

WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

FALL NEWSLETTER 2015

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to Milwaukee County, City of Madison, Dane County Homeless Services Consortium, Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Housing Initiatives of Madison,

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH TAKING PLACE NOW: Coalition staff and Board members are currently holding meeting throughout the State seeking input as to what should be included in State legislative agenda around homelessness. If there is a group you would like us to meet with please let us know and individual ideas can always be sent to Joe Volk at joseph.volk01@gmail.com The WCAH Board plans to approve the plan before the end of the year and then to begin aggressively lobbying for its passage.

POLITICAL MAPPING PROJECT: WCAH is compiling information matching homeless providers around the State with their Assembly and Senate representatives. When completed this resource will be invaluable as we begin our lobbying campaign around homelessness and will allow us to mobilize providers in a targeted way when necessary.

WCAH STAFF AND BOARD TO PRESENT AT CONFERENCE: Joe Volk and Sue Wallinger have been invited to present a workshop entitled “The State of Homelessness in Wisconsin” at the Poverty Matters conference to be held November 18th and 19th in Pewaukee. For more information on the conference go to <http://povertymatters.events/>

SOCIAL IMPACT BONDING: This unique funding mechanism which braids private and public funds is currently being used in some areas of the country to fund homeless programs especially permanent supportive housing projects. Due to the advocacy of WCAH a workgroup made up of State DOA, WHEDA, and WCAH staff and Board has been created to explore the possibility of using this funding source in Wisconsin for homeless projects.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

'At this festive season of the year, Mr. Scrooge,' said the gentleman, taking up a pen, 'it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the poor and destitute, who suffer greatly at the present time. ... We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices.'"

Dickens – A Christmas Carol

Our mild fall weather has faded and another freezing Wisconsin winter season is now settling in. Across the state, homeless providers are busy preparing cold weather overflow shelter and warming rooms to house the influx of people fleeing the dangerous bitter weather. The “Want” is, and will be, keenly felt.

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Homeless (WCAH) has also been busy - discussing the State’s homeless crisis with government officials and other decision makers. We have been pleased with the initial response from these talks and are confident progress towards an improved coordinated effort will result. WCAH is in the process of conducting a poll of homeless service providers to garner input on statewide issues and to prioritize action steps to end rural and urban homelessness across Wisconsin. If you have not yet responded, please do so as soon as possible. If you have not received a survey, please contact Joe Volk to get one. Your experiences input and ideas are critical in shaping WCAH’s 2016 policy approaches. The information is necessary so that all of us can provide better services to homeless children, women and men.

On behalf of the Board of WCAH, I want to thank all of you for your advocacy for those most in need. Your efforts go above and beyond the “festive season”; providing shelter and support to those in need throughout the entire year. It is an honor to share ideas and to work with all of you!

WCAH BOARD PROFILES:

Andrew Engel-Andrew has worked in Wisconsin politics for nearly 20 years with experience both inside the Capitol, on numerous campaigns, and currently as a lobbyist and partner at Hamilton Consulting. Andrew started his career working for State Senator Kim Plache in the late 90’s and from there moved to positions in

the Senate Democratic Caucus, the State Office of Policy and Budget, and closed his time in the Capitol as Chief of Staff to Majority Leader Judy Robson. Andrew was Executive Director of the State Democratic Committee in 2002 and 2006. He also spent time as the Political Director for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and the Deputy Director of John Kerry's Wisconsin Field effort in 2004. Andrew is currently a partner in the Hamilton Consulting Group where he has been a lobbyist since 2008 representing such clients as 3M, Walmart, Anheuser Busch, Delta Dental, and The American Red Cross.

Sherri Schroeder-Sherri is the current Intensive Case Manager for the Pathways to Self Sufficiency Program at Stoughton United Ministries. Sherri coaches eviction prevention with her clients by helping them navigate available local, State, and Federal resources to save money in order to pay rent.

Sherri's Masters in Social Work and Masters in Human Resources Management are both from the University of Wisconsin Madison. After living a very self-destructive lifestyle for many years Sherri chose to get sober and to return to school so she could help others. Sherri recently received a scholarship to attend the National Alliance to End Homelessness 2015 conference on Youth and Family Homelessness, held in San Diego, California, based in her past and current experiences.

**PLEASE JOIN THE FIGHT TO END HOMELESSNESS IN
WISCONSIN. GO TO WCAHWI.ORG TO JOIN THE
WISCONSIN COALITION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS**