**North Star Workgroup (NSWG)**

**December 19, 2022**

**Attendees:**

Tim Wilson

Ana Clymer

Jen Royer

Renee Hawkins

Kristie Oliver

Tonya Blasen

Kristina Seier

[Agenda](https://cfcs.memberclicks.net/assets/VisionCouncil/NorthStar/North%20Star%20Workgroup%2012.19.22%20Public%20Agenda.docx)

**Meeting Purpose:** To continue momentum toward creating a system where “Families & Children in Iowa are safe & secure, healthy & well in their communities.

**Meeting Results:** Ensure momentum between work sessions. Create space to problem solve barriers to progress. Make action commitments that sustain the work.

***Result: Group shares work since the last meeting and creates shared accountability.***

Report out on resources we are aware of: Four Oaks and the [TotalChild](https://fouroaks.org/about/total-child-strategy-trauma-informed-care/) project which tracks four domains: the youth themselves (childhood basic needs) education & work, family, and community (natural supports) and indicators of positive impact and areas of intervention including addressing homelessness and unstable housing. [Notes](https://cfcs.memberclicks.net/assets/VisionCouncil/2022/websiteworkgroups2022/NSWG/NSWG%20Notes%205.17.22.pdf) from TotalChild presentation to NSWG in May 2022.

Linn County has a number of resources surrounding housing with a focus on using an equity lens when looking at renters and homeownership rates. What data can we analyze regarding what BIPOC rates look like and how are they being addressed? What can local groups bring to the table when talking about statewide housing initiatives? How else can we utilize the housing equity group of Linn County?

Housing trust funds are typically run through the local chapters. However, some counties are too small and have too few resources, and are run through the Iowa Financial Authoity. Is there a way to make connections from smaller/rural areas (with keeping in mind their county-specific data to decide focus) with larger chapters to find resources that can be put into place in their region? What is the Vision Council’s role in uplifting &/or connecting with local housing entities to help with what is already happening? Should we create an RFI for IFA regarding ARPA funding, or is there another ask? Do we need to be thinking about a multibed/family housing group at the local level? How would we know that we have the capacity to do this?

Tim and Kristina have created a live [housing document](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GKPxGuF6yJtPhQCCTuz8VxwleJffbb0MM2MtolEXQNo/edit?usp=sharing) that can help us track what housing entities exist on both a state & local level, what activities and advocacy work they do, who & how to contact, etc. Members can add what they like and utilize who we can bring to the table as well.

Kristina and Kristie have connected with [Homeward of Polk County](https://www.homewardiowa.org/homelessness-in-polk-county) due to their commitments to addressing homelessness, legislative intiatives in creating an eviction expungement process in Iowa as one does not currently exist, and to learn about their housing committee and what resources they can offer. This is scheduled for January 4th.

***Result: Identify measurable actions to make progress forward.***

This group is dedicated to bringing more housing expertise to the table to shed light on the complexities and utilizing the power that local housing entities have and projects they are already working on.

Action Commitments: Jen will connect Kristina & Kristie with Danielle Rodriguez of the Affordable Housing Network of Iowa to discuss partnership/collab/shared resources.

AC: Tim will connect with Dan Garrett (and potentially Eric Burmeister?) regarding potentially joining the NSWG. Tim will also think about who within IEDA should we bring to the table. And connect with Greg regarding follow up with Cody - has this happened yet? Are there updates? There is a National Conference coming up! Cc Kristina on connection.

AC: Ana will connect with Ashley to discuss the tracking of ARPA funds, data tracking at state & local levels, and applying an equity lens for connection points to child welfare.

AC: Kristie will connect with Jamie on TotalChild project.

AC: Kristie & Kristina will update results based plan to reflect changes in direction decided by the group.

AC: Kristina will connect with Anne Star on United Way of Central Iowa to see what next steps should be.

***Result: Share reflections and insights to create alignment.***

The group recognizes that the planning stage is still in effect as we work to network and make connections that will help bring more housing expertise. We want to continue to stay aligned with our [results based plan](https://cfcs.memberclicks.net/assets/VisionCouncil/OlderYouth/VC%20Results%20Action%20Plan%2010.2022.pptx) as we shift away from MCO involvement (at least for now) and a national landscape of housing initiatives analysis. Our focus will be on “deepining” our bench or creating more partnerships at the local and state level to find our focal point of impact. We must maintain an equity lens as we keep our target populations at the forefront, as well as leveraging the mental health realization during the pandemic to shift & make connections to the contribution unstable housing has on families.

**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead**