

Shelter Provider Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6th, 2022

Next Meeting: June 1st 2022

Attendees: Preston Patterson, Sarah Lim, Meshan Adams, Michael Moody, Kim Tesch, Jenna Jacobson, Casey (Salvation Army), Tara B, Kristina, Greg Magoon, Sandy Belt, Mark Lagoda, Kim Sutter, Mac Byer, Michelle Zuelke, Fares Fares, Lucia Ledesma, J. McLellan, Lisa Hemauer, Bridget Rogers, Jael Currie, Jani Koester

Wrap-up of February meeting minutes: Shelter trends, Covid trends, permanent site updates

Temporary/Permanent Shelter Updates:

- Tour at Zier rd. is site for next temporary DIS. Multiple revisions of design. Official average capacity ~150. Not as spacious as current site. Plans to have isolation/quarantine area within next shelter. Conference rooms for case management, ADA bathrooms, built in bathrooms rather than trailers, cafeteria space for more people, lockers for belongings to be stored overnight, more parking area, smoke break area away from building,
- Preston met with city and community members regarding next shelter site. Main talking point was loitering near property. 3 complaints since we have been at First St. Community members not confident that our system will work the same at new location. We will still have the shuttle system to The Beacon, expect most guests to continue to occupy downtown area outside shelter hours.
- Bartillon site as new permanent shelter. Original structure burnt down. Will be building from ground up for new shelter. ~3 year timeline. RFQ timing unknown. A few years before approval.
- Salvation Army starting construction with new parking lot in next 3-5 months. Trying to raise money for shelter. 69-75 women. 35 families. Going back to nighttime only. Family shelter at Milwaukee St. will stay open 24/7. Need for more accommodating transportation to The Beacon. Opened storage spaces for individuals to store bags. May 2nd can start shuttling using newly purchased mini vans. Guests reserve beds. DIS may try this. Waitlist of 30 families, less than 20 calling in regularly. 1-2 families move out per week. Healing House, FSSF, and DAIS have been supportive services. Less than 40% of guests stay throughout the day.
- Beacon may increase capacity from 90 to 125. Normally seeing 90-100 throughout the day. Was averaging 125 until warmer weather within last few days. Drivers for guests with mobility issues at both DIS and Salvation Army.
- Covid masking policies remaining the same in shelters. DIS hasn't had positive case since 2/14. Concern for less testing leading to less positive cases.

CWN/Extreme Weather Night Policy

- Preston will cease sending weekly updates for CWN.

- Severe weather/heat advisories of 95+ degrees will allow for exceptions, to be determined by administration of Porchlight
- Salvation Army lets people stay in open gym during periods of excessive heat or weather. Will collaborate with Porchlight for weather policies.
- Emergency management of the county sends out weather advisories and plans for response. Plans in place for excessive cold and heat. Less planning for storms due to faster onset.
- Outreach teams can refer unsheltered people to hotels on extreme weather nights. First refer to shelter, check to see if guest has accessed night shelters.
- Only people who have committed multiple or egregiously violent acts/threats against staff or other guests at shelter are on permanent ban with no CWN exception. Most people on that list have done something additional on a CWN to be banned permanently.

Suspensions from Shelters

- Plan for outreach to connect with people suspended from shelters. Congregations of people who have been suspended forming unsheltered communities. Considering connecting newly suspended guests immediately to CFC or other outreach teams.
- Appeal process explained; conditional reinstatements often feasible if agencies uninvolved with suspension assist with appeal.
- Salvation Army does not allow people who have committed violence in shelter to return on CWN

Miscellaneous Items

- Sankofa was planning to close June 30th, but they are still accepting referrals. Policy changed from 90 day limit to 30 day limit. Option to stay open through August, but plan not yet solidified. Public announcement to come when more is finalized.
- VPH transition to closure on June 30th. Shelter Providers need to connect and discuss plans for transition. Waitlist referrals closing and communication about timeline to come this week. **Plan meeting before June meeting to discuss end of VPH program.**