



**October 2021 Meeting  
South Side Christian Church  
2600 South MacArthur Boulevard  
Thursday, October 14, 2021**

**October Meeting Minutes**

1. **Welcome** – Katie Davison
  - a. Meeting convened at 7:34am
  
2. **MBA Business**
  - a. Secretary's Report – Jess Weitzel
    - i. Jess Weitzel made motion to approve August meeting minutes, seconded by Val Yazell, all approved
  - b. Treasurer's Report – Katie Davison
    - i. Balance as of 9/30/21: \$17,521.65
    - ii. Chris Hanken made a motion to approve the report, Julie Dirksen seconded, all approved
  
3. **Speaker(s):**
  - a. Josh Sabo
    - i. Continuum's of Care are the Department of Housing and Urban Development's way to funnel funding to address homelessness in communities; Heartland CoC is only focused on Sangamon County; it serves as an organizing body for all homelessness service-related agencies in the County; it's a small continuum and hyper-focused geographically
    - ii. CoC promotes integrated, community wide strategies and plans to prevent and end homelessness; provides coordination among the numerous local organizations and initiatives that serve the homeless population in Sangamon County
    - iii. CoC does not have the power to hire, fire, or mandate anything at related agencies; it's about coordination and facilitation
    - iv. Organized around crisis response system; adopted model in 2018:
      1. Outreach
      2. Prevention and diversion

3. Emergency shelter
4. Permanent housing
5. Coordination entry
  - a. Organized way of connecting people with needs to all resources in the community; uses a common assessment
  - b. Scorecard system, sending people to either prevention/diversion, permanent housing, or rapid housing
- v. Springfield has focused on housing readiness (emergency shelters) and not housing first; this model continued will increase over time
  1. In a “stuck” system
- vi. Need more rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing units in order to truly address homelessness
- vii. Springfield agencies are continually being put down by the community on their lack of addressing the issue, but they are working at their maximum capacity
  1. This is a community failure.
- viii. Springfield has lost State and Federal money over the last decade because our community has not performed well with its focus on housing readiness versus housing first; other similarly sized communities, such as Peoria, receive nearly \$1MM more annually than Springfield because their applications for funding are more competitive due to their approach on dealing with homelessness
- ix. Transitional Housing beds have very high barriers to participation
- x. Peoria and Rockford switched to a housing first approach when HUD began to defund transitional housing beds; this has led to a massive increase in emergency bed availability and on the number of permanent supportive housing units
  1. Rockford has reached functional zero on veteran and chronically homeless populations
- xi. “Million Dollar Murray” we spend outrageous amounts of money in reactive fashion dealing with the impacts of homelessness on individuals and related services; it is far more efficient to put those resources into being proactive to become functional zero
- xii. Moving forward
  1. Long term community-wide strategic plan to address homelessness underway
  2. Strengthened collaborative initiatives: housing for health, housing outreach team, homelessness prevention, case conferencing,
  3. New rapid rehousing programs, ongoing efforts to expand permanent supportive housing
  4. Springfield Housing Authority partnership for a Move-On program
  5. Housing Navigator position established

- 6. 12-month overflow emergency shelter, day services, MBH outreach position
- 7. Emergency shelter sustainability planning underway
- xiii. Questions
  - 1. With all the people in need, how do we identify individuals with “highest need?” The assessment scores individuals based on history and ongoing conditions, as well as the length of time that person has experienced homelessness.
  - 2. Where is the decision point in communities to make a difference (i.e. the difference between Springfield and Peoria/Rockford)? It’s about community consensus; it’s not only about HUD and State funding but also around City funding, local donations, faith community, etc..
  - 3. What do you mean by “functional zero?” It means that a community’s system is effective enough to get a person who becomes homeless no longer homeless within 30 days. Springfield is currently at 110 days or so.

#### **4. Local Government Update**

- a. Alderwoman Ward 6, City of Springfield: Kristin DiCenso
  - i. Enabling ordinances for Legacy Pointe have all been passed; it’s fully in the developer’s court now
  - ii. Walnut Street repaving and restriping functionally complete
  - iii. Wants City to focus on MacArthur Boulevard from Lawrence to South Grand; some temporary speed measures will be installed soon
  - iv. Sangamon County Animal Control ongoing issues; if issue arises locally, contact County Board member; County does not allow the City a seat at the table for decision making; treatment of animals are also deplorable
- b. Alderman Ward 7, City of Springfield: Joe McMenamin
  - i. Thanked Abby Powell for her service at the City of Springfield and congratulated her on her new position with the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance
  - ii. Josh Sabo is the first staff person for the Continuum of Care and we’ve also passed
  - iii. Community group meeting held in August for IDOT project on MacArthur; next meeting will be November 10<sup>th</sup> at Abundant Faith Church on Taylor
- c. Mayor, Village of Jerome: Mayor Mike Lopez
  - i. No movement on Shop N Save; it will be likely 4-5+ years before anything happens there (an adjacent property owner is holding out)
  - ii. Village of Jerome handling COVID well financially
- d. Mayor, City of Leland Grove: Mary Jo Bangert
  - i. Absent, no report

- e. Board Member, District 23, Sangamon County: Kevin McGuire
  - i. Absent, no report
- f. Springfield Neighborhood Police Officer: Cody Musson
  - i. Absent, no report

**5. Announcements**

- a. Bites on the Boulevard in September was a great success; huge turnout; thank you to everyone who came out and supported the event
- b. Clean Up MacArthur – we need members sign up to lead teams of Franklin Middle School students
  - i. October 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - ii. Need 6-8 adults
- c. Paul O’Shea: Congratulations to Abby Powell on her new position as the Director of Business Development at the SSGA.
- d. We know 2020 was a challenging year for many of our community members. If you’re unable to renew your membership, we completely understand. If, however, you’d like to renew for 2021, you can do so online at <https://squareup.com/store/macarthur-boulevard-association>

**6. Adjourned at 8:24am**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jess Weitzel, MBA Board Secretary