

**Boise/Ada County Homeless Coalition
Minutes, August 14, 2024**

The meeting was conducted by Pete Schroeder.

Also in attendance were: Denise Caruzzi; Don Ruffing; Cay Marquart (LEAP); Abbey Keith; Alison Money; Casey McGee; Elizabeth Gasparini; Elizabeth Kula; Jessica Aston; Kelli Parker; Lila Fetherolf; Max; Rowan Olah, Corpus Christi; Wayne Rancourt; Pam Roemer; Maximillian Carter; Peg Richards, Intermountain Fair Council; Carol Craighill.

Presentation made by Janessa Stell, Idaho Youth Ranch.

The August 2024 Minutes and Treasurer's Report were presented and unanimously accepted by members present.

Presentations:

Janessa Stell of the Idaho Youth Ranch gave a presentation on the Hays House. It is an 18-bed, short term crisis shelter off Cole and Fairview. It is for children between 9 and 17. The average stay is 21 days, but there is no limit to the number of days. Grants cover all costs. They work closely with Health and Welfare and the schools. Their biggest challenge is collaborating with parents/guardians (not being involved versus refusals for their child). Hays House is considered a National Safe Place. If kids need help, they can text the word "safe" and current location to 4Help (44357).

Committee Reports:

Education and Advocacy: Lila reported that Denise has ordered materials for voter registration events for any organization which requests them. Please call Denise for more information. The Supreme Court's decision on "Johnson vs. Grants Pass" made it clear that officers can now ticket homeless people on the street—even if the shelters are full. Our Boise mayor has made it clear that nothing will change here. Instead, the city is working hard on affordable housing solutions. Unfortunately, this is not the case in many other places. The book discussion's next book is "If You See Them—Young Unhoused, and Alone in America" by Vicki Sokolik. The first meeting will be on Sept. 13. Please contact Jim Grunow if interested.

Roundtable Discussion:

Salvation Army: Stacy said that they gave away 800 backpacks on Monday. There was a big celebration.

LEAP Housing: Cay reported that LEAP Housing has been chosen by the city of Boise to do a pilot project on using RV's to help with affordable housing. If a person has an RV, and they're willing to rent it out to friends, family, or the public for 31 days - 12 months, with an opportunity for a 6-month extension, they are to contact LEAP.

Pete said that the Cathedral of the Rockies has extended their cooling center hours to 6:00 PM. He also reported that there are 9,000 homeless kids in Idaho.

Don reported that Corpus is now open until 8:00 in the evening—7 days a week. He also commented on an excellent article in the paper about Corpus Christi House's new Executive Director Jessica Abbott.

Don (Low Income Support, Inc.) said that their outreach for animals has been very popular. They offer veterinarian services every three months. Don is also working with the True Hope organization. Don also mentioned that he has been passing out many of our pocket guides for services.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 by Pete Schroeder. The next general meeting will be on Sept. 11, at 1:30 pm.

Notes taken by Cay Marquart
Secretary/Treasurer: Neysa Jensen