

**POLK COUNTY HOUSING TRUST FUND
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Friday, November 6, 2020

3:30 p.m.

Via ZOOM

Board Members Present:

Angela Connolly, Chelsea Lepley, Cole McClelland, Creighton Cox, Darcy Valline, Jane Fogg, Jeff Damman, Joelyn Jensen Marren, Kris Schechinger-Camper, Luis Montoya, Frank Cownie, Peter Diliberti, Renee Hardman, Steve Van Oort, Suzanne Mineck

Board Members Absent:

Connie Boesen, Mandi McReynolds, Tina Mowry Hadden

Guests:

Angie Arthur, Polk County Continuum of Care, Abbey Barrow, YHDP Coordinator

Staff:

Eric Burmeister, Lori Kauzlarich, Lauren Johnson, Kendyl Larson, Carol Duncan

Confirmation of directive to file 990

The filing deadline for the Form 990 is November 15. Jeff Damman indicated he signed the Form 990 and it was filed by Denman & Co. Renee Hardman moved to approve the filing of the Form 990; seconded by Frank Cownie. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Staff report and recommendation of transfer of previously allocated funds to the Justice Center Project for Eviction Prevention

As part of its 2020/2021 Housing Allocation Plan the Board allocated \$300,000.00 of current resources to a Program described as a Rental Assistance/Eviction Prevention Program for households facing immediate eviction but were ineligible for any other assistance program in Polk County. Eligibility for those funds is made by HOME, Inc. To date, PCHTF has paid out \$15,000.00 of those funds.

The last week in August the Polk County Board of Supervisors allocated \$800,000 to PCHTF with instructions to join with Iowa Legal Aid, Polk County Youth and Family Services and the Continuum of Care to create a program that would prevent residential evictions in Polk County for non-payment of rent. The decision was to set up Legal Aid and PCHTF staff and volunteers at eviction court to entice landlords to dismiss evictions with payment of all or part of the tenants' arrearage and to give instruction to tenants and landlords about how to access additional rental assistance funds for future needs. (what we creatively named Part A) The program started on September 1st.

In order to better use other rental assistance programs, Legal Aid worked on longer term rental guarantee agreements (until April 2021) with cooperating landlords and backstopping those agreements with a 70% guarantee of total payments. The \$800,000 was allocated — \$600,000 to the folks at the Justice Center Project and \$200,000 — as the backstop guarantee for the legal aid agreements. (consistently, Part B)

As of today, the \$600,000 has been fully expended. 342 households have had evictions dismissed. Those households house 873 people, almost 350 of them children. The average household cost is \$1,750.00 and the average per person cost is \$690.00.

The PCHTF staff recommendation is that PCHTF transfer \$150,000 of its previously allocated rental assistance dollars to the Justice Center Eviction Prevention Project, Part A.

Jeff called for a motion on the staff recommendation. Chelsea Lepley moved to approve the recommendation; seconded by Suzanne Mineck. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Kris Schechinger-Camper thanked all who have taken time to volunteer at the Justice center. Thanks for doing this.

Angela Connolly thanked everyone as well.

With no further discussion, Jane Fogg moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Peter Diliberti.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Duncan
Administrative Coordinator
Polk County Housing Trust Fund