



**Shelter Providers Committee  
Wednesday, August 5th, 2020  
9:00-10:30 AM**

Minutes

**1. Introductions**

Liz Duffie, Torrie Kopp Mueller, Joel Girard, Jae W., Preston Patterson, Sara Hayes, Madeleine Martino Fox, Katie Spaeth, Michael Moody, John Adams, Jael Currie, Lyn Roscoe

**2. Review of our current shelter system: What shelter resources exist? How do clients access them? How are services being provided differently?**

Beacon: Open 7 days a week, seeing 3-5 new people every week, not sure how long we can maintain new people coming in with social distancing, still offering laundry and showers on a limited basis due to volunteer capacity, releasing meals in sections to allow for social distancing, housing navigation is on-site some days of the week, COVID testing will start today, computers are still accessible, sanitized regularly, allowing in people who use men's shelter or we know they are sleeping outside, if coming from jail we verify test results prior to entry, primarily serving all men, some women who are sleeping outside do come, have opened up family room for households with children, sanitizer stations at all high touch areas, don't currently have a capacity policy, serving about 80-90 people each day, about 100-120 will be maximum capacity.....depends on how many families with children are using the space, have not had a lot of families access the space,

The Salvation Army: have been able to change space to allow for social distancing, they should be able to meet demand when cold weather hits as they can open up the gym, halls, other rooms, etc., social distancing can be hard throughout the day, but they are wearing masks regularly, opened up the gym with a variety of activities available, haven't had too many issues, TSA has purchased additional washers and dryers that guests can use, available on a daily basis, opened a lot of closets on site to allow for women to be able to store their belongings, it was challenging to get an appointment at St. Vincent's for storage, not turning women away, families are in hotels with TSA staff onsite, about 43-47 women stay on a regular night, no limit on coming and going during the day, but curfew is 9 PM (do consider individual circumstances), 45-50 families on the waitlist (majority are doubled-up, but more families in cars than we usually anticipate), new intakes can occur at anytime during the day, can just come in person,

Porchlight: enforcing social distancing everywhere, screening everyone who enters shelter, has a handwashing station outside door, sanitizer is available, staff give food and water to guests, last night we had 86 guests which is a high for the summer months, usually see 50-60 people this time of year,

August 1<sup>st</sup>: 70

August 2<sup>nd</sup>: 73

August 3<sup>rd</sup>: 83

August 4<sup>th</sup>: 86

30 people in the hotels who typically use men's shelter

At Warner Park have mapped out 142 cots. Do see some areas where we could expand if needed. If we are still there during the winter months.

City and County are talking about our next facility, will most likely go to a temporary space before finding a permanent location,

Grace church acknowledges the need for a new shelter space and glad to see things moving forward, they still have the basement space that could be used for shelter in a different way or to meet other needs,

YWCA: we are the least emergency based, we know when families are coming and they stay with us, just had a family who had been in shelter due to January move into housing, another family moving into The Grove so will have 2 vacancies, but otherwise full, have been screening people for symptoms, staff are all working together to assist families, 12 families is our max capacity,

Safe Haven: open 8:30am-5pm, serving 3 meals a day, bagged breakfast, hot lunch, hot dinner, number of guests has been consistent, but have not set a capacity, space limits people as space feels crowded and there is not enough chairs, most people are camping, guests can come and leave one time and come back, if they leave again then they can't come back during the day, only screen for symptoms the first time someone enters, the front door is kept locked, it was using a lot of staff time to have people come and go freely throughout the day, currently have some openings in Safe Haven housing and are filling those from our waitlist, can do intakes anytime we are open, now have EHH funding so are tracking in HMIS,

Coordinated Entry: calls and checks Beacon CE messages at least hourly, usually able to get back in touch with people, some days have many calls and others don't.....really varies, working to connect with everyone in vulnerable population hotels to see if they want to get on the housing priority list, still have some new people to connect with, we work closely with Focus Counseling, making sure people at hotels have access to housing resources that we usually give when people walk into The Beacon, families in the hotels should be assessed by TSA staff, if our team assesses and places someone on the list we follow-up with them every 30 days

MRC: currently 8 individuals, vulnerable population hotels: RRH ESG-CV projects will prioritize people in hotels or on the waitlist

**3. System gaps analysis: Are there shelter services missing from our system? Are there other needs that those experiencing homelessness in our community currently have that the shelter providers**

**could help with? Do we anticipate new/different gaps as the year progresses and/or as the weather gets colder?**

Ran out of time before getting to this.

#### **4. Brainstorm ideas for future agenda items**

Update on hotel situation

What is this committee's purpose? Are we working on the gaps that we are seeing?

Use the time for shelter staff to get on the same page around policies

Talk about lessons learned from COVID

#### **5. Go-around for updates/announcements**

Liz is going to graduate school. She will be leaving Safe Haven and won't be able to be involved with Shelter Provider's Committee. Preston will serve as co-chair for the committee.