

## Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes

October 22, 2024

**Location: Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin- Waukesha County**

**Attendance:** *Tosha Freeman- Hunger Task Force; Michael Egly - Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Eva Platte- Waukesha Head Start; Rob Shelledy- St. Vincent de Paul of Waukesha County; Chloe Bingenheimer- Community Smiles Dental; Shanna Krause- La Casa de Esperanza Early Head Start; Kristen Hosking- Waukesha County ADRC; Jillian Smith & Jill Herz- UW-Madison Extension; Marissa Hartzel, Dave- The Women's Center; Alyssa Pisarski- Waukesha Public Library; Rosa Zibell- Waukesha Free Clinic, Rebecca Burreta- Regional Representative for Sen. Tammy Baldwin; Daniela Carmona, Cielo Lazo, Kara White- Community Action Coalition of South Central WI.*

### **Coalition Updates- Michael Egly:**

No Coalition meetings over the holiday months. Please save the date for the 2025 meetings, which are every other month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month: Feb 25, April 22, June 24, August 26, October 28. Locations TBD. No Food Recovery Updates this month. Suggestions for meeting locations or future topics? Please let Michael know.

### **Presentation: Community Action Coalition Safe & Stable Housing Program by Daniela Carmona- Case Worker in Waukesha County**

The Safe & Stable Housing (SASH) program is for families with school age children (K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade) at risk of homelessness. SASH provides services to stabilize families in their homes while keeping kids in their schools. SASH offers wrap-around services and works with many other agencies in Waukesha County who can provide assistance, like food, household items, etc. To qualify, families must have at least one child under the age of 18 and enrolled in school. Families need to be experiencing some sort of hardship, such as being behind on utility payments. SASH helps to ensure families have a path to secure housing, and helps children stay in the same school. To apply, families need to receive a referral from the school counselor, social worker, or family liaison. The referral needs to be from the school. Referrals are emailed to the housing manager at CAC. CAC meets with families to discuss their needs, do an assessment, and help connect them to resources. So far, the program has served 45 families, 155 people in Waukesha. \$67,155 has been spent for rent and utility payments. Families are also connected to CAC's many community partners for referrals to other services. Available assistance is on a case-by-case basis. Families throughout Waukesha County are eligible, however currently have the strongest connections with Waukesha schools. Would like to expand in the future. Can be any school: public, parochial, online. Families need to live and go to school in Waukesha County. Can assist them if they are relocating to Waukesha County, but not if they are relocating to Milwaukee County. This is still a new program, but it has been successful. For the first year, the program was funded through United Way. They were able to get a different grant to fund the program for an additional 3 years. **See PPT slides attached to email.**

Questions? Reach out to: [Danielac@cacscw.org](mailto:Danielac@cacscw.org)

### **Agency Updates:**

**Hunger Task Force- Tosha Freeman:** Tosha is the WIC Outreach Manager at Hunger Task Force. In the process of finishing up a WIC child grant that have been working with for almost a year. The purpose of the grant has been to increase WIC awareness and enrollment. Have been holding focus groups in 5 counties: Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, Brown, and Kenosha. Also have met with many partners and conducted partner surveys.

**St. Vincent de Paul of Waukesha County- Rob Shelledy:** Long time executive director Julie McIntyre is retiring. Bob Glowacki is new chief executive officer, just started a few weeks ago. St. Vincent de Paul's work is accomplished through individual conferences throughout Waukesha County, mostly located at Catholic parishes. When a family asks for help, they are referred to a local conference. St. Vincent de Paul will provide a home visit and find out how they are able to help with resources. Tonight, will be attending a resource fair at Elmbrook church from 5-7pm, organized by the Red Cross for the apartment fire that happened recently. 16 families have been displaced.

**Extension Waukesha County FoodWise Program- Jill Herz:** Started new fiscal year in October. Working with many schools providing nutrition education in school and afterschool for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders, some middle school groups, some teen groups. FoodWise provides nutrition education in collaboration with community partners in Waukesha County. Offering some great cooking and nutrition programs to parents and older youth. Parent programs include Eating Smart & Being Active, Around the Table which is mindfulness-focused, and Create Better Health which focuses on flexible recipe templates using what you have on hand. Teen Cuisine is our teen cooking/nutrition program. Always looking for more groups of parents or groups of teens. We work with groups where the majority are eligible for FoodShare, free/reduced price lunch, etc. If you know any interested groups, please reach out.

**Waukesha Head Start- Eva Platte:** Head Start serves children birth to 3, 3-4 year olds, as well as three 4K classrooms. Currently have a waiting list as well.

**Waukesha Public Library- Alyssa Pisarski:** Currently working on winter and spring program planning at Waukesha Public Library. Always looking for ways to partner with agencies, increase community engagement and meet needs. Have done pop up events at various agencies regarding getting library cards and other library resources.

**Office of Sen. Tammy Baldwin- Rebecca Burreta:** Rebecca works with Tammy Baldwin as a regional representative. Here to listen and learn more about our organizations and about local needs and priorities for funding legislation. Rebecca has experience working in domestic violence programs and fundraising for nonprofits for many years. Please feel free to connect after the meeting. Can meet with your organization in person or virtually.

**Food Pantry of Waukesha County- Michael Egly:** Fiscal year just finished. Had a record-breaking year: over 100,000 individual visits for services at the food pantry, which is likely the highest number in the organization's history. Currently remodeling the service area which will help meet that increasing need. On track to finish before the holiday season. Thanksgiving distribution will be the week of November 18- no registration required. If you are a client of the food pantry, you will receive it during regular service hours. Thanksgiving distribution includes turkey and ingredients for side dishes. Food Resource Manager Laura just retired; new Food Resource Manager is Zach.

**Waukesha Free Clinic- Rosa Zibell:** For the first time in 19 years, have enough bilingual nursing staff; however still need bilingual receptionists. Takes a lot to train someone in reception, because families have many needs and they are helping to connect people with all of the community resources they need. Census keeps increasing, and service needs are skyrocketing. During election years, the clinic sees more families that are in flux and lose some census. Have been seeing many people from South America this year. Almost 200 volunteers help in the clinic. Provide some Christmas services due to money received (e.g. to help homeless populations, or to sponsor families).

**La Casa de Esperanza Early Head Start- Shanna Krause:** Working with parents, prenatal through age 3. The center-based program is full and have a waiting list: serves age 6 weeks through age 3. No waiting list for home-based program. La Casa also has Charter school program for K4- 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Holding their Trunk or Treat on Friday at La Casa 2:30-5pm. The Trunk or Treat is for all in the community.

**Extension Waukesha County Health & Well Being program- Jillian Smith:** Wrapped up the Youth Garden program in partnership with HHS Positive Youth Development programs. Donated 395 lbs of produce from the garden to the food pantry. Winterized the garden on Friday. Applied and received a Farm to School AmeriCorps member; she is currently starting up projects with Summit View and Hawthorne Elementary, including winterizing gardens at both schools so they can get gardens going in the spring, vermicomposting bins in schools with corresponding lessons focused on environmental education, and others to come. Strong Bodies is an evidence-based strength training program for anyone over age 18, primarily targeting older adults. Recently received funding to expand Strong Bodies program. Reach out if you are interested in becoming a Strong Bodies leader, or if you would like to discuss how to get Strong Bodies at your organization. There are upcoming trainings for new volunteer leaders in November and April. Jillian will send more info to the WCNC email list.

**Waukesha County ADRC- Kristen Hosking:** ADRC's Health Promotions Coordinator also provides a Strong Bodies class; focusing on 60+ as an age range. Current big goal is to continue to serve home-delivered meals without having a waitlist. Food is expensive, and the demand for home-delivered meals is going up. Everything is done with volunteers, and volunteers are harder and harder to get. Encouraging people to get back to congregate meal sites. Numbers at meals sites are starting to increase. Working with senior taxi to subsidize ride to meal sites (\$1 each way). During the pandemic everyone qualified for home-delivered meals; returning to qualifications that were in place before. Most counties have extra congregate meals funds and not enough funding for home-delivered meals. Congregate meal sites are: Waukesha (La Casa Village), New Berlin (Our Lord's United Methodist church), Mukwonago (Birchrock Apartments), community centers in Brookfield, Oconomowoc, Sussex, and Menomonee Falls. Received many applicants (13) for funding opportunity for vehicle lift for mobility scooters.

**The Women's Center- Marissa, Dave:** Marissa is youth advocate at the Women's Center. Care Center is now fully part of Women's Center, and very busy. Walk in hours are 9am-4pm M-F, with a 24-hour hotline. The Wednesday Workshop support group is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Dave is rapid rehousing support manager at Women's Center. Works with landlords on getting people housed in the area.

**Community Smiles Dental- Chloe Bingenheimer:** Locations in Waukesha and Menomonee Falls for patients who are uninsured, underinsured, under the federal poverty level. Waitlist at both clinics. Dental is a huge need and there are very few options. Most patients are children. Also serve adults with special needs, pregnant women. Would like to grow and serve more people. Cheers is our November fundraiser, which will include bourbon and wine tasting. Tickets are live on the website.

**Community Action Coalition of South Central WI- Daniela Carmona, Cielo Lazo, Kara White:** Working with school social workers for the SASH program. CAC oversees TEFAP food bank/food hub; delivers to Food Pantry of Waukesha County to be distributed to pantries in Waukesha County 1x/ month. During Winter Glow community event, gave out 350 winter jackets, 150 boots, hats, gloves, 150 backpacks with personal care supplies, paper towel, etc. CAC reception takes many phone calls on receiving services; have created a "Where to Find" guide (distributed). It is updated on the website often. Every 3 years, CAC does a community needs assessment that helps to inform what they do for the next 3 years (QR code was distributed). So far, they have received almost 700 surveys (>2x what was received last time). Doing interviews in all 3 counties. Other services: Supportive Services for veteran families (flyer distributed). Sign up for the CAC newsletter for updates.

**Next Meeting: February 25, 2025 at 9AM**

**Location TBD**

**Have a happy holiday season!**