

Boise/Ada County Homeless Coalition Minutes
November 13, 2024

The meeting was conducted by Pete Schroeder.

Also in attendance were: Cay Marquart, Jessica Aston, Vivian Parrish, Lila Fetherolf, Jordan Esperilla, Don Ruffing, Susan, Casey McGee, Jim Blachman, Katie Minehart - IRC, Kelsey Cooper, Kristen Donovan, Linda Beebe, Neysa Jensen, Pam Roemer, Richard, Stacy Lawrence, Cara Cain, Denise Caruzzi, Emilia Dimitriu, Wayne Rancourt, Megan - Headstart, Gayle Wilde

The Oct. 9, 2024, Minutes and Oct. 2024 Treasurer's report were presented and unanimously approved.

Presentation:

Jordan Esperilla of the Boise Police Department works with mentally ill people who are in crisis situations. She helps with the assessments and getting them the resources they need. She also does community outreach by training people who routinely are involved with mentally ill people. She checks with the shelters to see if they have any concerns that she can help them with. There have been a huge increase in calls. Don asked her about what phone number people who are experiencing a crisis can call and if, in fact, they are helped. She said that people should call 988, but unfortunately, the resources aren't always available. Wayne Rancourt said that the recidivism of people who left Allumbaugh House was very high because they get no help after they leave. He asked Jordan if that has changed. She said, "Unfortunately not. Since they don't get the support they need, the cycle just repeats itself." There has been little effort in finding a solution.

Committee Reports:

Leadership Team:

Lila reported that the slate of members on the leadership team will be voted on at the Dec. meeting. Denise added that we need more volunteers and Stacy (Salvation Army) said she would like to volunteer for something in the near future.

Education and Advocacy:

Lila said the shelters are in dire need of winter clothing. She is also asking for suggestions for a new book for the book club. Wayne R. suggested the book Welcome Homeless: One Man's Journey of Discovering the Meaning of Home by Allen Graham. Denise reported on the five successful voter registration events. She also said that they brought people to the polls.

Round Table Discussion:

Corpus Christi and Low Income Support, Inc.: Don said that Corpus is working on the logistics for providing for cold weather and that they are in urgent need of winter clothing. He

goes out with other people when temps drop below 20 degrees to find homeless people who need help. The program is called Winter Outreach. He also started a Critical Needs program. If you are interested in helping out with this program, please contact Don. Wayne R. asked why there couldn't be temporary shelters for people experiencing an extreme climate situation. Don said he didn't think the city would ever agree to that. Don was also asked if there are emergency gas vouchers for people sleeping in cars. He said his organization provides some but not enough for all who need them.

Salvation Army:

Stacy said the bright spot this week was that three clients got jobs. Don asked how that was accomplished. He suggested that a round table discussion would be very helpful to find out who is doing what.

LEAP Housing:

Cay reported that the Grand Opening of Falcon's Landing (with 68 apartments in Mountain Home) was on Nov. 7. Rents range from \$522 to \$1,305 per month depending on income. She also said a mobile home park (Hamilton Place) in Mountain Home has recently become another resident-owned mobile home park.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 by Pete Schroeder. The next general meeting will be Dec. 11, at 1:30 pm.

Notes taken by Cay Marquart
Secretary/Treasurer: Neysa Jensen