

HSC Shelter Providers Committee

Meeting Minutes

6/7/23 9-10:30am

Facilitator: Fares Fares

Notetaker: Sarah Lim

Attending: : Fares Fares, Sarah Lim, Torrie Kopp Muller, Takisha Jordan, Melissa Mennig, Patrick Duffie, Melissa Sorensen, Bridget Rogers, Emily Faeth, Kim Sutter, Aimee Baldocchi, Brenda Konkel, Sarah Elswick, Meshan Adams, Tahkaney Becknell, Lisa Hemauer, Zach Stephen, Kristin Olgren, Aurey Leslie, Nici Hawkins, Ava Grotting, Lucia Ledesma, Alicia Spry, Jen Ripp

1. Introductions

2. City & County updates

Permanent Shelter updates

- We are in a pre-design phase for the new men's shelter, likely wrapping in June, working on figuring out how big and where the walls go (dorm sizes to accommodate people with mobility issues considering aging population, etc.).
- Ongoing conversations about onsite support services and other services
- Community engagement efforts (public information meetings, door to door engagement) regarding men's shelter development
- Hotel to Housing (H2H) is winding down for some people. What would be the best way to connect with shelter providers to coordinate services who may need to access shelter? County does not have specific estimates yet, but exits are staggered depending on when people found housing and people usually have plan A and B. → Porchlight said a list will be helpful with HMIS #s, specifically information regarding accessibility needs. Beacon is already seeing close to 200 people a day. 3-5 intakes in the morning. It would be beneficial if the H2H case managers can contact us ahead of time to get intakes done and work to bridge services provided at the Beacon can start. Even giving us a heads up would be helpful.
- Urban Triage had a grand opening event for youth drop in day shelter on May 31. It was a soft opening and services will start in month or two. There was a question whether youth with children can use this drop in shelter. Meshan thought it was the case, but will follow up with the group.
- Salvation Army is still working on fundraising for the new shelter campus downtown. They are re-evaluating the floor plans with architects and working on getting new construction cost estimates with inflation.

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

- Porchlight Men's Shelter

- So far no COVID cases reported. We have isolation and quarantine rooms and MSM services on Mondays.
 - Things are good. Having a strong team seems to lead to fewer behavioral challenges.
 - Seeing more overdoses. Would like to connect with agencies who can come to the shelter to provide training or direct services to clients.
 - Through Nurse Disrupted kiosk, Orion Healthcare started offering mental health therapy (30 minute, 4 people a day, Tuesdays 5:30-7:30pm) yesterday. We signed people up. We even had a couple going in for therapy yesterday.
 - Serving about the same number of people that we saw from winter, 220-230 a night. Last summer about 170-180.
- **Salvation Army Women's Shelter**
 - About 75 women, bigger increase from last month.
 - No COVID cases so far.
- **Salvation Army Family Shelter**
 - Full as usual, 35 families, about 40 families on waitlist (10 identifying as car or places not meant for human habitation; the rest doubled up for the moment), expect the waitlist number go up → Takisha asked if the doubled up workgroup get the data. TSA is interested in participating in the doubled up workgroup. New staff was hired for waitlist case management. Melissa will figure out who would attend, either diversion specialist or waitlist case manager.
 - One family tested positive and they were able to isolate in their room. No outbreaks or concerns.
- **YWCA Family Shelter**
 - 12 families now, two rooms getting filled from referrals now, depending on the family size, can serve 12-14 families. Referrals come from the Salvation Army.
 - Seeing families who are coming back after 5 years.
 - Lucia's last day is Friday. (Thanks, Lucia, for all you have done!!) Someone else will be attending the shelter provider's committee.
- **Healing House**
 - No staff present
- **The Beacon**
 - No case where isolation was required; some people had to get test with online Nurse Disrupted kiosk– that's working well.
 - Two staff tested positive in the past three weeks. And some non-COVID other respiratory illness. We had to close the computer lab due to staff shortage.
 - Very busy first thing in the morning. Very crowded. But it's been pretty peaceful, some verbal ...staff is able to de-escalate. Suspensions have been going down. We are not focusing on substance use. We offer reconciliation path with suspension and reconciliation process use is going up, so that's good.

- 135 new intakes last month. A lot of people who are new to homelessness. Typically we don't see this many new intakes this time of the year.
- This week about 190 every day.
- Two families regularly use the site. And families use for visitation.
- Security contract has been signed, they are hiring, currently working partially, expect a full security schedule next week
- May 2022 we had average 152 adults, now averaging 190 this year.

- **DAIS**
 - Kristin had to leave before the DAIS update.

- **Briarpatch**
 - Currently 4 youth in the shelter, can have up to 8 youth depending on staffing level
 - Some youth in our shelter have parents also experiencing homelessness. This is happening more frequently now. Youth can have up to 28 days each time x 3 times stay a year at Briarpatch due to licensing requirement. We are trying to connect the adults in their lives with family services. Youth are having to exit shelter, staying with parents in a car because parents haven't secured housing and can't get into family shelter due to waitlist. It would be helpful to connect with family shelter waitlist case management.
 - For the County funded doubled up pilot program that will be starting soon, could doubled up households that have youth who are literally homeless and staying in a shelter be prioritized?
 - Porchlight suggested if youth are transitioning out to adult shelter, let's do warm handoff.

- **Safe Haven**
 - Increase numbers. 60-65 people a day, quite a lot for our shelter. Increase from last summer as well.
 - Increase in daily intake.
 - No COVID issues
 - Generally going smoothly, challenge is how we could provide the same services to our increase number of guests.

- **Off the Square Club**
 - No staff present

It appears that the numbers at all shelters are high compared to previous summer. It may be that we have more people experiencing homelessness in our community. But also, more people who used to be unsheltered are using the shelter. We are seeing fewer people unsheltered in pre-COVID summers. Shelters lowering barriers would have contributed to more people using shelters.

4. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Support

- We need more holistic approach including substance use and mental health support; guests who find housing return to homelessness. MSM, Kabba Recovery services provide services at men's shelter but would like more.
- Liz Duffie, Dane County behavioral health specialist, is working on building connections between behavioral health services and homeless services providers. Liz set up a quarterly meeting. That initial meeting is today 2pm. Today's agenda is about Release of Information between two entities and case consultation meetings. Anyone here who can make it would be welcomed to attend.

HSC/DCHS Meeting today at 2:00

<https://countyofdane.zoom.us/j/99148948755?pwd=MHdPVzhvS2lNY0s4b2xKZWZlNUYyUT09>

Meeting ID: 991 4894 8755

Passcode: 153101

- Financial classes also need to be provided. Thanks to connection through Nici, men's shelter has connected with FSET. They can't typically come during men's shelter hours, but will be coming to the shelter quarterly.
- Melissa Mennig asked shelter providers to enter the following information in HMIS: "Where you in foster care and what age did you leave foster care?" Dane County is having planning conversations on FUP vouchers (Family Unification Program) and that information will be helpful in considering how many may be eligible in the future.
(There was also a question about "Do you have child(ren) in out of home care" question. Having children in out of home care doesn't necessarily qualify someone for FUP vouchers, HUD has more rules. Bridget suggested it may be better to connect with CPS who has some data on intersections of out of home care placement and homelessness.)
- Anesis Therapy Center has drop in counseling hours at Mt. Zion Church (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and Lighthouse School (Mondays and Thursdays). No appointment is needed. You can find more info here: <https://anesistherapycenter.com/drop-in-clinics>

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

- For women who are expecting, refer them to Healing House and TSA. Women who are close to due date can be referred to the TSA family shelter. TSA family shelter takes referrals closer to the due date.
- Our community does not have a shelter that can serve parenting youth age under 18 in our community.
- Dane County overdose aid kits – if these are kits to hand out to guests, who would be interested in getting them? Porchlight, Salvation Army would be interested.

6. Next meeting

Wednesday, 8/2/23 @ 9:00am