

Outreach Committee Minutes

Monday, December 4, 2023

Noon-1:30pm

Winter Unsheltered Response Planning

Attending: Sarah Lim, MacKenzie Byer, Taylor Newell-Smith, Sarah Churchill, Nancy Vue, Becky Brickert-Road Home, Claire Bergman, Maureen Quinlan- NewBridge, Fares Fares- Porchlight, Rosendo Ortiz, Melissa Mennig-County, Emergency Management- Jay Mclellan Population Protection Planner, Karen Andro- Housing Initiatives, Jasmine Smith, Torrie Kopp-Mueller-CoC Coordinator, Zach Nichols, Joanna Anderson, Zoua Xiong, Maria Tran, Butch Andreas, Sarah Lim, Nick Will, Brenda Konkel, Alisha Jones- Neighborhood House, Zach Stephen- ICA CE manager, Emily Akins, Roberto- Public Health, Jani Koester.

1. Recap of last meeting discussion on winter weather planning

2. Shelter Capacity and Utilization

Family Shelters

- **Salvation Army Family Shelter:** 36 rooms, with the recent conversion of an office to a family room.

As of 11/13/23, 62 families are on the waitlist, including 19 families on the streets or in cars. Historically, there has been a peak in September/October followed by a decrease, but the demand has not slowed down.

As of 12/4/2023 55 families on waitlist, 10 in cars

- **YWCA:** 12 rooms, accepts referrals from the Salvation Army waitlist.
- **DAIS:** 14 rooms (half of pre-COVID capacity).
- **Healing House:** Accommodates 3-4 families, totaling 13 beds.

Singles Shelters

- **Salvation Army Women's Shelter (630 E. Washington Ave):** Capacity can go up to 100 beds. Served consistently about 70-80 people in November, with a high of 91. Last winter, served up to the 90s.
- **Porchlight Men's Shelter (2002 Zeier Rd):** Started with 200 beds, currently serving 250-290 people per night. November's average was 266. No plans to turn people away at this time; recently purchased 100 more mats.
- **Briarpatch (14-17 year old):** 8 beds.

Beacon Capacity

- 200-250 guest visits a day, compared to approximately 150 guests when it opened in 2017.

3. Cold Weather Nights Response - Emergency Hotel Rooms

Some cold weather night hotel funding available from the City and County, managed by Catalyst for Change. Not a long-term stay; a limited number of hotel rooms available on cold weather nights.

Families

- *Target Population:* Families sleeping outside or in cars, referred by Salvation Army family shelter and school district homeless liaisons if not willing to be on the Salvation Army family shelter waitlist.
- *Process:* Catalyst for Change to receive referrals from Salvation Army and school districts. If families are sleeping outside or in cars, ensure they contact the Salvation Army family shelter, not Catalyst for Change. Additional planning underway with County-allocated funds for families; updates to follow.

Singles

- *Target Population:* Individuals unable to go to the shelter even on cold weather nights due to specific suspension. Most people on suspension can still use the shelter on cold weather nights, with a few exceptions.
- *Process:* City, County, Catalyst, and MSM outreach coordinator staff to receive lists of individuals who cannot come to the shelter even on cold weather nights from Porchlight men's shelter and Salvation Army shelter. Catalyst will reach out to other outreach agencies if necessary. Outreach case conferencing available for proactive safety planning.
- CFC prioritizing families for hotels on EWN's
- No EWN ban from shelter: 8 individuals

4. Cold Weather Response - Outreach Teams

1) What Are You Seeing at Unsheltered Locations?

- fewer people identified in unsheltered locations

2) Outreach Coverage

- Catalyst for Change: Focusing on hotels for families during extreme weather, 5-9 pm
- Madison Street Medicine: Monday PM Beacon, Tuesday AM east side/exploratory, Wednesday FUMC/downtown, Thursday downtown evening rounds, Friday exploratory.
- Urban Triage:
- Tellurian: Outreach Friday--10- until we are done, Wednesday--we're working on switching to go to The Beacon for Peer Support//Case Management and discussing adding a PM Outreach shift
- Briarpatch:
- VA:

Community Breakfast	First United Methodist Church	Wednesdays (EOW)	9a – 10a
Day Shelter	Beacon	Thursdays	9a – 11a
Men’s Shelter	Porchlight Men’s Shelter	Last Tuesday of the month	5p – 7p
Women’s Shelter	The Salvation Army Shelter	4 th Tuesday of the month	5p – 7p
Hedberg Library	Janesville, WI	Tuesdays (EOW)	11a – 1p
Dane County Veteran Service Office	Madison, WI	2 nd Tuesdays	1p-3p

- Any additional efforts?

3) Identifying Unsheltered Individuals of Concern & Safety Planning

- If Friday is EWN, weekend or holidays carry over

4) Checking on People Overnight

- Previous efforts by grassroots organizations.
 - 9-midnight during Covid
- Plans for this year?

5) Outreach Supply Coordination

- Review of the supply coordination spreadsheet: [Link to the spreadsheet](#)
- Gas cards- CFC may have access for emergencies
- Planning coordination for cold weather and other emergency weather conditions.

6) **Supporting Shelters with Case Management and Housing Search**

- Catalyst for Change
- Madison Street Medicine
- Urban Triage: discussing additional Beacon hours
- Tellurian
- Briarpatch
- VA
- Anyone else?

- Salvation Army women's shelter: needing assistance 5-8 for chronically homeless individuals
- Idea of integrating outreach with shelters

7) **Any Other Topic?**

Next meeting: Monday, February 5, 2024 Noon-1:30pm