

HITF
January 16, 2015
Meeting Minutes

1. Agency Updates

- a. ECHO: Funding for rapid rehousing is available. There will be a March 7 fundraiser at the Armory featuring Grey Matter Mechanics – tickets available online and at ECHO.
- b. Project 16:49: February marks the first year anniversary of the launch of programming and the opening of Robin House transitional home for unaccompanied homeless female students. The organization currently is looking for a live-in resident assistant, and is recruiting for female overnight volunteers to provide an adult overnight presence at Robin House.
- c. Agape House: The Janesville site is now open.
- d. House of Mercy: The facility is experiencing a large number of no-shows for new clients. When sending referrals, please encourage them to show up.
- e. Salvation Army Janesville: Please share their Celebrate Recovery program with clients, as needed.
- f. Community Action TLP: There currently are no openings available in Rock County.
- g. YWCA: The organization is seeking nominations for Women of Distinction awards; recipients will be honored at the April event.
- h. RVCP: There are approximately 15 beds immediately available for Veterans. Turn-around time at the VA to get in is about 1 week.

2. W-2 Presentation

- W-2 replaced the former Aid for Dependent Children entitlement program. W-2 is not an entitlement – it is designed to be a ‘back to work’ program, and is voluntary.
- Some participants are case management and services only – not all receive pay.
- Participants must meet eligibility for program placement (below 115% of poverty level, care/control of a dependent child, assets not to exceed \$3,000). There are 12 levels of assessment. Young, single parent is the most common client.
- Participants must have an Employability Plan – a written document outlining what is required to receive payments and/or services, the steps to success in finding sustainable employment.
- Participants must complete 30-40 hours/week of qualifying activities. This is individualized based on skills and needs, and may include: work experience, work search, resume building, interviewing skills, etc.
- Work experience program is 3 months at approximately 25 hours/week. Participants gain a skill, get out in the community, develop a good reference, keep resume current, and develop soft skills.
- W-2 will develop employer specific pre-employment training programs for partner employers.
- W-2 participation is available for up to 24 months (lifetime) in WI, and 5 years nationwide.

- Rock County has 5 case managers and 3 job developers for 600 clients (about twice as many more than projected)

3. Other Items

- a. Street Count is January 28, with starting points in Beloit and Janesville. Still need volunteers for Janesville. Can sign up online. Agencies receiving COC or ETH funds are required to have at least 1 staff person participate.
- b. Street Count care package packing event is January 27 at 4 PM at ECHO.
- c. There will not be a regular HITF meeting in April. Instead, there will be a Diversity Training offered that day – presented by Santo Carfora. Employees and board are welcome – registration is \$30, includes a continental breakfast. Information is available online at www.Rock-HITF.org

Next Meeting: February 20 at Noon