

AGENDA  
LAFAYETTE COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION MEETING  
THURSDAY July 20, 2017 8:30AM  
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.*

Present: Hannah, Rev. Craig, Lori Neuman, Joy, Michelle, Pastor Angie, Amanda, Dana, Shari

1. Call to order 8:33 by Hannah, chair; welcome to Joy McQuaid who is taking over for Dan O'Brien
2. Approval of Minutes: June minutes not present, will add to Aug meeting
3. Resource: Tiffany from Box of Balloons (approx. 10 min)

Not here, we will invite again.

Idea is that a box with cupcakes, balloons, and some presents are brought to a family when a child has a birthday. Tiffany is from Blanchardville where this program is currently operating.

4. Point in Time Count- to be done between "sunset and sunrise"  
Mary Knellwolf, Chris Bell, Chris' friend, and Pastor Angie will go out 9 pm to midnight with 3 Lafayette County Sherriff's and 1 Darlington Police officer on Wednesday, July 26. Michelle gave us the forms—all will be asked to sign.

--Free Community Breakfast Thursday, July 27: 7-9am at Darlington UMC  
Dana, Pastor Angie, and some volunteers are putting on breakfast. A postcard invitation will be sent to all on the Coalition: please share it and invite others. Places to share the postcard: Facebook for RJ, police department, and Sherriff (Hannah to ask them); laundry mat (Amanda), Library (Lori), Food Pantry (Amanda), ask Tony to share with Hispanic team (Tony), and courthouse (Joy).

Eggs, meat, toast, milk, coffee, juice will be served. FREE for ALL!

Dana will have forms and be available to fill out PIT counts, if applicable.

5. Christmas in July- update

Shari offered that 2 kettles are being utilized in Darlington (PigglyWiggly and Casey's) and 1 in Belmont. Tony R is the Darlington contact. Reminder: Salvation Army does not like kettles rang on Sunday's.

We thought that kettles might be in: Benton (1); Belmont (1); Shullsburg (1); Darlington (3); and Blanchardville (1). Shari has only checked out 3 kettles: 1 Belmont, 2 Darlington.

6. Iowa/Lafayette County Family Promise- update

Committee's work is completed: we are not starting a Family Promise in Iowa/Lafayette Counties at this time. Group has some recommendations for each coalition that will be shared in a more formal report in Aug. These will include asking the Coalitions to do some action steps. Areas of focus: (1) Short term housing (increase 1 night voucher to up to 7 nights), (2) Collecting good data, (3) Helping people come out of the shadows and pride to utilize the resources available, (4) Investigate the "drop off in the next county" practice, (5) Resource sheets: making accessible and accurate

Hannah reminded us about the survey that was being created for the Food Panty to use.

We had discussion about which definition we would use for "homeless". It could include phrases or words like: sleeping outside, no place to call home (couch surfing), permeant, own, stable.

Michelle has a google doc spreadsheet that we can get access for listing homeless people that we encounter. This will help with data collection.

Dana will find a couple of useful docs to share with the group for contacts when there is a need. A third item is available on the Counties website.

When utilizing assistance through Salvation Army, we are all going to try to say: "Let me call my Salvation Army contact"; instead of: "I'll call the Sherriff's office". This might make people feel safer.

There was discussion that no one at the table is volunteering to be the 24/7/365 Salvation Army Contact. Others really like it that both of our programs are

being handled through law enforcement (Sherriff or Darlington Police Department).

Bus ticket assistance came up: are we prepared to use Salvation Army funds to purchase a bus ticket? Pastor Angie will email Reg and Angela.

Salvation Army Balance per Angela's email: \$3,891 (to be used by Sept. 30) Pastor Angie will ask Reg to notify the fire departments in our county about the funds as they may encounter people during incidents that may need assistance.

7. SWCAP- update

Grants ended June 30; hopefully new ones will start Aug 1. There is no money right now—Michelle has a waiting list. She applied for extra grants this year—not awarded yet. One would allow hotel stays up to 60 days.

8. Scheduling a Poverty Simulation: Town Bank Meeting room

We talked about giving ourselves as much time as possible—so looking at the end of October. 1<sup>st</sup> choice: Wed, Nov. 1; 2<sup>nd</sup> choice: Mon., Oct. 23; 3<sup>rd</sup> choice: Thur. Oct 26.

Pastor Angie will ask Bridget to review the Town Bank Meeting room to be sure that it is of sufficient size.

**\*\*After the meeting Pastor Angie checked with Town Bank—all 3 dates are open; she booked Nov. 1. Please double check your calendars before our next meeting; we would like to start advertising this date.**

**Who is coordinating the event?**

9. Salvation Army Balance per Angela's email: \$3,891 (to be used by Sept. 30) Pastor Angie presented a Food in Backpack plan that could start this school year with a 14-week run through Dec. 31. She has talked to the school and got some financial numbers. After much discussion the coalition is excited about the opportunity but would like to wait until Jan or next school year to implement.

Some additional information that would help know where to start:  
Free/reduced lunch counts at each of the 5 school districts (Dana to research);

Second Harvest partnership options (Michelle to look into); Thrivent Action Dollars (all who know a Thrivent person, please let Pastor Angie know).

10. Future Agenda Items – next month, Kim from Belmont Blessings in a Backpack; revisit Clothes Closet; Balloons in a Box Tiffany

11. Shared info:

Thrivent members have access to \$250 Action dollars that they can use. If you know a Thrivent member, please encourage them to share this gift with us or another group.

Shari reported total deposits for LaCty HomeCO as \$2,065 this includes a recent gift from St. Filamenia of Belmont of \$200. Shari sent a Thank you.

Hannah suggested we have Thank you cards made; approved by consensus.

Shari and Michelle handle money donated to the Coalition.  
Southwest Graphics is our printer.

12. Adjourn 9:55

**Next meeting: Thursday, Aug. 17 at 8:30 am at the Darlington UMC, 546 Park Place in Darlington. Please enter through Washington Street.**

RSVP'd unable to attend: Shyntel, Mary, Angela, Connie, Lee and Stanton.