

## McHenry County Continuum of Care to End Homelessness

### Community Awareness Committee – August 15, 2022 at 11:00 A.M.



To attend virtually: <https://meet.goto.com/CDDivision/community-awareness>

To attend by phone: 1-646-749-3122      Access code: 6596-903-821

Meeting called to order by Brandon Kyker at 11:02am.

Present: Brandon Kyker, Gina Zinck, Suzanne Martinez

#### 1.0 Welcome and Introductions

#### 2.0 Minutes and Approval

##### 2.1 Review and Approval of the June 20, 2022, Community Awareness Committee minutes

- Gina motions to approve the minutes as presented. Suzanne seconded. Minutes approved.

##### 2.2 Review and Approval of the July 18, 2022, Community Awareness Committee minutes

- Gina motions to approve the minutes as presented. Suzanne seconded. Minutes approved.

#### 3.0 Public Comments

- Gina stated that the police had reached out by calling the PADS phone number, but there are no intakes done on the weekend as it is staffed by only 1 staff member. Police officer identified someone experiencing homelessness and wanted to drop them off at PADS shelter. The person was violent so PADS was unable to take them in because there are kids at the shelter. PADS is a low barrier shelter, but not a no barrier shelter. The need in the County is for a Safe Haven and better collaboration with the police department.
- The committee discussed the need of having a Safe Haven discussion surrounding the Cold Weather Assistance program as winter/cold weather is coming. Do we have the volume to warrant a Safe Haven? Should we try sending them to other communities for resources, like Rockford? Can we develop our own system for high acuity people experiencing homelessness?

## 4.0 Old Business

### 4.1 Neighbors in Need Event

#### 4.1.1 Forum Presentation

- Brandon suggested finding anyone with lived expertise who might want to share their experience/story navigating the service system and anything else they wish to highlight. Possibly an interview type of video that could be played at the event if no one would like to speak publicly.
- New Income Discrimination Law, possible presentation from Prairie State if they have had a chance to put one together since that law does not go into effect until January 2023.
- Brandon suggested having a presentation as a “What we need in McHenry County” to showcase action steps and what our current housing stock/inventory looks like and what would be needed to house everyone. What resources are available in the County, and then where the gaps are in the current system. Possibly having the presentations start around 2/2:30 after the Community Resource Day ends so people are more available and anyone who is experiencing homelessness has a chance to hear about the services available to them in the presentations.
- Brandon will reach out to the agencies to see who would be willing to give a presentation that day.

#### 4.1.2 Save the Date / Marketing

- Brandon is waiting for more of an “Okay” on having the music and food truck at Willow through the permit. Sam suggested using the churches and assist with dispersing information.
- Violet from MCC who teaches graphic design has sent over a date of August 31<sup>st</sup> from 2-3:45pm to present the logos that her class created. TBD on if it’s in person or virtual for attendance. Brandon will send out a calendar invite and then update it with a virtual link if it is able to be attended online.

#### 4.1.3 General event flow

- The committee is still thinking if there needs to be traffic control for the day of the event or if that is something that is not needed. Further discussions through email and next meetings.
- Stix and Noodles will be donating 50 plates towards people experiencing homelessness. Do we need more food trucks/food options? Brandon will look for more options in the days to come; Chick-fil-a, Julianne's, Jimmy John's, etc.
- Continue to find more people to play music. Gina suggested streaming music if we cannot find more bands to play.

#### 5.0 New Business

#### 6.0 Member Announcements

- No member announcements.

#### 7.0 Adjournment

- Suzanne motions to adjourn the meeting. Gina seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.