

**Shelter Providers Committee**  
**Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**9:00-10:30 AM**

Attending: Preston Peterson, Joel Girard, Sarah Hayes, Lisa Menauer, Jani Koester, Jael Currie, Tara Barica, Terri Johnson, Madeleine Marino-Fox, Christina Luna, John Adams, Sarah Lim

1. Introductions

2. Review of our current shelter system: What shelter resources exist? How do clients access them?  
What ideas have been implemented since August meeting

Beacon Day Resource Center: Our capacity is 125-150 with COVID, already close to reaching the capacity with a few cold days. When it gets colder, we expect 100 more guests would want to come and need to figure out how to meet the increase in demand; currently only serving men's shelter guests, people who are unsheltered referred by outreach or case workers and people who are not able to go to women's shelter; continuing to practice COVID safety mitigation strategies; working on Thanksgiving plan

Porchlight Men's shelter: Recently started working with Catalyst for Change outreach to bring in late night guests identified and it's working well; the census went up to over 100 but dropped down to 70s last week probably due to it being the beginning of the month; working with the city engineering to figure out the max capacity, likely around 210 with rearranging; the highest census in the last few years was 186

TSA women's shelter: highest number was 65 in previous years, 70 at the end of September, now down to 55 a night. Working with the city engineering to figure out the max capacity, TSA estimate is about 65-70 max.

TSA family shelter: Number of families served largely determined by the hotel capacity, 50 families in the hotel now and 35 families on the waitlist; Karmenta facility has 47 rooms, some renovation need to be done—showers and bathrooms, working with the city

MMSD families: The number of homeless families is similar to last year or a little down (due to overall enrollment being down, the percentage is about the same); working with TSA for families sleeping in cars, aware of 2 large families in cars; some of the doubled up families have been doubled up since March and it's concerning that they will be asked to leave in the cold weather. Out of 450 children identified as experiencing homelessness, 80% are estimated to be doubled up.

Virtual learning has been a challenge for families experiencing homelessness. Everyone now has Chrome books and hot spots, but there are connectivity issues, and there are more challenges than the equipment and internet connection; connected two families in the cars with two libraries so they can use the library rooms for schooling. Joel mentioned a Seattle program that allows students experiencing homelessness use public space with social distancing.

YWCA: one family who has been at the shelter since January just moved to permanent housing this weekend; it's very difficult for the families to secure permanent housing. Rental assistance is not enough. Family size and income are big barriers; 12 shelter rooms and now there is one vacancy due to the family moving into housing.

Vulnerable population hotel: The County executive budget included \$9 million to support hotel projects through June 2021, which can relieve a lot of pressure from the shelter system.

### 3. What are we seeing as far as numbers? Trends? Challenges?

Transportation between Porchlight and Beacon via Badger Bus for people with mobility issues was a challenge, now resolved by using cabs. Badger bus pick up and drop off timing has been a challenge especially over the weekend.

YWCA shelter had a 90 day model, but extended the stays to 180 days. As the pandemic goes on and families staying longer, repairs for wear and tear and property damage and cleaning have been costing a lot. It's been a traumatic summer, and the tensions are high among the guests.

TSA -- Concerned about increasing demand with the cold weather. We haven't run a 24-hour shelter for women, now all women are in the building together all day long, tensions are rising. Concerned about not having drop-in emergency shelter for families in the winter.

Porchlight – usually see a major uptick in numbers after Thanksgiving. It may not be as a significant increase as we have not had 90 day limit.

CDD - City will be facilitating a meeting with shelter providers and outreach workers to discuss how to bring in people who are unsheltered to the shelters and what that means to the shelter. It was pointed out even if we figure out the capacity for the night time shelter, day shelter has a capacity limit. City is exploring options for bigger spaces for day and night shelters.

### 4. What plans/changes will be put in place for winter months for “warming” our population

Catalyst for Change is going out in the evening (5-10pm) and engaging with people who are unsheltered and sometimes find people who are willing to go into the shelter. They started making late referrals to Men's shelter and asked if they could make referrals to the women's shelter. Tara stated that outreach workers can refer women to TSA women shelter until 9pm. Call (608) 250-2226 intake line.

Day shelter space for families who are not in hotels-- Beacon is still serving families, up to 8 people in each room, conference room can be divided in half for children's use. Open for further discussion.

Next meeting: December 2, 2020, 9-10:30am