

Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes

February 25, 2025

Location: St. Vincent de Paul- Waukesha

***Attendance:** Michael Egly & Lyndsay Johnson- 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; Jillian Smith- UW-Madison Extension; Alyssa Pisarski- Waukesha Public Library; Rosa Zibell- Waukesha Free Clinic, Kara White- Community Action Coalition of South Central WI; Lisa Topp- Waukesha County WIC; Anastasia Doyle-Bruce- School District of Waukesha Farm to School; Jenna Biermann- Waukesha County Recycling; Carmen Baldwin- Hunger Task Force; Soraya Bericoto- ProHealth Care; Jessica Kapsos- Siena House, Hebron Housing Services; Nancy Munoz- Catholic Charities*

Coalition Updates- Michael Egly:

No Food Recovery updates this month.

Presentation: St Vincent de Paul

by Rob Shelledy, Senior Director of Mission Engagement

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) is an international Catholic lay organization dedicated to service, ministry, and developing relationships with people to alleviate suffering. There is a SVdP conference group at almost all Catholic churches in Waukesha County and around 250 members. These conferences span the whole county, are geographically-based, and are usually based out of parishes. Home visits are a core activity of the program. When someone calls their local conference, a member will learn more about their needs and schedule a home visit. Home visits are the preferred method for someone to receive assistance so that a relationship can be developed. If someone calls a SVdP store, they will be connected with a member in their local conference. Home visits are completed by 2 members at the person's home, apartment, or another public place if the person is homeless. The members will assess the person's individual resources in their network and help them navigate community resource near them. SVdP gives out over 1 million in aid, with most of financial assistance being used for rent, security deposits, and utility bills. Other assistance may include help with food, clothing, and household goods. Local conferences are each different and have the autonomy to determine what types of assistance they give out (ex- some provide financial assistance with security deposits, and others don't). Depending on needs determined during the home visit, a voucher may be provided to be used for clothing, household items, and furniture. SVdP can deliver mattresses, and the conference pays for the delivery cost. There is no timeline for how often people can receive help. The goal is for members to develop a relationship with the person in need and develop self-sufficiency over time. There are also no restrictions on participating due to income. A home visit will be completed regardless of who calls, and the local conference will make the decision of who to help. The rule is to help the most neglected. St. Dismas Jail Ministry is a conference specifically focused on supporting people in jail and after release. The Aftercare Program can support people for 1 year after being released from prison or jail with rent, security deposits, clothing, shelter (ex- tent, sleeping bag). If support is still needed after 1 year, they will be transitioned to their local conference. Another program offered is the Getting Ahead program, which helps individuals establish financial stability through workshops to assess their strengths and create their own written financial plan. There is a Graduate program after being in Getting Ahead for over 1 year where they work 1:1 with mentors and try to get their personal stability plan off the group. Events may include resume preparation, etc. There is also a Back-to-School Program that provides backpacks and school supplies for students. SVdP also stands for Shop, Volunteer, Donate, and Pray. Patron Grants are also awarded, which is a grant to an individual wanting to take the next step,

which could include further education or pay for a commercial drivers license. SVdP is known for their thrift stores, and funds from the stores are used to fund ministry. Unused clothes are taken out of circulation and sent to a warehouse that then ships the clothes out to other thrift stores or are turned into rags. SVdP is always looking for volunteers to sort clothes at the stores, volunteers at local conferences, and monetary donations.

-Contact the main help line and staff will direct folks to their local conference: 262-544-1850

-For Spanish-speaking folks in Waukesha: 262-875-6345 (Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference)

Questions? Reach out to: rshelldey@svdpwaukesha.com

Agency Updates:

La Casa de Esperanza Early Head Start- Shanna Krause: There are a few openings in the Early Head Start program, with a new classroom opening. La Casa has various education avenues- charter school, childcare program, EHS program, and home-based program.

Catholic Charities- Nancy Munoz: Case worker who provides resources, helps fill out applications, provides translation working in the areas of housing and health. Catholic Charities has a program called Supporting Parenting which is a program for parents with an intellectual/cognitive disability or are struggling in some way. Catholic Charities also offers counseling; they take insurance or offer a sliding fee scale. There is one counseling intern that speaks Spanish. Appointments can be scheduled by calling. Another program called Hoarding Intervention which provides behavioral health services and provide coaching to help clean up someone's home. They can also call for assistance in they are going to have a housing inspection and need to pass. The number to call for Hoarding Intervention is 414-771-2881. Catholic Charities has a diaper bank for families in need of diapers. To discuss emerging fears within the Hispanic community, community partners meet to discuss what is being done to address the concerns at the Waukesha Public Library, next meeting is on April 8 at 9:30-11 am.

School District of Waukesha Farm to School- Anastasia Doyle-Bruce: Farm to School AmeriCorps Member serving Hawthorne and Summit View Elementary School. The goal of the program is to expose students to fruits and vegetables they haven't tried before. A garden program is also being established to provide hands on garden time for students. There will be a farming career fair for students to expose them to the various careers in the agriculture industry.

Waukesha County Recycling- Jenna Biermann: Completes recycling education in the county. They are currently focused on composting and food diversion. There is going to be a composting app and a community dashboard on how much garbage is being diverted from landfills. They are working to streamline the recycling process and create educational materials around what can be recycled at each recycling location.

ProHealth Care- Soraya Bericoto: Works with the WI Well Women Program to provide breast and cervical cancer screening. You need to qualify for the program to receive services but there are funds to help individuals who don't qualify. There are some upcoming prenatal classes in April, Stepping On starting in March, and a Healthy Caregiver Workshop starting (will send info via email). Assistance can also be given on applying for financial help for healthcare bills and emergency Medicaid.

Waukesha Public Library- Alyssa Pisarski: Currently working on summer program planning at Waukesha Public Library. The library hosts programs with speakers twice a month and if any organizations are interested in collaborating, they can reach out. A resource fair was recently hosted in February, and a volunteer fair will be held in the summer.

Siena House- Hebron Housing Services- Jassica Kapsos: Case manager at Siena House (for men). Setting up mental health resources and housing. They are mostly full, with one open bed currently.

Waukesha Free Clinic- Rosa Zibell: Starting new strategic planning to cover the next 5 years. The service needs are continuing to increase and shift from acute concerns to holistic needs like housing, food, money, and chronic health issues. There are 3 medical clinics per week. Once per month clinics for women's health, podiatry, physical therapy. 3 times a month there are clinics for diabetic support. Additionally, they have an interpretation device that can translate lots of languages. There are a lot of fears from patients when receiving medical care with the current climate. Upcoming fundraising gala on May 31. Also, some upcoming volunteer appreciation events at the end of March.

Community Action Coalition of South Central WI- Kara White: Serves Waukesha, Dane, and Jefferson County focusing on housing, food assistance, and mental health. The community needs assessment was completed and they are working to analyze data. The main programs in Waukesha are WISH (help chronically homeless folks with disabilities move toward self-sufficiency) and SASH (assists families with school-aged children who are at risk of homelessness).

Food Pantry of Waukesha County- Michael Egly & Lyndsay Johnson: The stock box program is a once-a-month box of shelf stable food for seniors. There is currently a waitlist for new people to start receiving. If folks are in need of baby food or cereal, there is currently an excess at the pantry. Stamp Out Hunger event happening on May 10th, which is a community food drive. They are working with the post office so that non-expired foods can be mailed. There is also a Breakfast Club fundraiser on May 17 from 10-Noon at Red Circle Inn.

Extension Waukesha County- Jillian Smith: StrongBodies recruitment for volunteers to lead classes around the county. WeCope is a 6-week behavioral health class focused on cultivating positive emotions, going to be hosting additional sessions in the future. Farm to School program in Waukesha is doing well and starting to plan for the summer programming.

Waukesha Head Start- Eva Platte: Head Start serves children birth to 3, 3-4 year olds, as well as three 4K classrooms. They also have private daycare. The program was shut down for 1 week due to the instability of Head Start funding. They are losing enrollment for next year because the services can't be guaranteed.

Community Smiles Dental- Chloe Bingenheimer: Locations in Waukesha and Menomonee Falls for patients who are uninsured, underinsured, under the federal poverty level. They are busy as usual. The hygienist position has been filled. There is an upcoming fundraiser on April 3rd- Laugh for a Smile with comedian David Koechner.

Waukesha County WIC- Lisa Topp: WIC is operating as usual and there have been no changes with funding. They are fully staffed, and program numbers are good. There have been concerns from families about coming to a government building.

Hunger Task Force- Carmen Baldwin: Community Nutrition Manager who oversees community classes and SNAP-Ed programming. Have seen success with the Garden-to-Plate program, which provides low-income students with nutrition education. A new Community Nutrition Educator has been hired. The Hunger Task Force serves 44 food pantries. They are working to educate food pantry staff with nutrition education so that staff can better educate shoppers.

Monroe Group- Debi Thiesenhusen (send via email): Wait lists are low in Waukesha (60+), Milwaukee and Kenosha (mostly 2 bedrooms for either Seniors or Head of Household disabled). Working on somehow getting stockboxes delivered to my Milwaukee Clients...Waukesha and now as of January 2025 Kenosha have deliveries on site.

Next Meeting: April 22, 2025 at 9AM
Location: Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Waukesha County