

HITF
March 20, 2015
Meeting Minutes

1. Agency Updates

- a. ECHO: Funding is available for rapid rehousing. Transportation services are limited to those in lodging / rapid rehousing due to funding. The organization has received a grant to fund 2 additions to its building, and will be breaking ground in 2 weeks.
- b. Hedberg Public Library: The library will begin offering films during the day in the public meeting room. Additional programming is being explored.
- c. House of Mercy: Raffle tickets to the Mercy Charity Ball are on sale. The Charity Ball will be held April 25 at the Janesville Country Club.
- d. Institute for Community Alliances: Will be providing webinar training on changes to HMIS data collection.
- e. Salvation Army Janesville: Looking for referrals of families for their Pathways to Hope.
- f. Edgerton Community Outreach: Everyone is invited to join them for their golf outing on May 7. The organization will be doing Easter baskets.
- g. Community Action TLP: There currently are no openings available in Rock County until June.
- h. YWCA: The Women of Distinction event will be held April 10. Girls Night Out on Wednesday, March 2 at Time Out will benefit the organization.
- i. Janesville School District Homeless Liaison: The alumni association is collecting funds to help stock school closets in the district.
- j. PATHS: No openings available at this time.
- k. G.I.F.T.S.: Currently are hosting 27 guests, with 13 on a waiting list. The second Shelter Me benefit concert will be held May 17 at JPAC.

2. Energy Services Presentation

Guest presenter cancelled due to illness.

3. Rock County's 1Million Meals

Jessica Schafer-Locher provided information on the upcoming Kids Against Hunger event, described as Rock County's largest humanitarian event, which will be held on May 3 at the Shopko Plaza. Organizers aim to recruit 4,000 volunteers to cover 2 hour shifts and plan to package 1 million meals for local and international distribution. The meals will fill four semis – one of which will remain in Rock County. ECHO will coordinate distribution of meals to area food pantries.

4. Summer Homeless Count / Project Connect

Schafer-Locher invited anyone interested in helping plan Project Connect – a breakfast and service fair to be held following this summer’s homeless count – to attend the first planning meeting on April 7 at 1 PM at ECHO. People are needed to help line up haircuts and other donations for attendees. Project Connect is an opportunity to connect homeless and low income persons with services.

5. Matters not on Agenda

a. Tammy DeGarmo provided an update on Project 16:49. The organization just celebrated its first anniversary. Its Robin House transitional living home for female students served 16 girls in the first year, and the organization provided direct assistance / case management to 51 youth (boys and girls).

b. DeGarmo and Schafer-Locher shared information on this summer’s new collaborative event, Sleep Out to end Homelessness. The Sleep Out will be held at the Rock County Fairgrounds beginning Friday, June 5 at 6 PM and wrapping up Saturday, June 6 at 7 AM. Activities include a poverty simulation, midnight candlelight vigil, movie, panel presentation, and more. Registration is \$20, which includes dinner, breakfast and an event t-shirt. Participants are asked to collect sponsor donations in exchange for their sleeping out for the night. Prizes will be awarded to the top child, youth, adult and team fundraisers.

Upcoming Meetings

There is no HITF meeting in April.

A half-day Diversity Training is being offered on April 17 at 8 AM at St. John Vianney’s Marion Hall.

Next HITF meeting: May 15, 2015 at Noon at Rock County Job Center (Room D/E)

Representatives from AIDS Resource Network and Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change will discuss ‘Heroin in our Community’