

## Boise/Ada County Homeless Coalition Membership Meeting - 13 March 2024

The meeting was facilitated by Denise Caruzzi.

### Attendance

Abby Keith	Jessica Aston	Pam Roemer
Cara Cain	Jim Blachman	Peg Richards
Carol Craighill	Karen Folk	Pete Schroeder
Cay Marquart	Laurie Francis	Saidee Jones
Conner O'Hara	Lila Fetherolf	Stacy Lawrence
Denise Caruzzi	Linda Beebe	Tony Horton
Don Ruffing	Kelli Parker	Vivian Parrish
Howard Belodoff	Kelsey Cooper	Wayne Rancort
James Grunow	Megan Dayton	Wendy Lahmon
Jessica Abbott	Neysa Jensen	

### Administrative

**Minutes Review:** February 14, 2024—Carol moved to accept; Don seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** The revised January and February Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted. Neysa reported a balance of \$4745.09 as of March 1, 2024. Cay moved to accept; Lila seconded. Approved unanimously.

### Committee Reports

**Education and Advocacy:** Lila reported that we would not be hosting a table at the upcoming Housing and Economic Development conference to be April 22 and 23 because we did not have member interest.

**Legislative Updates:** Denise reported on some bad bills and good bills in the legislature. S1328 and S1247 are “good” bills for our work. H545 and H572 both preempt the latitude of cities and counties to implement their own solutions for housing security . Encouraging your interest and input.

**Membership:** Neysa reported that we have 20 provider and agency members and 40 plus individual members.

**Communications/Website:** Carol reported that Don had updated our pocket guide tool and that we want to reprint it. We had voted previously on \$300. We were all in agreement that we should print 1000 copies which would cost about \$700. Neysa made the motion to spend \$400 more for the 1,000 copies—making a total of \$700, and Don seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Don said that he thought it would be a good idea if the city extreme weather guide and our guide could be combined.

**Book Discussion Group:** Jim reported that they had finished the book *When We Walk By*. The discussion centered on how we can get more involved. A person from Miracle Friends Program will be speaking at our next meeting. The key is to build relationships. The next book is *Journeys Out of Homelessness* by Donald Burns and Jamie Rife. There will be three sessions—April, 19, May 3, and May 17. Please contact Jim if you're interested.

## **Presentations/Discussions**

1. Wendy Lahmon (Social Services Director of Catholic Charities of Idaho) gave a presentation on the services they offer and their successes; these include offering a free program for people who are homeless or about to be homeless. This program emphasizes physical and mental health, behavior modifications, etc. They started with a subsidized program for fixed income seniors. They presently have approximately 40 open cases. The outcomes have been good.
2. Denise gave us an update on the special celebration honoring awardees who are doing so much to advocate for the homeless population. The Celebration and Recognition Event will take place on May 8 at the Boise First UCC church (2201 W. Woodlawn Ave.) from 1:30 to 3:00. A vote was taken to authorize a budget for this event. Peg moved to spend up to \$1,250 for snacks, printing materials, awards, etc. Cay seconded. It passed unanimously.
3. Howard Belodoff provided an update on the current court case “Johnson vs. Grants Pass” which will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in April. Howard is not very optimistic about the outcome. He urges us to sign the petition and write letters.

## **Roundtable Discussion**

1. Stacy (Salvation Army) reported that they offer informal education classes and also help with car maintenance.
2. Don (Low Income Support, Inc.) offers street repairs for cars and help with taxes and laptop support.
3. Jessica (Corpus Christi) stated that they are in a reorganization mode and are assessing needs at this time.
4. Conner (CATCH and Our Path Home) announced that the public housing website is now open and you must be 62 or older or have a disability to qualify. They also do bicycle repairs.
5. Cay (LEAP) February 29 was officially LEAP Housing Day in Boise! City of Boise Mayor Lauren McLean celebrated and proclaimed Feb.29 as LEAP Day with a proclamation, and CEO Bart Cochran stopped by to receive it.
6. Abby (Idaho Homelessness Impact) will be working with Interfaith Sanctuary to provide general resources, haircuts, and veterinarian services at the Phoenix Building on March 31. They need donations—of hygiene products, snacks, clothing, and monetary. They completed a very well-attended event on Feb 25.
7. Peg (IFHC) noted their series of townhall meetings. One of the topics was on discrimination. IFHC partnered with LEAP for a presentation on home ownership. Peg suggested the Coalition might want to do something similar with LEAP.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be April 10, 2024, at 1:30.

Notes taken by Cay Marquart

Secretary/Treasurer: Neysa Jensen