

MINUTES OF THE
Housing and Services Committee
November 9, 2022

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Housing and Services Committee was called to order by Andrew Turner at 3:24 pm on November 9, 2022 via GoToMeeting.

Present: Andrew Turner
Megan Bennett
Brandon Kyker
Gina Zinck
Vickie Lusk
Aaron Neal

2) Minutes and Approval: Megan Bennett motioned to approve the meeting minutes of the July 27th meeting and Gina Zinck seconded the motion.

3) Public Comments

4) Old Business

4.1) The need for a winter drop-in center was discussed. It seems that we have the volunteer force to accommodate for it and we are just lacking a location. Gina has been in communication with Roscoe, the city manager, about using the OFAC building in Woodstock as a possible location. Gina is also going to speak with the WACCM (a group of local churches) to see if we would be able to utilize one of the area churches. Megan brought up the idea of using the old Housing Authority building in Woodstock as it is currently empty. Brandon will speak with the county about also possibly using the McHenry County Fairgrounds. This drop-in center would likely be low barrier, but would have limitations dependent on certain criminal offenses.

4.2) Gina provided an update on the PADS shelter. There is plenty of room for both males and females at the shelter. Veterans Path to Hope and Thresholds have had much success recently housing PADS shelter residents. Gina also raised attention to the need for permanent supportive housing for families in our county.

4.3) Megan reported on the Housing Authority's waiting lists (all of which are accessible through the MCHA website). Walnut Ridge in Woodstock has one, two, and three bedroom units available. The Villas of Lake in the Hills has two and three bedroom units. There is also availability at Creekview in Richmond, which is a 55+ community. New Section 8 housing is currently unavailable. Megan will also check the number of available Moving Up vouchers and report in the future.

4.4) The committee discussed landlord incentivization and risk mitigation. The first thing needed to get this program off the ground would be funding to compensate landlords for potential damage to units rented to higher-risk tenants. The committee would also need to spread the word to local landlords about our project. Brandon reported that there are currently four landlords that have worked with the Continuum of Care and would be good candidates.

5) New Business

5.1) The committee discussed the Cold Weather Hotel Program. The criteria for when the hotels will be available will be based on the overnight temperatures. If the temperature dips, or is expected to dip below 15 degrees. Windchill will also be factored into this. The main hotel that this program will utilize is the Woodstock Super 8. The Crystal Lake Super 8 will also be available for certain clients/ situations.

5.2) The winter drop-in center was discussed again. There is already funding available for this through the county, but more details are needed. There is also expected to be an influx of individuals in need of this service, as well as the cold weather hotel program, as MCEURAP funding comes to an end for many individuals.

6) Member Announcements: Multiple Housing and Services members have expressed interest in holding meetings more frequently than the current quarterly schedule.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:31pm.