

Minutes
LAFAYETTE COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION MEETING
THURSDAY April 20, 2017 8:30 AM
Darlington United Methodist Church
Darlington, WI 53530

Mission Statement:

- a. **Learn** about and define homelessness and its causes in our county.*
- b. **Coordinate** community networks which promote self-sufficiency and stability for families, and*
- c. **Advocate** for locally driven solutions to end homelessness.*

1. Call to order by Hannah at 8:32 am
2. Approval of Minutes tabled; in May (Feb and April, no March meeting)
3. Speaker: Whitney Thompson, Dementia Care Specialist (10 min)
Home visits for families and individuals; community awareness around dementia—works with Sue on that; Dementia communities—explained to the community he lived in to tell them what he needed
Dementia friendly communities initiative: inclusive environment for everyone. Recently a kickoff in Shullsburg. Simulation event, and after training a purple angle is displayed to show that they are dementia friendly. Businesses and churches could be trained and then display the “Dementia Friendly” window symbol.

Memory Café started at the _____ Center. Once a month; special guests come to enjoy activities with the support group.

4th Tues of month at ADRC from 10-11:30 am in Darlington

Support group meeting in Monroe or Dubuque.

Hand in Hand is a full day Tuesday and Friday in Monroe. In Dubuque every day respite care available. Lafayette manor also offers respite care.

Event on Tuesday, April 25 from 5-6 in Platteville; friendly caregivers in the area.

4. Speaker: Bridget Mouchon-Humphrey on SWCAP’s Behavioral Health Initiative (10 min)

Allison Tutkowski, student at UW-Madison School of Nursing, Behavioral Health—part of SW CAP

Mental Health and Substance abuse issues: 1 year of planning (July 2016) 5 years of implementation (beginning July 2017), 2 years of sustainability
Today: Project funded “Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Partnership” by the Southwest Wisconsin Behavioral Health Partnership

Access to resources for mental and behavioral health; not enough providers; distance is a challenge, calendars are full—which leaves law enforcement and hospitals to deal with crises because they didn’t get the support that they need—this comes back to stigma.

1 in 4 of us has a mental health issue in the last year in the US (by World Health)

1 in 2 of us will have a mental health issue over the course of our lifetime
Normalize the mental health challenges that we walk around with on a daily basis—using treatment and intervention (catch it early! And help them early!) Early care helps people to manage their life so that they don’t stick out or have episodes that cause them to

There are groups that are supporting each other already—so we need to strengthen them and help people get connected.

Need: a group to come back to in each county; are we the group? YES!!

Reg spoke to the challenge of where to take people who need help when they have multiple scenarios going on—so they end up sitting in jail—which is not the right place for people.

Working with the hospitals too

We are thankful for the initiative. Doug shared his personal encounters with the stigma challenges and the loss that we experience because of it. Doug also spoke to the challenges that impact housing too.

5. SW CAP—Michelle: being supportive to being the Lead Agency of the Emergency Transitional Housing grant. We support continuing in this role. Hannah wrote a letter.
6. Iowa/Lafayette County Family Promise –
We are working to partner with neighboring agencies to see if we can piggyback or partner with them to share in resources.

There is a school in Gratiot that might be available to provide temporary housing.

7. Salvation Army

Angela: \$8,300 available to be used by September 30: Rent, utilities, and emergency lodging. Shut off time: water and electricity can now be shut off. We need to be diligent to provide for people in the area that can be assisted with these funds.

Doug shared that the fundraising that we have done has helped tenants he has worked with. He shared a case where someone received help and she said "this is the nicest thing that anyone has done for me".

Oct 1 our new balance is not yet available but if we fundraise we might be able to have about \$10,700. We are in a good position, much more positive than in other years (\$1,200).

Requests have been mostly from Darlington; please share with other communities that they have access to help with the Salvation Army money of Lafayette County through Sheriff Reg Gill. Angela will send out a flyer to all churches, libraries, and food pantries.

Contact the Republican Journal to share about "what is raised here, stays here": Hannah will send a press release from last year's success and announcing this year's campaign.

8. Future Agenda Items (Shari Resga on Monroe Clothes closet in May; rep from Blanchardville Box of Balloons; discuss goals; Lutheran Social Services (WI and Upper MI) in May at Grace after worship on Sun. May 21 at 11 am about Human Trafficking)

9. Adjourn at 9:35 motion by Doug, second by Connie. Approved!!

10. Next meeting is Thursday, May 18 at United Methodist Church at 8:30 am

ATTENDEES

Michelle Friedrich, SWCAP

Hannah Campbell Gustafson, Family Promise of Grant County

The Rev. Connie Matye, Peace Lutheran, Belmont

Dr. Lori Neuman, community

Angela Swinhart, Salvation Army

The Rev. Craig Simenson, Grace Lutheran, Darlington

Pastor Angela Steinhauer, Methodist

Dana Marcus, ADRC

Sheriff Reg Gill, Lafayette Co. Sherriff

Douglas O'Brien, Lafayette County Housing Authority

Guests: Whitey Thompson, ADRC; Bridget Mouchon-Humphrey on SWCAP's Behavioral Health Initiative;

Allison Tutkowski, student at UW-Madison School of Nursing, Behavioral Health

Emailed: not able to make it

Shari Olson, DCC Food Pantry

Mary Knellwolf + 6 students

Lori Nodorft, Darlington Schools

Shyntel Owen, Furst Staffing

Missing

Chief Jason King, Darlington Police

Myra Taylor, Community Member

Tony Ruesga, Lafayette Co. Board

Gina John, Family Advocates

Lee Gill, Human Services