

**Boise/Ada County Homeless Coalition Minutes
September 10, 2025**

The meeting was conducted by President Kelli Parker.

Attendance:

Kelli Parker	Jodi Peterson Stigers
Denise Caruzzi	Kelsey Cooper
Nanea, IABN	Lila Fetherolf
Cay Marquart	M Dayton
Christine Hummer, LEAP	Neysa Jensen
Don Ruffing, LIST	Peg Richards, IFHC
Elizabeth Gasparini, BSU	Rhianna Freeman
Jessica Aston, Boise First UCC	Vivian Parrish
Jim Grunow	Wayne Rancourt

The August 13, 2025 minutes were presented and unanimously approved.

Presentations

Nanea
Idaho Asset Building Network

Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo is working to alleviate housing challenges through the introduction of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act. This bipartisan package includes long-term policy solutions that are needed to address our state’s housing challenges – including more than 40 provisions aimed at cutting red tape to access federal housing assistance, building more homes and updating outdated programs. Nanea is encouraging us to thank Sen. Crapo for his leading role in introducing this package.

Jodi P.
Exec. Director of Interfaith Sanctuary

Interfaith provides shelter and supportive services for the unhoused population. Jodi gave us an update on the mediation efforts between Interfaith and the neighborhood association which has fought against the location of the new Interfaith Sanctuary on State Street for the last few years. The mediation effort has failed and is now on appeal. The City Council will have another public hearing on Sept. 30 at 2:00 PM. Our action alert is to contact the city council members in support of the new shelter and why we support it. We are also encouraged to show up at the meeting and testify. One of the main sticking points has to do with the maximum 205 bed capacity. Jodi said that if they need to go over that capacity number, they would still have room to house more and that they don't want to turn anyone away who is in desperate need of shelter. She also noted that it is illegal to deny a homeless person accommodations. We need to ask the council members to soften that 205 number. The good news is that construction is going really well and more neighbors are coming on board. Interfaith is offering tours of the new facility for anyone

interested. The new shelter should open mid-December of this year.

Jessica Aston (Boise First UCC) is involved in starting a new organization called Furnishing Hope. Furnishing Hope provides furniture and essential supplies to individuals and families overcoming homelessness or hardship, creating dignified living spaces that foster stability, healing, and self-sufficiency. They are looking for sponsorships. There will be more details coming out later.

Committee Reports

Book Discussion Group

Jim G. announced the new book, And Housing for All: The Fight to End Homelessness in America. There will be three discussion sessions, and the first one begins Sept. 17 from noon to 1:15. If interested, please contact Jim at 208-571-6309.

Education and Advocacy

Lila reminded us that action alerts and other valuable information are on our website.

Denise told us of two important alerts. One is that social security checks will no longer be sent in the mail. It will have to be a direct bank deposit or on loadable cards. The second alert is that there may very well be a government shutdown which will impact our most vulnerable.

Round Table Discussion

Cay (LEAP Housing) LEAP is now offering free Workforce Housing 101 training which is available online or in person (check their website for details).

Peg R. (Intermountain Fair Housing Council) reported that they rely mostly on federal funding grants which have mostly disappeared. 90% of the grants are gone. They simply need more funding and hope to get more in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 by Kelli Parker. The next general meeting will be on Oct. 8, 2025 at 12:30.

Notes taken by Cay Marquart
Secretary/Treasurer: Neysa Jensen