

The Homeless Coalition
Meeting Minutes: March 10, 2025

Mission: To improve the quality of life for individuals in the Jasper-Newton County region impacted by all aspects of homelessness through community education and coordination of community services.

- I. Call to order/introductions & attendance: Meeting called to order at 11:34 a.m. by Robin Smith who took attendance on Teams.
 - a. Attendance Rita Glenn, Melinda Blankenship, Dianne Gurley, Thomas Walters, Dandy Myles. Robin Smith, Christina Wilson, Rhonda Thompson, Shonna Greninger, Josh Shackles, Suzy Tipper, Jessica Lara-Hughes, Susan Cox, Lindsey Macfee, Barbara Long, Lynnette Lee, Susan Hickman, Pam Regan, Kelsie Spears, Stephanie Brady, Susan Cox, and Suzy Tipper.
- II. Presentation: Chief Pearson, JPD. Did not attend coalition meeting and Robin attempted to speak to him about how JPD is working with those experiencing homelessness in Joplin, but she wasn't able to connect with him.
- III. Provider News and Updates:
 - a. City of Joplin, Tom Walters updated the group that regional commission on homelessness has execute MOU with ESC to get someone hired for the housing director position. They are working on job description and salary amount.
 - b. Catholic Charities, Susan Cox, did receive MHTF funding and is applying for HESP funding.
 - c. Stephanie Brady, Pop up clinic at Salvation Army is going well. Providing folks vaccines and doctors are seeing active patients while they are there.
 - d. DMH, Kelsie Spears, is the new HDO and will be reviewing eligibility packets in Joplin CoC for DMH.
 - e. Josh Shackles, app.joplinhomelesscoalition.org
 - a. Pam Ragan, Joplin Job service, still taking referrals for youth 18-24 with barriers to employment.
 - b. Josh Shackles, Joplin report on homelessness is out. To review go to website Joplinreportonhomelessness.org. Tom elevated that some agencies can't visit the site because it's untrusted. Josh will add security question so it will be a trusted site.
 - c. Lafayette house, Susan Hickam, reviewing structure and process of the agency programs. Second chances will no longer be offered, and they are changing up their childcare. They will be moving to subsidy and client only.
 - d. Ozark Center, Rita Glen is receiving referrals from ESC and is excited about being able to help people.
 - e. Mercy, Lynnette Lee, finished Mercy's week of service. Staff was able to volunteer in the community.
 - f. One Step services, Mercy, Lindsey Macfee, Service Coordinator, Hospital-based acute withdrawal management from alcohol and opioids. We take Medicaid, Medicare, and most major insurance. Direct cell is 417-233-5768 and Intake line is 417-241-6161.
 - g. Souls Harbor, Dianna Gurley, they will have food donated, 40,000 pounds of food.
 - h. Stephanie Theis, beds available at Children's Haven. Reminder on the ballet on April 8th Jasper County for kids. They are looking for volunteers to help with canvassing on March 22, 29, and April 5th if anyone would like to come educate the community about children's needs.
 - i. CCSOMO, Melinda Blankenship, waiting on funding amounts.
 - j. ESC- No funds for water right now, should be available April 1st. They have utility assistance funds and waiting on MHTF funds to start assisting folks beginning April 1st.

- IV. Review/approve minutes from previous meeting: Robin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Dianna Gurley made a motion to approve minutes and Melinda Blankenship seconded motion. **Action: Minutes passed.**
- V. Standing Committee Reports
- a. Treasurer's Report, Christina Wilson: Total Balance is \$18,810.03. Reminder, if you didn't complete the form and pay fee's you cannot vote on Coalition business. Any questions with membership forms or dues please email me at cwilson@lawmo.org.
 - b. HMIS Report, Dandy Myles: SPMs database not open to submit report due to executive order regarding gender. Only one federal report will be open at a time, so PIT/HIC and SPM won't be submitted at the same time. PIT/HIC Joplin data still needing Restoration Life Center to submit PIT/HIC before ICA can start aggregating data from all the CoCs. There will likely be changes to gender, how it's reported, which will be announced, and we will be informed later. ICA wasn't expecting to have any data standards change but because of the gender change their will likely be a change. A reminder that when that happens it breaks all the reports including software vender changes. Lastly, Springfield CoC requested data from Joplin for work force development funding that is associated for Veterans. Wanted to know how many veterans are participating in housing programs in Joplin. There are also several Veterans being served by Jean Taylors' HUD VASH which Springfield CoC will have to ask permission from them since they don't participate in HMIS. Thomas Walters requested to know which grants they are going after as it's stated that they are going after several federal grants. Thomas will research which grants the City of Springfield is applying for. Motion was made by Josh Shackles to approve sharing the data with Springfield CoC and Melinda Blankenship seconded. **Action: Approved.**
 - c. Coordinated Entry, Housing Connect, Veterans, and Street Outreach, Shonna Greninger:
 - i. 7 assessments completed February (8 individuals and 6 families). 5 individuals or families were housed on their own, 5 clients have gone MIA for more than 30 days, 4 families individuals were not ready, voucher expired, could not provide documents, 3 individuals/families were housed through housing connect and 10 Referrals sent out in February. Currently, there are 22 individuals/families on the active Prioritization List; 10 have been referred to agencies and 22 are waiting for a program opening (10 for Rapid Rehousing).
 - ii. Veterans update: 45 veterans are engaged, 31 of those are at House Inc., 1 is in transitional housing, 4 at Souls Harbor, 4 are outside, 5 Veterans have been housed in the last 90 days, 4/45 have been assessed. 1 have VASH vouchers and 1 are working Catholic Charities for deposits).
 - d. Street Outreach, Shonna:
 - i. Going out weekly with 14 people assessing people sleeping outside. Not doubling up locations every time. Going to Joplin, Carthage, and Neosho.
 - ii. 6 Street Outreach Forms were completed in February; 3 out of 6 were assessed. 3 working on getting documents gathered.
 - iii. Housing Connect annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13th at 10:00 a.m. 7 partner agencies can attend. Please let Shonna know if you are attending.

- iv. Need a vote on changes for the user partner agreement. Changes including additional staff information and how often we are open and available. Dianna Gurley made a motion to approve the changes and Josh Shackles seconded. **Action: Approved.**
 - v. Shonna is working on updating policies and procedures for Coordinated Entry (housing connect), such as, housing connect forms, transfer policies and street outreach forms.
 - e. Prioritization Committee, Tom Walters: Requesting that any delays and gaps be reported to Tom so that he can send out to the city, so everyone is informed. If PIT is delayed, Tom uses the preliminary report for HMIS invoice, please let him know if it's delayed.
 - f. Monitoring Committee, Sarah or Josh: Josh and Sarah met; Josh wants to make sure with the transition to the new committee that they are following process. The letter for annual monitoring is ready to go out and the deadline is March 21st.
 - g. Missouri Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH) & MC2, Robin Smith: Meeting on 03/10 and will be working on committee for commission. Robin will update.
- VI. Continuum of Care
- a. ESG, MHTF, MoHIP
 - i. ESG- NOFO came out for 2026. Hoping to be on track to start grants on November 1st.
 - ii. MHTF- Awards went out and should begin on April 1st.
 - iii. MoHIP- No updates.
 - iv. CoC NOFO- No updates.
- VII. Unfinished Business:
- i. RFP & MOA for collaborative applicant role: Executive committee needs to set up a time to review.
 - ii. Homeless Program Director Role: MOA was signed and getting those pieces coordinated.
- VIII. New Business:
- a. Josh Shackles reports that the Homeless Coalition website has about 95 people viewing the page. People are visiting the home page, resource guide, and CES page. Homeless Coalition has 1300 Facebook followers. The page is getting 13,000 times viewing by about 3,000 individuals.
 - b. The app is in its third round of closed testing. There're not enough people beta testing the app so Google hasn't approved. Josh has requested 14 people to download the app/scan QR code and use it for 14 days. They are looking for Gmail users. Apple phones aren't supported yet.
 - c. HUD TA has been cancelled due to federal staffing reduction. We were able to meet with them briefly and received good feedback, but we can't move forward at this time.
- IX. Adjourn- Meeting Adjourned at 12:25 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Josh Shackles.

Next meeting: Monday, April 14, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Jessica Lara-Hughes