1. Local Resolutions Recognizing Housing as a Human Right

What do the resolutions state? What do they do? How did they pass?

a. Dane County Resolution 292, 11-12, adopted July 12, 2012 (attached)

b. City of Madison Resolution enacted December 2, 2011


Legislative information and associated materials


c. Coalition of community groups, faith, labor, neighborhoods, communities of color, disability advocates, and more.

Initiated by advocates and organizers from
Take Back the Land-Madison http://tblmadison.wordpress.com/
and Operation Welcome Home http://operationwelcomehome.wordpress.com/

Coalition obtained support from several, diverse organizations, groups and individuals. Over 538 individual supporters signed an online or hard copy petition.

Example - Resolution adopted by the South Central Federation of Labor (labor council representing over 30,000 workers in South Central Wisconsin)

SCFL supports the campaign to recognize, promote and realize housing as a human right in the City of Madison and Dane County. SCFL believes that attaining the right to housing for all is an important objective in the labor movement’s global struggle for economic justice. SCFL affirms that increasing access to safe, decent and sanitary housing is essential to the security and stability of workers and working families and is essential to fostering safe neighborhoods, healthy communities, good schools and sustainable economic development. SCFL encourages the City of Madison and Dane County to adopt the resolutions recommended by the housing as a human right coalition and to take concrete action to reduce homelessness and increase shelter and housing for those who find it currently out of reach.
d. Conferences and Briefings

Advancing Housing as a Human Right at the Local Level
Democracy Convention – August 27, 2011 - 10:00am - 12:00pm
The Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI

Description of panel presentation: "Simply Unacceptable" is the title of a new report issued by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) which grades the U.S. in several categories regarding our response to homelessness and compliance--or lack thereof--with the human right to housing. And yet our government refuses to give priority to housing as austerity budgets and further deregulation being pushed at the federal and state level are sure to exacerbate the current housing crisis. But, housing activists are not settling for this dismal record and outlook and are demanding that our communities do more to ensure that everyone has access to housing. They are re-framing the debate to demand that housing be recognized as a human right with direct action and grassroots organizing to advance local policy. "Advancing Housing as a Human Right at the Local Level" will feature a panel of housing activists from Madison and Chicago, including Robert McGee of Operation Welcome Home, Kimayana Johnson of Take Back the Land-Madison, Anthony Prince of the Madison National Lawyers Guild, Stephanie Mingo an organizer with the New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice, and Joseph Peery formerly of the Chicago/Gary Union of the Homeless and currently active in public housing eviction defense work in Chicago. Heidi Wegleitner, a housing attorney and member of the Madison Affordable Housing Action Alliance, will provide a short presentation on the human right to housing, a local campaign to recognize housing as a human right in the City of Madison and Dane County, and then moderate the panel discussion.

Affordable Housing Action Alliance – Community Briefing on Housing and Homelessness
June 26, 2012, City-County Building, Madison, WI

Elected officials, local government staff, and community members were invited and several attended a panel presentation by experts and advocates regarding the barriers to accessing housing and services in Dane County and strategies to address them.

Panelists included: Brenda Konkel, Executive Director of the Tenant Resource Center and former Madison Alder; Sarah Gillmore, Dane County Homeless Services Consortium Legislative Committee and former Director of Social Services at the Salvation Army; Deedra Atkinson, Senior Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Dane
County; Nathaniel Abrams, Operation Welcome Home; Rob Dicke, Executive Director of the Dane County Housing Authority; Daniel Callahan, Occupy Madison; Sofia Martinez, Occupy Madison; Michael Carlson, Madison Community Co-operative; Michael Basford, Associate Executive Director at Housing Initiatives, Chair, Dane County Homeless Services Consortium.

Informative handouts included: *Current State of Housing in Dane County*, *United Way Data on Family Homelessness in Dane County*, *Occupy Madison*, *SRO Shortage*, *Challenges to Housing Security and Potential Solutions*, *People’s Affordable Housing Vision*

April 2013 – We Resolved to Make Housing a Human Right – Now What?
Coalition of homeless advocacy groups planning a 2-day summit on the right to housing.

2. **Ongoing Challenges: Two Steps Forward, One Step Back**

- *Always on the Move -- Occupy Madison Encampment / Homeless Survival Communities*. Protest encampment initiated in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street relocated in the fall of 2011 to a vacant car dealership lot near downtown with City of Madison permission. City of Madison applied for temporary camping permit from State, but did not renew the permit and the camp was packed up on approximately April 1, 2012. A lawsuit was filed by some attorneys, and is referenced below in Access to Justice section, to enjoin removal, but it was dismissed.


  [http://www.nbc15.com/home/headlines/VIDEO_REPORT__149383205.html](http://www.nbc15.com/home/headlines/VIDEO_REPORT__149383205.html) (voluntary departure after City’s refusal to renew campground permit with State)


Campers were ticketed and possessions and campers taken to Token Creek Campground on the edge of town where they were given 90 day permission to stay. Deadline for departure from County campground is February 17, 2013. They have no legal place to go. They have created a non-profit and are trying to buy a building for a housing co-op – OM House.

Madison Mayor is also working with homeless advocates and local property owner to initiate a program for 1-unit homeless set-asides among large property owners in Madison area.

- *Unlawful disposal of property by City in 2012*


- *Madison Mayor’s “Greyhound therapy” proposal in 2012*


Common Council took this proposal out of the budget and instead appropriated $30,000 for day resource center operating expenses in its 2013 budget.

- *Enforcement of shelter standards and obtaining access to shelter*

- *Housing still out of reach for many*
3. Public and Private Implementation Initiatives

a. Dane County Resolution 20, 12-13 – Creating a City-County Homeless Issues Committee
   To explore issues of homelessness and their relationship to community service providers and resources within Dane County including, among other issues, public access to restrooms, showers, laundry, third party complaint systems, access to daytime storage of personal belongings, the ability to utilize public spaces free from harassment and other issues identified by community members. (attached)

   Committee webpage http://www.countyofdane.com/commissions/?id=238

   Report from Madison Area Urban Ministry delivered to Dane County Board July, 12, 2012 pursuant to Res. 20, 12-13

   http://www.emum.org/Reports/MUM%20report%20to%20the%20Dane%20County%20Board%20on%20Alternative%20Occupy%20Sites.doc%20%5BCompatibility%20Mode%5D.pdf

b. Dane County Resolution 87, 12-13 - Increasing access to water, restrooms, showers, and personal storage for unhoused persons.  Initial proposal to provide 4 portable toilets and sanitation stations for 24 hour restroom access on county property in the City of Madison; 10 hours of weekly access to showers and personal storage lockers at a county-provided facility.

   Result:  Negotiations regarding resolution 87 resulted passage of a substitute temporary homeless day shelter opened from November 26, 2012-March 31, 2013 and $15,000 in funding for motel vouchers for domestic violence victims.  One portable toilet was placed outside a downtown county parking ramp.  Temporary day warming shelter has proven to be a huge success, winning over many neighbors who were initially opposed.  The day warming shelter is largely being run by the guests themselves, who volunteer and take ownership in the operations.  Many community members have also gotten involved.  Adjacent non-profit still has concerns and the County Executive promised that the day warming shelter would end at current location March 31, 2013.

   Blog http://daywarmingshelter.wordpress.com/
c. **Res. 84, 12-13, Dane County Board goes on Record in Support of Funding for a Permanent Day Resource Center for the Homeless**

Result: Adopted. Funding for building purchase in 2013 County Capital Budget Resolution.

d. **Res. 86, 12-13, OA 19, 12-13 – Changing Campground Rules for the Unhoused**

Create exceptions to campground rules for unhoused person so they are not subject to 14-day limit on campground stays, they are allowed to register in person onsite, and their fees would be paid for out of county human services funds.

Result: Resolution and ordinance amendment stuck in committee. Parks Commission recently created subcommittee to address working with homeless persons living in county campgrounds.


e. **Budget Provisions**


**SRO development (County):** Proposal for $1.7M for construction of single room occupancy (SRO) units. Result: $500,000 for construction of SRO units in 2013, $1.2M added to 2014 capital improvement plan

**Housing Planning Support (County):** Add $50,000 to budget to fund the development of a housing plan and add the following language to Res. 134: "Resolution 292, 11-12, Dane County Recognizes Housing as a Human Right and requires the Human Services Board to initiate a process for developing a housing plan for Dane County. Result: $50,000 for housing study to assist in housing plan removed from amendment, language changed to direct existing planning and development and human services staff to assist with housing needs study.

**Permanent Day Center Capital Funding (County):** To increase expenditures and borrowing proceeds by $600,000 to purchase and renovate a facility to serve as a permanent homeless day resource center. Result: Budget Amendment approved.
Permanent Day Center Operations Funding:
County: Increase expenditures in the operating budget by $74,900 to provide funding to operate a homeless day resource center through all of calendar year 2013. Result: Budget Amendment failed, but $30,000 line in operating budget added for homeless services, TBD.
City of Madison: Amendment for $30,000 approved.

Street Outreach Program for Homeless Unaccompanied Youth (County): $30,000 in operations funding to provide minimal outreach services in response to complete loss of federal funding.

- Motel Vouchers for Victims of Domestic Violence: $25,000 in operations funding.

- Increase to crisis fund for Veteran’s Services office: Approximately $8,250 in operations funding for emergency grants to vets, including those facing homelessness.

f. Emergent Volunteer Upstarts


Result: In progress. Their initial City funding application is being withdrawn due to rejection of offer to purchase. They are building community support, raising funds, and searching for a new building.

Feeding State Street Family - Volunteer outreach group provides food and other survival gear to the unsheltered in Madison area. They organize weekly “food runs” on State street downtown and other conduct outreach to car campers and other folks sleeping in areas around town.


Santas Without Chimneys (project of Autonomous Solidarity Organization)– Began during 2012 holiday season to deliver gifts to homeless children, but efforts have continued to provide birthday gifts. Most requested items are
winter gear so children can stay warm and be permitted to play outside at school. [http://asolidarity.org/santa](http://asolidarity.org/santa)

*Make Room for Youth* – Advocating to ensure all youth have a safe place to stay. [http://mrfy.org/](http://mrfy.org/) Efforts underway to build a youth shelter. Currently unaccompanied youth have no access to homeless shelter in Dane County.

g. *Increasing Access to Justice to Support Housing Rights*

i. **Pro bono help from mass defense lawyers attempted an injunction against City removal of homeless encampment**

Madison Mass Defense attorneys Deborah Mulligan and Bill Turner filed a civil rights action based on violations of the First Amendment against City of Madison officials for evicting Occupy Madison residents from a vacant city lot. Injunctive relief was denied and the case was dismissed. The Mass Defense group continues to monitor civil rights issues in and around the capital city and is looking to build capacity by recruiting more attorneys.


ii. **Legal services collaboration with Homeless Day Resource Center for pro bono clinic.** Pro bono coordinator has presented at day shelter and is working on obtaining volunteer attorney staffing.

iii. **Continued pursuit of Civil Right to Counsel.** Litigation and administrative advocacy have been unsuccessful in establishing a right to counsel in housing cases, but the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s opinion on Legal Action’s rule petition reinforces the inherent authority of judges to appoint counsel in individual cases, should the circumstances warrant it. Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc. has developed a pro se motion for appointment of counsel packet to facilitate this process.


[http://www.wisgideon.com/CivilGideonMotionPacketForms.pdf](http://www.wisgideon.com/CivilGideonMotionPacketForms.pdf)
iv. Additional support for civil legal services to prevent homelessness and overcome barriers to housing. http://wisatj.org/

v. Ongoing recruitment and training of volunteer attorneys to take pro bono eviction cases and/or re-open old judgments to improve rental history and gain access to housing.
http://www.legalaction.org/content/index.cfm?cm_id=67