

Shelter Providers Committee
2/7/24 9am
Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions

2. City & County updates

a. Permanent Shelter

Some detailed design work still underway. Expect to issue RFP for construction in March and anticipate opening Q4 of 2025 as scheduled

3. Shelter utilization & other updates (Focus on Challenges)

a. Porchlight Men's Shelter

- Seeing very high numbers. The highest number- 347 individuals. End of the month we see more clients with people's income run out. Staff is handling well. Some adjustment in the suspension policy to be lower barrier - Smoking in the bathroom and substance use, now mostly leave for the night.
- Stronger partnerships:
 - Connection to recovery programs including Kabba Recovery
 - MSM outreach support
 - VA once a month
 - ADRC is not able to come out to the shelter, but partnering closely
 - Some good landlord relationships in Sun Prairie and Fitchburg, case managers have been getting out in the community, talking to landlords and moving people in
- Will be getting two more case managers with county funds

b. Salvation Army Women's Shelter

- TSA is also seen increase in numbers, hovering around 70-80 women (pre pandemic 45 limit) highest 94.
- Staff is moving people into housing

c. Salvation Army Family Shelter

- Full with two rooms getting turned over
- Waitlist 51 families (17 reporting as category 1)

Salvation Army SHIELD Apartment

- In the same campus as the shelters, but the schedule was ahead. Shelter development fundraising is still going on.
- 44 units of affordable housing
- All one bedroom and efficiency.

- 22 units are designated for DV.
- Scheduled to open March 1, just waiting for countertops to come in
- 30% units—people have been all identified to move in and have a waitlist
- Alexander Company is managing, so the applications go to them.

d. YWCA Family Shelter

- A couple vacancies getting filled
- YWCA and TSA transfer? YWCA does 30 day reviews, talk about getting on the TSA waitlist if needed. TSA, YWCA and DAIS work together to avoid discharging families to the streets.

e. Healing House

- 9 individuals currently

f. The Beacon

- Very crowded for the space, averaging about 250 a day
- Severe weather period was very challenging.
- Breakfast and lunch line, run it tight to get everyone in within an hour
- People with mobility issues
 - Tellurian and MSM outreach have been helping people to get signed up for paratransit. Working on getting people connected to MCOs and signed up.
 - Running into issues with cabs. Filling the YWCA van completely and then move to cabs, but we are hearing “we have no more cabs”.
 - We may need to think about limiting how many bags people can have. More people can go into the YWCA van or cabs if there are not as many bags.
- (Men’s shelter has 150 lockers, being used, but it’s very challenging to manage with 500-600 active people.)

g. DAIS

- Shelter is full, with 40 people on the waitlist
- Also having issues with cabs for intakes, people needing to leave, timing is very important, exploring a different transportation
- Have a new manager for case manager supervision, hiring new case management staff

h. Briarpatch

- 2 youth in shelter, low for this time
- 4th quarter 2023 had 20 youth, a lot of youth, many who were running away from home, some in families experiencing chronic homelessness.
- Doing pretty well with staffing, looking for a part time staff overnight
- Also experiencing issues with cabs

i. Safe Haven

- Seeing very high number, total enrollment is usually 200-250, but now 350. Seeing 70-80 a day
- Some transition in the kitchen
- Working with Porchlight housing department to get some people housed

j. Off the Square Club

- Will check the new Off the Square Club staff has been invited.

k. Schools

- MMSD: Identified 1,100+ students so far this year, more than the end of the year count for 2023 (1140), most of them doubled up or self-paying in hotels
- Sun Prairie: 230 identified, 187 total last year. Most of them doubled up or self-paying in hotels

l. Catalyst for Change

- 10 families (41 people) in the overflow hotel, waiting to enter into shelter
- Referrals from the school are the majority referrals. We can't meet all the needs. We had 21 rooms at one point during cold weather.
- What we are seeing is that families have a crisis in their doubled-up situation and calling everyone. Definitely a need for an emergency shelter. Sometimes 30 people are calling one day. We are not the immediate crisis response. Bigger size families needs to be considered. A family of 8 in the hotel, another family of 8 referred.
- All hotel beds referrals need to come from Salvation Army and schools
- Salvation Army plan for the new shelter building
 - 35 rooms (24/7) these are bigger rooms, can accommodate family of 6.
 - 18 rooms for drop in overnight emergency shelter

4. Miscellaneous/walk-on items (as time allows)

- Porchlight shelter is seeing increased number of people coming from cities around Wisconsin and even Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan. People were being told Madison had affordable housing. Can we form partnerships with other city and towns around Madison to access more affordable housing?
- Seeing more immigrants from Central America. Porchlight has two Spanish speaking staff, needed staff to speak Spanish, as there were more people speaking Spanish.
- Catalyst for Change is also getting referrals directly to their Spanish speaking staff. Mostly families. Usually have some paperwork. They are usually pretty easy to house.
- Schools are also seeing more immigrants, too. Surge. People from Central America and Mexico.
- Need to reconsider what family is – extended families, people watch people's kids so they can work and are having issues.
- Melissa Mennig will share the best contact to refer people who need to work on the immigration documentation.

- Moving assistance (security deposit, etc.) – Urban Triage Housing Navigation, Porchlight men’s shelter, Safe Haven for people who are literally homeless
- Rethke/Tree Lane: If Rethke and Tree Lane tenants come to the shelter, please direct them back to Tellurian (Rethke) and Sankofa Behavioral and Community Health (Tree Lane) staff. They are on site at the building and are helping with housing search. ICA staff is also there to help.
- Tenant Resource Center and Community Justice are actively planning a redaction clinic to help Rethke residents, in an effort to reduce barriers to finding new housing. Bridget will share the flyer she received with the group.

5. Next meeting

Wednesday, 4/3/24 @ 9:00am