

**Boise/Ada County Homeless Coalition
Minutes, January 10, 2024**

The meeting was conducted by Pete Schroeder, President

Attendance:

Carol Craighill	Gayle Wilde	Pete Schroeder
Cay Marquart	Howard Belodoff	Rachel Spacek
Charlotte Barrett	James Grunow	Richard
Connor O'Hora	Jessica Aston	Saidee Jones
Dawn Craft	Jim Blachman	Stacy Lawrence
Denise Caruzzi	Lila Fetherolf	Susan Nee
Don Ruffing	Megan Dayton	Vivian Parrish
Elizabeth Gasparini	Neysa Jensen	Wayne Rancort
Erik Kingston	Pam Roemer	
Gary Hanes	Peg Richards	

Review of Minutes: December 13, 2023—Peg motioned to accept; Neysa seconded.
Approved unanimously.

Review of Treasurer's Report—Neysa reported a balance of \$4,676.93 at the end of December. Don motioned to accept; Peg seconded.
Approved unanimously.

Leadership Team:

Denise updated the Leadership roster and newly accepted roles. She reiterated that the two main objectives of the new job titles/assignments outlined in the December meeting were to 1) simplify the work required for the Coalition's operations and 2) ensure we had people willing to fill the roles. The 2024 key positions are listed below and we are still looking for volunteers to play additional roles:

Pete: President and will take point on facilitating the monthly membership meetings (and arrange a substitute when he cannot). No need to change paperwork!

Neysa: Secretary/Treasurer--and will take point on membership management and monitoring mailboxes (in addition to financial statements, banking, etc.)

Denise: making up title of **Director - Outreach** (whenever she needs to name a role for others), will also take point on facilitating the monthly leadership meetings, and community outreach (with orgs, new members, and some of the advocacy tasks)

Lila: manage our website, communications (MailChimp, etc), leading the Ed/Advo committee

Cay: take lead on the monthly minutes (and arrange a substitute when she cannot)

Carol: take lead on coordinating with the website consultants and update team

Jim: Lead Coalition's book discussion group

Ed/Advo Committee: Lila--Chair--take lead on tracking emerging policy and advocacy opportunities; necessary communications with policy makers; education opportunities for members; opportunities for organization presence in community.

Volunteer opportunities:

1. Update the Resource Map
2. Volunteer coordination
3. Event or project planning
4. Social media presence
5. Communications support

Peg offered to be the point person for social media.

Don offered to maintain and update the research map.

PIT Count (Point In Time count of the homeless population):

Saidee is asking for volunteers to help with the PIT Count which is required by HUD. She emphasized that this count is only a snapshot of the people experiencing homelessness. We know there are many more who are not counted. However, one of the main reasons for this count is because funding is based on the results. Last year's results showed that there was a 43.8% increase in unsheltered people; a 5.9% increase in sheltered, unhoused people; and an 8% decrease in unhoused families with children. The PIT Count will take place from Jan. 24-26.

Other updates:

Pete reported that there are 167,000 homeless students in Idaho.

Our legislature is in session again. We anticipate there could be a pushback on tenants' rights.

Denise reminded us of a proposed celebration and recognition event—honoring some of those who have contributed so much to our causes. The event will take place in March or April, and she is asking for volunteers to help with this. She is also asking for any recommendations.

Lila and Carol are working on the website. They are trying to fix problems with membership forms and the payment of dues. We are asked to wait to fill out the forms and pay our dues when these problems have been resolved.

Registration is now open for the Idaho Conference on Housing and Economic Development. We would like to have a booth there, but we need volunteers to make it happen. We have participated in the past with very good results.

Committee Reports:

Jim (book discussion group) reported that the next book is “When We Walk By”. The first of three discussions will be on Friday, Jan. 20.

Roundtable Discussion:

Don (Corpus Christi) reported that there is a crucial need for gloves and good winter shoes. More first-time people are showing up. They now have three full-time staff members and Jessica Abbot is their new corporate director. He is upbeat about the newly hired director and staff people. Corpus received \$11,000 in donations in the Avenues for Hope fundraising event. Don has started a new project (not

directly related to Corpus). He helps people with anything they need—from repairing bikes, informing them of where to get help, etc. He and others walk every night in teams, trying to find the people who do not go into shelters and helping them with whatever they need to survive.

Connor (CATCH) reported that their holiday event was a big success. 92 people attended. They received \$240,000 in donations in the Avenues for Hope fundraising event. They are also helping with the PIT count.

Eric (IHFA) reported that an overall \$3.4 million was raised for charities in the Avenues for Hope fundraising event and the Idaho Access Project received over \$10,000.

Peg (IFHC) the agency attempts to eradicate discrimination through education on fair housing laws, housing information and referral, housing counseling, etc. They received \$22,724 in donations in the Avenues for Hope fundraising event.

Stacy (Salvation Army) reported a huge increase in the number of people needing help.

Cay (LEAP) reported that Idaho Central Credit Union (ICCU) provided \$120,000 in down payment assistance to eight income-limited homebuyers in the LEAP Housing Trust. These eight Idahoans became homeowners in time for the holidays. ICCU also generously built and delivered *Welcome Home* baskets to all 11 homeowners at Whitney Commons.

Jessica (Furnishing Hope) – Furnishing Hope is helping people transition from homelessness to a new housing situation. They are in need of mattresses, furniture, etc. and volunteers.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be February 14, 2024, at 1:30.

Notes taken by Cay Marquart
Secretary/Treasurer: Neysa Jensen