

**Boise/Ada County Homeless Coalition
Minutes, September 11, 2024**

The meeting was conducted by Kelli Parker.

Also in attendance were: Lila Fetherolf; Denise Caruzzi; Jim Grunow; Kelli Parker; Cay Marquart; Emily Sommer; Don Ruffing; Neysa Jensen; Wayne Rancourt; Pam Roemer; Ashley Townend; Stacy Lawrence; Kelsey Cooper; Elizabeth Gasparini; Scott Hopkins; Mel Leviton; Jessica Aston; Richard Morgan; Saidee Jones; Jim Blachman; Casee McGee; Pete Schroeder.

The September 2024 Minutes and Treasurer's Reports were presented and unanimously accepted by members present.

Presentations:

Emily Sommer (State Coordinator - Education for Homeless Children and Youth) was our guest speaker. She spoke about the McKinney-Vento and Education federal law. The McKinney-Vento Act ensures educational rights and protections for homeless children and youth. Various living arrangements meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless, thereby qualifying the child or youth as eligible for services under the Act. She said that it is well documented that homelessness has a great impact on education. Every public or charter school is required to have a McKinney-Vento liaison. This liaison determines eligibility and what services they qualify for. There are 9,125 qualified students identified in Idaho this year. On average, the percentage of students living in eligible situations is 2.5% of our total student population in Idaho.

McKinney-Vento Rights

- 1.Immediate enrollment in school without traditional documents/records
2. Remain in school of origin, if student's best interests
- 3.Transportation to and from school of origin
4. Educational services/supports needed for academic success

Denise asked her if there's anything we could do to post this information. It was suggested that posters be placed in agencies, schools, churches, and libraries.

Committee Reports:

Education and Advocacy: Denise is in charge of voter registration. Registration opportunities will be available in various places on Sept. 17 (National Registration Day). One of the requirements for people who are experiencing homelessness is that they have to have an address in order to vote. If they don't have an address, they can ask for a letter from the shelter with the shelter's address. Denise said that they are greatly in need of volunteers.

The book discussion's next book is If You See Them—Young Unhoused, and Alone in America by Vicki Sokolik. There will be three sessions: Sept. 27, Oct. 11, and Oct. 25. The author will be joining them in the discussion in the last session. Please contact Jim Grunow if interested.

Roundtable Discussion:

Salvation Army: Stacy said the parenting classes have been very successful. She also said that she would like the voter registration materials for her office.

Corpus & Low Income Support, Inc: Don said that Corpus is still open until 8:00 in the evening—7 days a week, but the hours will probably change when it gets cooler. He said they are still in need of volunteers. Don is working with Pete to coordinate services with local churches. Richard told Don how much he appreciates all his services. Richard went on to say how his focus is helping youth.

State Independent Learning Council: Mel has been working with legislators on legislation to establish saving's accounts for disabled persons. She is optimistic that this will pass in the next legislative session.

LEAP HOUSING: Cay reported that LEAP is partnering with the Kiniksu Land Trust (KLT) to bring affordable housing to Bonner County in North Idaho. They're also nearing completion of Falcons Landing, a mixed-income, mixed-use community in Mountain Home, ID. There are 60 rental units, 8 homeownership units, a community building and a playground which will be completed and occupied.

- Rental units are leasing between \$522 - \$1,305 per month.
- Homeownership units are for sale with a target price of \$299,000.

Households of all income levels are encouraged to apply to lease or own at Falcons Landing.

The City of Boise's Tiny Homes on wheels (THOWs) pilot, administered by LEAP, is nearing full occupancy. With RV's now being included, they're almost done with placing THOWs and RVs across Boise.

Economic Opportunity by Jannus: Kelli said they are partnering with Equal Opportunities to provide education classes about finances to prisoners. These classes will help them understand their financial situations and how to deal with them. Kelli said they are in need of more teachers. She also said that attempting to balance the Health and Welfare's program's budget ahead of a projected shortfall, it is suspending new enrollments to the program and would delay expected benefit hikes, among other changes. These budget cuts for Idaho Child Care Program compounds financial troubles for parents and providers.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 by Kelli Parker. The next general meeting will be on October 9, 2024, at 1:30 pm.

Notes taken by Cay Marquart
Secretary/Treasurer: Neysa Jensen