Rugh		Sarah Kelewae	X
Salvation Army, MC	Mercent Smith	X	Nancy Rivera	X
Senior Care Vol Ntwork	Sarah Schrempf		Erica Snooks	
Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA)	David Esposito		Merredith Montgomery	
Thresholds	Kim McCoy		Aaron Neal	X
Turning Point	Mike Neumann	X	Nancy Erickson	
VAC MC	Jane Dorfner	X	Mike Iwanicki	
Veterans Path to Hope	Laura Franz	X	Angela Wood-Zuzevich	
Warp Corps	Andrew Turner	X	Clay Mutert	
Willow CL	Julie Davis		Tim Seyler	
Woodstock Food Pantry	Virginia Peschke	X	Jan Parker	
Workforce Netwrk	Jake Rohn	X	Elizabeth Del Rio	
Community Member:	Rich Ring	X		
Community Member:	Nancy Portincaso			

Non-Voting Members Present: Biance Gonzalez, CD; Kristin Miller, HOS; Sam Tenuto, PC; Megan Bennett, MCHA; Erica O-Neil, Lovell FHCC; Jordan Gardner, PSLC

Non-Members Present: Charlie Sullivan, Live4Lali

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION: June 16, 2022 9:00 am **hybrid** at **Conference Room A in the County Administration Building**

- 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER ~ 9:01 am**
- 2.0 **ROLL CALL AND GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**



McHenry County Continuum of Care to End Homelessness MEETING MINUTES

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments

4.0 PRESENTATION

Options in Advocacy Elyse Sereyka

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 *Approval of 4/21/2022 CoC Full Board meeting minutes*

Tabled for next meeting as these were accidentally not included in the meeting packet.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA-FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Not applicable

7.0 OLD BUSINESS

7.1 HMIS/BFZ Updates

G Zinck reported HMIS training was held. Reporting is being changed.

Coordinated Entry ~ one Scattered Site opening occurred, and an individual is slotted to move in (first in months). By-name List is still operational, and data seems to have been 100% last month. Built for Zero meeting focused on veterans occurred and was attended by various members of our CoC. Lovell FHC is adding in their referrals for McHenry County which will help the By-Name List. G Zinck sent out the Inventory page and asked for edits.

7.2 CoC Competition Results

B Kyker reported 126.5 out of 176 points. There is very little feedback provided on the scoring from HUD. We will go into the next competition losing 10 points, unfortunately, due to lack of RRH inventory. We scored highest on COVID response. Overall disappointment with our score. We will do what we can to increase our score. Inner collaborations is an area to focus on this year.

7.3 Final PIT Count Results Report

Thanks to S Tenuto for leadership on this. Report was included in meeting package. H Mach stated we seem to have had an increase in the number of unsheltered people (11 up from 1-2) and the reason is the Empower Shower which draws homeless people out (this event is new this year). The 11 individuals are primarily made up of individuals who are choosing to live unsheltered in their cars/tents and service providers are still attempting to provide services.

W Corps commented that there are more than 11 unhoused individuals as per reports from clients and W Corps is doing their best to reach out.

7.4 Rental and Mortgage Assistance Update

B Kyker stated McEURAP is now closed with a few exceptions. K Ulrich reported the Housing Authority is working through recertification backlogs.



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8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Emergency Solutions Grant Funding Packet

B Kyker stated he has filled out the CoC packet and the packet for individual agencies will be sent in the next week.

8.2 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program NOFO

B Kyker stated HUD opened this to 25 communities only. The application includes the need for a committee that includes someone with lived experience. He brought it up in the event an agency intends to apply. S Tenuto stated PC has 2 programs for this population of young adults experiencing homelessness.

8.3 HOME/ARP Public Meetings

B Kyker said these were held over the past week and they went well. There was one public comment related to wait lists.

8.4 McHenry Coc – Housing Snapshot Report

G Zinck reported on the county housing capacity, which changes day by day. K Violett asked us to double check the report for our agencies, as the Housing and Services Committee will make use of this report. This will help us understand the needs better. H Mach indicated that this report relates to the overall scoring for the county and for the competitions.

9.0 OPEN FORUM – Agency Conversations, Success Stories

- Community Coordinated Child Care is open and operating again. There is a shortage of childcare.
- J Dorfner with VAC announced she is retiring June 3.
- Senior Services Grant is open.
- S Rose stated her mother had experience with the ER and the ER was packed with COVID patients – it is on the rise.
- V Peschke announced the Woodstock Food Pantry has had generous donations and access can happen 2x/month.
- B Meath indicated the finance committee needs more members since we are going to the UFA as a CoC.
- B Kyker said the CoC website has been going well. 10-12 individuals have reached out and one nonprofit agency.

10.0 Member Announcements (see above)

11.0 MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion made by B Kyker and seconded by S Martinez, approved by all, to adjourn at 10:10 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Franz, Secretary



Community Awareness Committee Agenda – 4.18.22

Meeting called to order by Brandon Kyker at 2:04pm

Present: Brandon Kyker, Gina Zinck, Megan Bennett, Julie Davis, Suzanne Martinez, Nancy Portincaso

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

2.0 Minutes and Approval

- Brandon will be attaching the past two meeting minutes to the next committee agenda to be approved.

3.0 Public Comments

- No public comments.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 Homelessness Awareness Month – Community Engagement / People in Need Forum

- Brandon discussed mimicking the People in Need Forum and allowing agencies to give brief presentations to showcase what they do and how to apply for their services. Landlord engagement being tethered in is discussed. Brandon Kyker asks the committee if they like the idea of a similar setup to the People in Need Forum and how big the room size is.
- Julie says the room is big and will allow the agencies to setup booths and to have 25 seats in the middle of the room. They can have a couple of presentations including one about landlords and Helping Without Hurting. Julie brought up the need for bikes.
- Brandon discussed taking donations earlier and having a physical drop-off location for summer gear such as bikes, as well as making a flyer to promote it and a wishlist for donations.
- Megan mentioned that MCHA has a lot of remaining donations and asks if they can donate it to the Empower Shower. Julie agreed to it.
- Sam offered hand sanitizer for the event.
- Brandon discussed food trucks for the event and signage.

4.2 Renaming – Empower Shower and Homelessness Awareness Month

- The committee discussed Neighbors In Need and whether or not the name is too broad. The idea of adding a subtitle like “Understanding Homelessness in McHenry County” is praised.
- Nancy brought up font size and design possibilities for the Neighbors In Need signage.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Food Trucks and Bands

- Brandon mentioned that 2-3 bands have expressed interest in performing at the event but no time slots have been discussed yet.
- Brandon has not talked to any food trucks yet but has started thinking about what kind of food options they might need.
- Nancy mentioned food trucks are very specific with the amount of food they bring and sometimes can run out of food.

- Megan reminded the committee of the importance of having soft foods available for homeless who may have poor dental hygiene or are missing teeth.
- The committee discussed the idea of providing chips and drinks to offset the costs of the food trucks.

5.2 Community Outreach

- Sam and Nancy both mentioned promoting the website and keeping it updated.
- Nancy discussed how people can suggest a post for the website and allow other people to write blog posts.
- Julie brought up the idea of bringing in an intern to work on the website.

6.0 Member Announcements

- No member announcements.

7.0 Adjournment

- Julie motioned for adjournment. Nancy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:08pm.

McHenry County COC - Snapshot of Housing for Homeless or formerly homeless or at risk households

*****Please note that vaccancy figures change daily - Total capacity is more consistent

Agency	Project Type	# of Spots Occupied	# of vacant spots	Total Capacity	Ages Served	Genders Served	
Pioneer Center	ESR - Male Dorm	18	9	27	Head of households 18 yrs and over and children if applicable	All	
Pioneer Center	ESR - Female Dorm	9	1	10	Head of households 18 yrs and over and children if applicable	All	
Pioneer Center	PSH - Jackson	6	2	8	18 yrs and over	All	Vaccancies due to staffing/hiring crisis *BH clinical residential
	PSH - Lawndale	3	2	5	18 yrs and over	All	Vaccancies due to staffing/hiring crisis *BH clinical residential
Home of Sparrow	Transitional - Shelter	13	0	13	Female Head of Household and family	All	
	RRH - Households	7	4	11	18 yrs and older	All	
	Affordable Housing Program - Households	25	0	25	Female Head of household and family	All	
Veterans Path to Hope	PSH - Scattered Site Apt	4	0	4	Veterans -18 yrs and up	All	
	Transition to Home	1	0	1	Veteran Head of Household and family, 18 and up	All	
	RRH - SSVF	30	0	30	Veteran Head of Household and family, 18 and up	All	*Unlimited availability as needed
	Shallow Subsidy Program	2	8	10	Veteran Head of Households and Family, 18 yrs and up	All	*Military veteran with acceptable military discharge status considered. Must meet income requirement. Homeless or at risk of homelessness. SSVF case manager conduct assessments. Elidgibility is determined based on assessment scoring. Criteria is set by the VA. Program can assist up to 2 years. The veteran must be able to pay 50% of their rent.
	Hebron -New Horizons - Transitional	17	3	20	Veterans, 18yrs and up	All	*Treatment Based program
Thresholds	PSH - Scattered site Apts	7	0	7	18 Yrs and up	All	(McHenry County Leasing) *Clinical BH Program
	PSH - Scattered site Apts	10	3	13	(McHenry Independence)	*Un (McHenry Independence)	*Units/Leases needed to accommodate vaccancies **Clinical BH Program
Thresholds	Rebecca Susan Apt -Transitional	12	0	12	18 Yrs and up	All	(Non- HUD Funded) *Clinical BH Program
Turning Point	DV- ESR	8	13	21	Head of household and family, 18 Years and older	All	
	DV-Transitional Units	2	0	2	Head of household and Family, 18 years and up	All	
Totals		174	45	219			

Client Stories - Examples

Story #1

Former client arrived at PADS in December of 2019, after being kicked out of their home with nowhere to turn. Client was 19 years old and had no idea what they were doing. Client had been diagnosed with depression, anxiety, and struggled with alcohol and substance abuse. Client was at PADS for almost ten months due to COVID shutting everything down, and during their time at PADS they accomplished so much! They grew as a person, were able to work on and maintain sobriety, rebuilt relationships with family members while creating new relationships with peers, transitioned into an independent living facility, and agreed to begin therapeutic services. Client opened up to staff about themselves, their past, and their relationships and became comfortable around PADS, so much as to even show new clients the ways of the shelter. Client and I worked together on setting realistic goals and figuring out the steps needed to achieve them. Client struggled here and there but was able to work hard and achieve each of their goals by the time they left PADS.

Personally, I cannot imagine where this client would be without PADS or without having someone taking the time to listen to this client. This client was a bright, thoughtful, creative, and nice individual, who would go out of their way to help others before worrying about themselves.

About seven months after them leaving PADS, I was shopping at Walmart and ran into this former client and they were excited to tell me that they were still working on certain goals and was doing well! I was overjoyed to hear this and wished them the best!

Story #2

Tari called of the 1st of December, living in her car for a year and afraid it was going to be repossessed. Three appointments for intake later, she finally arrived on December 9th. Tari's face was chapped from the cold and her car piled high past the windows with her life for the last year. Anxious and apprehensive, she came in and made her bed. It took a few days of sitting and watching before she was ready to shower. A few more days and Tari's routine took shape; where she sat for breakfast, selfcare and sleep.

After two weeks of meeting with her case manager, Tari was able to confess the depression that weighed on her and eventually was the cause of her homelessness. She continued forward with the help of case management, surprised at the resources available to her, and revisited previous medications. Tari was as gentle and sweet as she was quiet. The children at the shelter quickly took to Tari and her to them. She continued developing relationships at the shelter. By Christmas, we would see Tari assisting other clients in decorating the Day Room and smiling.

Tari continued moving forward in the new year, obtaining an ID and applying for medical assistance/insurance. In early February, Tari developed a plan for continuing her medications and beginning therapy.

Early March, Tari was given an opportunity to move into an independent group home in Pioneer Center's Behavioral Health Residential program. As she was taking this next step forward, Tari expressed she was nervous, but grateful. As she was leaving on the next step in her journey, Tari hugged each of us, smiling and said, "I'm so happy I came to PADS." Tari is still thriving, independently.