

**Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness  
Director's Report by Michael Basford – November 28, 2022**

This report is on my activities since my last report for the June 2022 Council meeting through the end of September.

**Workgroup Meetings:**

Since the last meeting, we held workgroup meetings on July 19<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>. The July meeting featured a review of the survey of housing authorities. The August meeting featured a presentation from the Department of Children and Families and End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin on Domestic Violence Homelessness Programs. The workgroup meetings also have been reviewing progress with the homelessness plan.

**Meetings:**

In addition to my regular meetings and duties, I participated in the following in-person and virtual visits since the last Council meeting:

June 16 – I met with the Apartment Association of Southeast Wisconsin's Legislative Committee to discuss the Wisconsin Eviction Data Project and the methodology behind it in comparison to a research project AASEW was conducting.

June 27 – Tomah. I visited the Ho-Chunk Nation's Housing and Community Development Authority and met with Neil Whitegull, Executive Director. We discussed housing needs for the Nation.

June 28 – Chippewa Falls. I visited Klein Hall, Veterans Housing and Recovery Program facility and met with Director Mike Hanke of Lutheran Social Services and Veteran Outreach Specialist Karla Peterson of Wisconsin DVA.

June 28 – Barron. I visited a transitional housing facility under development by Salvation Army of Barron County and met with Duana Bremer, Director of the Salvation Army of St. Croix, Polk and Burnett County.

June 28<sup>th</sup> – I participated in a virtual meeting with the US Interagency Council on Homelessness and my state counterparts. We discussed federal funding opportunities.

June 29<sup>th</sup> – Ashland. I visited the newly-opened emergency shelter with DOA Secretary Blumenfeld. We met with Mille Rounsville of Northwest CSA and former Mayor Deb Lewis, along with other shelter staff and local advocates.

June 30<sup>th</sup> – I met with Mike Lee of the United Way of Marathon County to discuss homelessness in Wausau and Marathon County.

June 30<sup>th</sup> – Stevens Point. I visited the Salvation Army Hope Center shelter and met with Leigh Ann Trzinski, Shelter Director.

July 14<sup>th</sup> – La Crosse. I met with Julie McDermid of Karuna Housing and Sandra Brekke of Gundersen Health to discuss homelessness in La Crosse. I also toured the Houska Park encampment with Brian Sampson, City of La Crosse. Brian and I then met with Mayor Mitch Reynolds and Dale Darrow from Milwaukee HUD office.

July 15<sup>th</sup> – La Crosse. Participated in the Winter Sheltering Retreat organized by the city.

July 21<sup>st</sup> – Milwaukee. Met with Jim Mathy of Milwaukee County Housing, attended a monthly Downtown BID Crisis Intervention Team meeting, and visited Pathfinders and met with Tim Baack, CEO.

July 24<sup>th</sup> – July 27<sup>th</sup> – Washington, DC. Attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness' Annual Conference.

August 1 – Met with Rabbi Bonnie Margulis of Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Reverend Kerri Parker and Reverend Breanna Illene of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Angela Jones of United Way of Dane County, and Olivia Parry of Dane County Planning and Development to present on Welcoming Wisconsin Home and discuss housing/homelessness issues in Dane County.

August 10<sup>th</sup> – Visited Rethke Terrace in Madison and met with Dean Loumos of Tellurian and Brother Henryk Cisowski of Capuchin Community Services of Milwaukee to discuss supportive housing.

August 19<sup>th</sup> – Met with Jason Weller and staff of Michigan Interagency Council on Homelessness to discuss establishing a regional consortium.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Gave a presentation on homelessness in Wisconsin at the Sequoya Library in Madison.

August 24<sup>th</sup> – Presented on veteran homelessness and Welcoming Wisconsin Home to the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Commission on Veteran Opportunity.

August 31<sup>st</sup> – Met with the Board of Directors for Housing Initiatives in Madison to discuss state progress and permanent housing opportunities.

September 13<sup>th</sup> – Met with the Housing Delegation for the United Way of Dane County.

September 14<sup>th</sup> – Met with Deanna Kloster of United HealthCare of Milwaukee about housing navigation and permanent supportive housing.

September 16<sup>th</sup> – Delavan. Gave a presentation on Welcoming Wisconsin Home and our recent housing authority survey with the Wisconsin Association of Housing Authorities.

September 21<sup>st</sup> – Meeting with the Green Bay Homelessness Outreach Team

September 27<sup>th</sup> – Fond du Lac. Met with the housing staff for ADVOCAP

September 27<sup>th</sup> – Appleton. Met with the community development staff for the City of Appleton to discuss increasing the amount of affordable housing in Appleton and homelessness services.

September 28<sup>th</sup> – Green Bay. Spent the day with the Homelessness Outreach Team and visited with staff at NEWCAP.

Additionally, I virtually attended regular meetings of the Housing Action Coalition of Waukesha County, Jackson County Homelessness task force, Dane County Homeless Services Consortium, Coulee Coalition, Fox Cities Housing Coalition, Dairyland Coalition, Lakeside CoC, NWISH Coalition, Milwaukee CoC, and the Brown County Housing and Homelessness Coalition.

Also, for the last few months I have been participating with the Dane County Regional Housing Strategy Housing Advisory Committee. The commitment is one evening meeting per month and I hope that what this process produces could be of use for other areas of the state.

### **Evictions:**

These are the numbers of eviction filings and judgements in Wisconsin in the last quarter:

	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Eviction Filings</b>	2254	2094	2372
<b>Eviction Judgements</b>	124	121	141

We continue to see eviction filings in reaching pre-pandemic levels. However, the number of eviction judgements continue to trend down and are on track to have another all-time low number of total annual judgements (for the years we're tracking this data). The work DEHCR and our CAP agency partners do continue every week to keep thousands of households all over Wisconsin in their housing continues to be incredibly helpful and necessary.

### **Unsheltered Homelessness:**

Unsheltered homelessness continues to be an issue that is very concerning. You'll remember the numbers from the summer Point-in-Time count that Carrie Poser informed us on at the last Council meeting.

As we enter another winter, we are meeting these concerns as we can with additional funding for the Safe Shelter and Homelessness Grants. Another \$1.2 million was announced by the Governor in September and we're looking forward to those funds helping keep people safe over the winter.



Above: Pictures of the homelessness encampment at Houska Park in La Crosse

**Point-in-Time Count:**

The Point-in-Time Count for 2023 will be held on the night of Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. I am intending to participate in the count in Green Bay this year. PIT Counts will be held in communities all over Wisconsin and I want to take this opportunity to encourage Secretaries that are members of the Council to participate in a PIT Count in January if there aren't any conflicts in your schedules and to encourage employees in your departments to volunteer as well.

Please contact me if you are interested in participating and would like to know where you can sign up.

**Looking Forward:**

For the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter ICH meeting I will not be preparing a Director's Report but will instead plan on presenting the annual report to the Governor and Legislature for your review.