



# Wisconsin Balance of State Newsletter - First October Edition

The year is flying by! We are already into October, the air is getting colder, and our work continues to be important. Thank you for all your work advocating for housing work in the Balance of State community.

## Something we hear: "We can't afford to have people sleeping outside. It scares away tourism, business, and people."

The response: I agree that we as a system can't afford to have people sleeping outside for a lot of reasons. Using our public safety resources to respond to homelessness situations is not efficient and takes away from situations where that response is required. We also want to have a community where people can set down roots and support local businesses - housing plays a key role in this.

- When people are housed, they cost the community less in public services, hospital fees, and other public service costs
- Federal studies show that chronic homelessness, due in part to its criminalization, costs the public between \$30,000 and \$50,000 per person every year, programs that house people cost much less to the public

- When a person is housed, they are far more equipped to work on employment, education, volunteering, and any other goals they might want to
- When a person gets to set down roots and work on their goals, they are far more likely to invest in local businesses, spend money, pay tuition, and engage in their community

Investing in housing, not criminalization, is a long-term investment in the community as a whole.

Learn more here:

[Housing, not handcuffs criminalization one-pager](#)

[gre.qxd \(homelesshub.ca\)](#)

[The Cost to Criminalize Homelessness - Homeless Voice](#)

## Wait...Who from WIBOS staff works on what again?

There are many more people on staff with the Wisconsin Balance of State, here is a non-comprehensive snapshot of some projects we are working on:

- **Carrie Poser**, CEO: Represents organization at state and federal level, serves as the CEO, works with the Board on strategic planning and vision, CoC Competition, and overall leadership toward ending homelessness
- **Meredith McCoy**, Monitoring and Compliance Manager: CoC grant compliance, training, technical assistance
- **Ryan Graham**, Homeless System Manager: High level Coordinated Entry connections, other systems of care partnerships, CoC Builds, Advocacy, Community Support
- **Holly Sieren**, Coordinated Entry System Specialist: Coordinated Entry system compliance, and connections, CE data analytics, non-HMIS support
- **Kate Markwardt**, Grants Specialist: DV RRH systems and compliance, CoC reimbursement, PIT/HIC
- **Erika Olson**, Homeless Systems Specialist: YHDP implementation, Bezos Diversion Pilot, Advocacy
- **Molly Betts**, Grants Specialist: YHDP grant compliance, reimbursement, CoC Builds, SSO grant compliance
- **Adam Hurst**, Homeless Systems Specialist: HOME-ARP, EHH Coordinated Entry Compliance, Advocacy

If you accidentally reach the wrong person, fear not! We will make sure your message gets to the right inbox.

## Coordinated Entry Corner - Prevention Transition Plan

Thank you for all your feedback on the new prevention assessment. It has been approved by the board, and a transition plan is in place:



10/7/24

- CE Prevention Training recorded webinar is posted on the BoS website CE page.
- SSO staff will be notified, and they will inform agencies in their coalition that the training is available.
- Referrers must complete the prevention assessment training before they can give a prevention assessment.

10/11/24

- Prevention will be live in HMIS
- The prevention screen (PDF and fillable version) will be posted on the BoS website, CE page under the Documents tab.

10/11/24 - 10/31/24

- Referrers start calling folks to re-do their prevention assessment, and update the client's HMIS file

11/1/24

- Reassessments will be completed.
- CE System Specialist will run a report to ensure all clients on the prevention list have been reassessed.

If you have questions about this process, please reach out to

[holly.sieren@wibos.org](mailto:holly.sieren@wibos.org)

### **CoC Builds Application Announcement**

After the letter of interest and brief application process, the CoC Builds application the Wisconsin Balance of State will be proceeding with is with Newcap, Inc. Over the course of October, we will be collaboratively writing and finishing the application, with a full submission to HUD in November. Thank you to all who submitted interest, we will continue to look for this needed permanent supportive housing resource in our communities.

### **WIBOS Social**

You may be wondering why there are recommendations for restaurants in our newsletter - in our travels across the state, we get to see local businesses, parks, and community spaces. We hope to add some dimension to other parts of the state you may not be as familiar with.

We also hope you get to know the WIBOS staff a little better as people. If you have business or restaurant recommendations we should look for in your community, we would love to know!

If you are traveling to Beloit, check out Bushel and Peck's! Meredith highly recommends. [Bushel & Peck's \(bushelandpecks.com\)](http://bushelandpecks.com)



### **New Subrecipients Shoutout!**

The Wisconsin Balance of State under the YHDP System Navigator Program will be working with two new organizations: United Cerebral Palsy of West Central Wisconsin and Foundations Health and Wholeness.

Under the DV Rapid Rehousing Program, WIBOS will be working with 3 new organizations: CRA. Family Advocates, and The Women's Center in Waukesha.

Welcome new subrecipients!



Mark your calendars for the [Wisconsin Balance of State second annual conference](#)

The 2025 theme words are: **INNOVATE** | **ADVOCATE** | **COLLABORATE**

February 18-19, 2025 - Tundra Lodge Green Bay, WI

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Do you have content or announcements you would like highlighted in our newsletter? Reach out to [erika.olson@wibos.org](mailto:erika.olson@wibos.org)

