



HSC Shelter Providers Committee

Wednesday, October 3rd, 2023 from 9:00am – 10:30am

Meeting held virtually on Zoom

Meeting ID: 847 3932 2544

Passcode: 644615

October 2023 Agenda

Facilitator: Fares Fares

Notetaker: N/A

1. Introductions

Please notify Fares if you need to be added to the list.

Lcspry13@gmail.com (Alecia) asked to be added.

Fares Fares - Porchlight
Brenda Konkel – Madison Street Medicine
Claire Bergman – Sun Prairie Schools
Melissa Mennig – Dane County
Rosendo Ortiz – Salvation Army
Jani Koester - MMSD
Alicia Spry – Lived Experience Committee
Wendy Seiwert - Porchlight
Kristin Olgren - DAIS
Helyn Luisi-Mills – Madison Street Medicine
Emily Faeth - Briarpatch
Kim Sutter - Porchlight
Tahkaney Becknell - Quartz
Zach Stephen - ICA
Jael Currie – YWCA

Came after introductions

Takisah Jordan – Lived Experience

Jen Stoiber – or likely Meshan or Sarah or other city person

2. City & County updates

- a. **Permanent Shelter** - City staff not available, but wanted to share that they have done 4 public information meetings for the permanent shelter. They showed preliminary design plan, mostly positive feedback. Thanks people who came to the sessions.

County Update: County Executive just released budget and allocated additional funds to the operations of the shelter. This proposal will be going to committees if people want to attend and advocate. A group has gotten together to talk about cold weather and there was talk about having an overflow for families with various congregations. Also talking with Catalyst for Change about operating the Cold Weather Hotels again.

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

- a. **Permanent Shelter** –

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b. Porchlight

- Men's Shelter** They are trying to fit up to 315 cots and mattresses, seeing about 250 every night. Believe they are likely to see 300 or more in the winter months. Prepared to host that many – emergency plans and ordering more mattresses. May have to limit people even though they have never turned anyone away. Suspensions, police and ambulance calls are down.
- c. **Salvation Army Women's Shelter** – 65 – 75 women each night, anticipate it will go up in the winter, have additional capacity in gym for overflow. Don't anticipate going over 100 because they never have. They have ample room.
 - d. **Salvation Army Family Shelter** – Opened up the extra rooms, were holding more for isolation but opened them up. At 36 families. 24 families in category 1 (uninhabitable living situations), list is rising. Had town hall meeting yesterday and people came and reported about their services and city heard from clients. They did a workshop on skills (job applications, housing vouchers, etc). Expecting
 - e. **YWCA Family Shelter** – No self referrals, only from Salvation Army. 12 units. Fully occupied.
 - f. **Healing House** – No one in attendance
 - g. **The Beacon** – No one in attendance
 - h. **DAIS** – Shelter building closed for past month due to construction, ending this week. Will be bringing people back in the building on Monday. Still providing shelter through hotels. About 30 people in their shelter due to capacity, typically 14 adults plus children. They have a 60 day stay.
 - i. **BriarPatch** – Still not many youth in shelter for a few months now. Seasonal issues in the summer with people staying with friends and being less connected to school social workers. Have been able to help families who are in family shelter if a teen needs to stay somewhere they can focus more on homework, etc. They take youth 12 – 17, can stay up to 28 days. Can't be flexible due to RHY funding (usually 21 days) but city and county funding allows them to extend for up to 28 days. If someone leaves for 24 hours they can come back for another 28 days (due to funding restrictions)
 - j. **Safe Haven** – No one in attendance
 - k. **Off the Square Club** – No one in attendance

Urban Triage has new youth center – has case management and food and other services. No one in attendance to give further updates.

4. Planning for Winter Season

Case management has been getting folks into housing, particularly in Verona.

\$68,000 from county for emergency weather type situations – not a hotel, but similar to last year where they prioritize people who can't get into shelter and permanent bans from shelter and staying outside. It will be a process and Melissa will send out details when they are finalized. They meet on Friday.

FSSF also has hotels from the city, the city is looking for a provider to administer the hotel vouchers as well.

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They are looking for providers and so far no one is interested.

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

Transportation to/from the shelter/Beacon – Badger Bus was bought out by First Student and they terminated the contract due to not enough drivers. City provided one-ride bus passes to transport to and from day/night shelter. Contract with Kobussen starting Monday. YWCA van only transports 3 or 4 people with mobility issues from Beacon to night shelter but don't transport from Shelter to Beacon so they use Union Cab for that. School bus is not accessible, but they offer bus passes.

Oct 27 - Nov 20 Fares will be out on paternity leave. Assistant Manager will cover Wed – Sunday (dkuot@porchlightinc.org) and Monday and Tuesday will be case manager Chris. (cmartinmacken@porchlightinc.org)

Architect masters student is working on project about public spaces and she is talking with clients to help improve the space.

When Fares returns in November there is a professor who directs the Forgiveness Institute who works with psychology and the principle of forgiveness and they are doing surveys (clients get \$10) and doing a 15 week forgiveness program every Wednesday in the shelter (clients get \$10 for each session they attend) – but they don't call that, please don't say that. They are focusing on healing trauma, taking accountability, etc.

Mental Health telehealth is going well and is useful.

COVID – Salvation Army had 4 cases a month ago, but no issues since then. Porchlight hasn't had new cases since August.

6. Next meeting

Wednesday, 12/6/23 @ 9:00am

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