

**Idaho Homelessness Coordinating Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**

July 23, 2020 9:00 – 11:00 am MST

**Voting Members:**

Chairperson: Brady Ellis, IHFA  
Region 1: Larry Riley, St. Vincent de Paul of North Idaho  
Region 2: Steve Bonnar, Sojourners' Alliance  
Region 3: Nancy Tuttle, Salvation Army Nampa  
Region 4: Donna Graybill, Voices Against Violence  
Region 5: BJ Stensland, Aid for Friends  
Region 6: Dena Skinner, CLUB, Inc., absent  
Boise CoC: Maureen Brewer  
ID Dept. of Labor: Rico Barrera  
ID Dept. of Health and Welfare: Adam Panitch  
ID Dept. of Education: Suzanne Peck  
ID Dept. of Correction: Lorenzo Washington  
ID Dept. of Commerce: Tony Tenne  
Veterans Affairs: Anna Johnson-Whitehead

**Advisory Board Members:**

HIV/AIDS Representative: Jamie McDonald, Family Medicine Health Center  
Victims' Service Organization: Donna Graybill, Voices Against Violence

**Other Attendees:**

Lisa Steele, Idaho Housing and Finance Association  
Shawn Walters, Idaho Housing and Finance Association  
Cathy Jones, Idaho Housing and Finance Association  
Alicia Dart-Clegg, Idaho Housing and Finance Association  
Jennifer Otto, Idaho Housing and Finance Association  
Amy Jenott, Idaho Housing and Finance Association  
Shane Carlton, Idaho Housing and Finance Association  
Becca Stinson, St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho  
Kurt Orzeck, Idaho Housing and Finance Association  
Brian Dale, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**Section A - Call to Order/Prior Meeting Minutes:**

**Resolution 20-07-01**

Brady Ellis called the meeting to order. Roll was called.

Meeting minutes from the April IHCC were submitted to the Board for approval. No comments or corrections were received. Minutes were approved as is.

Motion:	Larry Riley
Second Motion:	BJ Stensland
Vote:	None Opposed
Motion Approved	

**Section B - Written Standards – Emergency Response to COVID-Addendum:  
Resolution 20-07-02**

Shawn Walters explained that HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) issued memoranda on March 31, 2020 and May 22, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which provided regulatory waivers for Continuum of Care (CoC), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Housing for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) programs intended to facilitate the use of CARES Act funds. The proposed Emergency Response Addendum outlines the waivers and instructs subrecipients on how they should document their requests for reimbursement using CARES Act (ESG-CV) funds.

Resolution 20-07-02 was approved as is.

Motion:	Nancy Tuttle
Second Motion:	Steve Bonnar
Vote:	None Opposed
Motion Approved	

**Section C - Attendance Report**

Shawn Walters reported on committee attendance and annual attendance by region. All regions surpassed their attendance requirement of 50 percent with the exception of Region 6, which had 41 percent attendance as of July. It was noted that in Region 6, one person currently holds three committee positions. Shawn will work with Region 6 to identify alternative committee representatives. Lisa Steele also noted that there are several vacant committee positions for Region 4, because this Regional Coalition has just started to become active again and is still in a rebuilding phase. She commended Donna Graybill on her hard work to revive this Regional Coalition, noting that she has been successful in engaging community members and growing the membership and participation.

**Section D - Point in Time Count Report and Infographics**

Jennifer Otto explained that infographics showing PIT Count report and infographics are now posted and available for public viewing on the IHFA website at:

<https://www.idahohousing.com/homelessness-services-programs/hmis/>

### **Section E - Strategic Planning Update: Resolution 20-07-03**

Lisa Steele reported that the IHCC Strategic Planning Initiative was put on hold in the previous quarter due to the need to shift focus to COVID response. Brady Ellis asked if there were any concerns about keeping the initiative on hold. Larry and BJ voiced their support of this approach, and no concerns were raised.

### **Section F - COVID-19 Response Update**

Brady Ellis gave the Board an update on ESG CARES Act (ESG-CV) funding, noting that the Act provided \$4 billion nationally, and that Idaho was allocated \$3.8 million in the first round and \$11.4 million in the second round of funding.

Lisa Steele said IHFA was just notified that ESG-CV round one (ESG-CV1) funds were available. IHFA is working on getting grant agreements in place in order to make these funds available to subrecipients. Brady noted that 20% of the ESG-CV1 award was set aside for the Boise City/Ada County CoC. He indicated that we are waiting for guidance from HUD on the second round of ESG CARES Act funds (ESG-CV2) funds to help guide potential uses for these funds in Idaho.

Suzanne Peck from the Idaho Department of Education asked how the funding will translate into support for families. Brady said most of the funding is devoted to Homelessness Prevention (HP), Rapid Rehousing (RHH) and Emergency Shelter (ES).

Rico Barrera, of the Idaho Department of Labor, asked for details on how funding will be allocated for services and staffing. Shawn Walters said there is nothing programmatically different in ESG-CV funding than in normal ESG funding, and that HUD recognizes some regions might need to ramp up administrative spending versus shelter spending. Brady added that ESG-CV funding could compensate for additional staffing costs.

Rico said that, in addition to the CARES Act funding IHFA received, the Idaho Department of Commerce will also receive funds for disaster relief and humanitarian needs, and that there will be a notice coming out soon with more details.

Larry Riley of St. Vincent de Paul of North Idaho asked about restrictions on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Covid Program funding. Brady indicated that we are waiting for notices coming about allowable uses of these funds. Tony Tenne, of the Department of Commerce, shared they received the first round of \$4.5 Million, and that the second round of funding would be forthcoming.

Larry said he is trying to find funding to isolate homeless or vulnerable individuals in hotels and asked if anyone had ideas. Maureen Brewer, of the Boise City/Ada County CoC, shared that they are leveraging other funding for COVID-related expenses and will seek reimbursement from the CARES Act and potentially Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Brady emphasized the importance of sharing information about the availability of the Housing Preservation Program funds, which are available through IHFA until December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. These funds are to help people who have been impacted by COVID with rent and utilities. He reported that the program is receiving an average of 250 applications each week. Suzanne Peck, of the Department of Education, suggested coordinating with McKinney/Vento liaisons in every school district in Idaho to help get the word out about this program.

## **Section G - Regional Coalition Updates**

**Region 1** - Larry is working on securing hotel rooms as part of its COVID disaster response. One hotel initially offered rooms for them to use for this with nightly rates at \$65 a night. He said that after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, because of lesser COVID restrictions in Idaho, residents of Washington have poured into Idaho and are increasing demand for the rooms, resulting in rate increases to \$200 per night. He is trying to identify alternative options. He reported that their Regional Coalition met on June 26<sup>th</sup> and found it helpful to use the Strategic Plan Focus Areas to guide their discussion. Attendance was less than normal most likely due to people working on COVID response.

**Region 2** - Steve Bonnar, formerly of Sojourners' Alliance, reported that he stepped away from his position as Executive Director two months ago. He is working to help find his replacement as Chair of the Regional Coalition and as the IHCC Board Representative for their region. Brady added that we are grateful that Steve will continue his participation on the IHCC Board as the formerly homeless representative.

**Region 3** - Nancy Tuttle, of Salvation Army Nampa, shared that their Regional Coalition Chair recently step down. Natalie Sandoval, from the Nampa School District, is acting as an interim Chair. They have been working on their bylaws and a mission statement for their region. She also shared with the Board that she is being laid off from the Salvation Army due to budget cuts. She said that the Regional Coalition is working to find a new IHCC Board Representative for Region 3 to replace her. Brady thanked Nancy for all of her insights and contributions during the time she has served on the IHCC board.

**Region 4** - Donna Graybill, of Voices Against Violence, reported that they are still working on building their Regional Coalition. She cited difficulty with drawing people to attend meetings, but that they were making headway with developing their strategic planning regional goals nonetheless. She said they are working to engage more stakeholders.

**Region 5** - BJ Stensland, of Aid for Friends, said the Region 5 Coalition canceled its April meeting but held its July meeting via Zoom earlier this week. She said that area providers and the Bannock Youth Foundation are applying for a new youth focused grant. BJ also noted that a 28-unit housing project in the region is in the demolition stage, and that it is moving along. Most of the agencies and partners have been working on responding to COVID.

**Region 6** - Dena Skinner of CLUB Inc. was absent.

**Boise/Region 7** - Maureen Brewer of the Boise/Ada CoC said they are struggling with daytime services for the homeless after the city's day shelter was closed March. She touched on Boise's campaign to end family homelessness and said the next steps are getting a system implementation team together to "reimagine the system." Maureen also noted that they are planning a multiple-day training session on diversion techniques, and offered to include a couple of representatives from the Balance of State CoC. She will get in touch with Lisa Steele when she has more details.

## **Section H - Committee Updates**

**Coordinated Entry** - Becca Stinson, from Region 1, gave the report on behalf of the Coordinated Entry Administrator, Debbie Higginson, who was absent. She said the committee voted to change prioritization for those who would be most vulnerable to COVID. She added that the committee will approve a final version in its August meeting so HMIS can incorporate the new screening criteria. Lisa presented the Homeless Connect System Report Debbie had prepared.

**Strategic Planning** - Alicia Dart-Clegg reported that committee meetings are still on hold due to the need for agencies to focus on pandemic responses.

**Data, Collection, Reporting and Evaluation (DCR&E)**- Jennifer Otto said most of the committee's meetings are revolving around COVID-19 and that there are concerns that, according to the PIT Count, the unsheltered count continues to increase. She said they are looking at data points to see if the numbers in each region are due to episodic, first-time or chronic homelessness. Brady suggested that it might be helpful for each region to look at their area-specific information.

**PIT** - Jennifer Otto noted that PIT updates were covered earlier in the meeting.

**Governance** - Shawn Walters reported that the committee is working on attendance records and filling vacancies in some regions. He pointed out that the committee is working on assessing COVID related response information and formulating recommendations for changes to policies and Written Standards as applicable.

## **Meeting Adjournment**

Brady Ellis thanked all participants for the well-attended meeting. Brady adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.