

# State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness

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Informational Presentation

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# Michael Basford

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# Interagency Council on Homelessness History

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- Created in 2017 with the bipartisan support of the Legislature of Act 74, which was signed into law by then-Governor Walker in November.
- Held first meeting in February, 2018.
- Wrote and released the “Hand and a Home” – detailing 31 strategies with dozens of recommendations over six themes on fighting homelessness in Wisconsin. Released at the end of November, 2018.
- Evers Administration’s ICH held first meeting in June, 2019.

# Interagency Council on Homelessness Members

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Governor Tony Evers

Department of Administration Secretary Joel Brennan

Department of Health Services Secretary Andrea Palm

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Mary Kolar

Department of Children and Families Secretary Emilie Amundson

Department of Corrections Secretary Kevin Carr

Department of Workforce Development

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority Executive Director Joaquin Altoro

Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor

Torrie Kopp Mueller (Dane County)

Rafael Acevedo (Milwaukee County)

Gai Lorenzen (Racine County)

Carrie Poser (Balance of State)

# Interagency Council on Homelessness

## Mission and Responsibilities

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- “The council shall meet quarterly and may meet at other times on the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members.”
- “Establish and periodically review a statewide policy with the purpose of preventing and ending homelessness in this state.”
- “Designate individuals from each agency or organization represented on the council, who shall meet at least twice quarterly, to coordinate the implementation of policy established by the council.”
- “Submit a report on the activities of the council to the governor and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature, for distribution to the appropriate standing committees.”

# ICH Director: Michael Basford

## Duties

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- Organize and/or facilitate activities (meetings and workgroup sessions) for the Council,
- Serve as a conduit within Wisconsin State Government and between different levels of government,
- Serve as a conduit between public and private agencies and State Government,
- Represent the Governor and the Administration as needed,
- Serve as a resource for the Citizens of Wisconsin on matters of homelessness.

# Interagency Council on Homelessness

## Areas of Study and Action Pre-Pandemic

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- WHEDA: Exploring options and areas to increase production of affordable housing for people at 30%-and-under CMI.
- Veterans Affairs: Planning for directing resources to help veterans into housing
- Children and Families: Examining EA administrative rules to better serve citizens who could receive EA in cases of homelessness or housing instability, looking into DV sheltering and housing strategies
- Corrections: Connecting prisons better with CoC's to better serve inmates who may be discharged to homelessness, examining processes available to inmates at discharge and connecting inmates with no-known addresses to Coordinated Entry
- Workforce Development: Better connecting job placement with homelessness programs and expanding access to job training and placement
- Health Services: Working on Medicaid changes to include funding for housing-related supportive services
- Administration: Planning for quickly rolling out programs and funding in event bills are approved by the Legislature
- Public Instruction: Working on strategies with their data warehouse to better share data with HMIS

Interagency Council on Homelessness  
Areas of Study and Action Pre-Pandemic

- Quarters 1 and 2: Review Progress  
Towards Goals
- Quarters 3 and 4: 2-Year Review of  
“Hand and a Home Plan”



# The COVID-19 Pandemic and Challenges

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- February 5<sup>th</sup> : First case of COVID-19 in Wisconsin found in Madison
- Late February and Early March: First discussions and planning on response to threat of pandemic with State Government staff.
- March 6<sup>th</sup> : First meeting with DHS staff on issues with the pandemic and homelessness systems.
- March 12<sup>th</sup> : Governor Evers signs Executive Order 72 declaring Health Emergency.
- March 24<sup>th</sup> : Secretary Palm signs Emergency Order 12 (Safer at Home for 30 days)
- March 27<sup>th</sup> : Governor Evers and Secretary Palm sign Emergency Order 15 (60-day moratorium on rental evictions and foreclosures). CARES Act signed into law.

# The COVID-19 Pandemic and Challenges

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- April 2<sup>nd</sup> : HUD Awards State of Wisconsin \$12.7 million in first round of ESG-CARES funding.
- April 16<sup>th</sup> : Secretary Palm signs Emergency Order 28 (extending Safer at Home for 60 days)
- April 29<sup>th</sup> : First weekly meeting connecting CoCs with the State Emergency Operations Center Emergency Support Function 6 team and FEMA.
- May 13<sup>th</sup> : Wisconsin State Supreme Court strikes down Safer-at-Home order – leaving counties and municipalities to create or not create their own orders.
- May 20<sup>th</sup> : Governor Evers announces Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program (WRAP) – investing \$25 million in CARES Act funds. Also announces the Food Security Initiative – investing \$15 million in CARES Act funds.

# The COVID-19 Pandemic and Challenges

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- June 9<sup>th</sup>: HUD Awards State of Wisconsin \$19.7 million in second round of ESG-CARES funding.
- July 30<sup>th</sup> : Governor Evers signs Executive Order 82 (Public Health Emergency) and Emergency Order 1 (face-mask mandate)
- August 11<sup>th</sup> : Wisconsin passes 1,000 COVID-19 deaths
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> : Governor Evers and Secretary Palm sign Executive Order 90 (Public Health Emergency extension)
- October 5<sup>th</sup> : Governor Evers announces another \$10 million for WRAP, \$10 million for Food Security Initiative, and \$15 million for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- October 7<sup>th</sup> : Governor Evers announces opening of Alternative Care Facility at Wisconsin State Fair Park due to increased COVID hospitalizations.

# The COVID-19 Pandemic and Challenges

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- October 31<sup>st</sup> : Wisconsin passes 2,000 COVID-19 deaths
- November 10<sup>th</sup> : Governor Evers signs Executive Order 94 (Relating to Actions Every Wisconsinite Should Take to Protect their Family, Friends, and Neighbors from COVID-19)
- November 12<sup>th</sup> : As of this day, 2,515 people have died of COVID-19 in Wisconsin.

# Moving Forward

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- Second round of ESG-Cares Funding.
- Connecting and beginning work with the incoming federal administration, including new leadership at HUD, so that we can as quickly as possible receive new stimulus funds.
- Finishing work on proposals for the state 2021-2023 budget.
- Resuming work on “Hand and a Home” update – including adding a section addressing racial disparities in homelessness systems and housing markets.
- Working with the new Legislature on homelessness and housing proposals.

# Newly-Elected State Senators

District	New Senator	Incumbent
10	Rob Stafsholt	Patty Schachtner
12	Mary Felzkowski	Tom Tiffany
14	Joan Ballweg	Luther Olsen
16	Melissa Sargent	Mark Miller
26	Kelda Roys	Fred Risser
28	Julian Bradley	David Craig
30	Eric Wimberger	David Hansen
32	Brad Pfaff	Jennifer Shilling

# Newly-Elected Assembly Representatives

District	New Representative	Incumbent
8	Sylvia Ortiz Valdez	JoCasta Zamarripa
11	Dora Drake	Jason Fields
13	Sara Rodriguez	Rob Hutton
17	Supreme Moore Omokunde	David Crowley
23	Deb Andraca	Jim Ott
29	Clint Moses	Rob Stafsholt
35	Calvin Callahan	Mary Felzkowski
41	Alex Dallman	Joan Ballweg
44	Sue Conley	Debra Kolste
48	Samba Baldeh	Melissa Sargent
55	Rachael Cabral-Guevara	Mike Rohrkaste
57	Lee Snodgrass	Amanda Stuck
69	Donna Rozar	Bob Kulp
75	David Armstrong	Romaine Quinn
76	Francesca Hong	Chris Taylor
90	Kristina Shelton	Staush Gruszynski



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