

Shelter Providers Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 3rd 2021
9:00-10:30 AM

1. Introductions

Preston, Tara, Carla Williams, Terri Johnson, Frankie Day, Jael Currie, Madeline Fox, Bridget Rogers, Jani, Torrie, Michael Hartel, Peter Twiss, Rosa, Joel, Kim Tesch, Kim Sutter, Sarah Lim

2. What are we seeing as far as numbers? Trends (including guest behaviors since last meeting)?

DIS – 123 men. Low for this year normally see 150-160. VP hotel sheltering helps decrease this number. Increase in violent behavior - weather, potentially inside all day, not many places to go to get rid of energy.

Beacon - 5 new intakes yesterday, 3 new intakes today. New folks – were staying with family/friends and were asked to leave. This trend is also seen at DIS.

TSA - 50 women and 54 families (30 on waitlist no unsheltered families at this time)

3. COVID updates

TSA - Continuing daily COVID screening with nurses disrupted - guests with COVID symptoms sent to medical respite. Physical distancing, hand hygiene, mealtime protocols and increased janitorial/maintenance services for high touch areas. Continue to provide onsite COVID testing every other week.

Safe Haven - no positive case, continue to screen every day, test every other week

YWCA - no positive case in shelter, some in the building. Working with public health to providing education re: vaccine.

JFF: working with public health to provide education on vaccine.

Off the square club - closed due to positive COVID cases. Cases decreased from what they were. Closed - only giving out mail on Wednesdays.

Healing house: no COVID cases, temperature tests 2-3 times a day, some staff vaccinated

Beacon - masks, temperatures taken, hand sanitization, meals by groups (6-7) at a times, plastic guards, physical distancing, If someone has symptoms at beacon there is a trailer that folks can be in until sent to the MRC so folks don't enter the Beacon.

DIS - hand hygiene, screening at the door, guests with COVID symptoms sent to medical respite. Cleaning high contact/touch areas often. Mealtimes – social distancing. Handful of guests tested positive for COVID, first case in September. Continuing to do contact tracing.

4. How are we going to deal with the negative temperatures the next 10+ days (starting on Thursday 2/4/21)

Cold weather week for the foreseeable future.

Working with outreach partners to do unsheltered response. PIT last week approximately 80 people sleeping outside. (100 total - some in tiny homes). Outreach teams will continue to check in with unsheltered folks. Working on distributing gas cards, fundraising for alternate shelter options.

Porchlight – let folks in when bus comes 4:45pm. Intake starts at 5pm. Working with outreach teams and hospitals to let folks in after intake hours, as well as police. Individuals that are suspended can come in.

Beacon - open around 7:30am to let folks in and out of the cold (capacity 125). Working on backup plan if meet capacity to maintain social distancing. Still has family room that can be used for families during the day. Individuals that are suspended can come in (other than violence)

TSA – Women’s shelter guests can come in before intake to get out of the cold. Individuals that are suspended can come in (other than violence related suspensions). Families can come to E Wash to get out of the cold. Family shelter prioritizing unsheltered families.

5. Status and reports on First St Shelter

12/15 opening. Going well. Had a gas leak - thank you to Madison police, Madison metro and beacon for helping with that. Building has a lot of space – increased square footage. Health assessment area, intake area, eating space, isolation space, shower/toilet trailers in the building available for guests, lounge/tv area for guests. Increased staff in November - no less than 2 CM’s on staff every night. Everyone is offered case management. Adding another staff for morning “wake up” hours.

6. Preliminary information on proposed new permanent shelter

New men’s shelter location. City in partnership with county made an offer to purchase old savers building. Large site. Whole area is in plan for redevelopment. Some neighborhood opposition. Don’t have a date for City Count Homeless Issues Committee yet (sometime this month), then finance committee and city council.

Will there be increased transportation? Current transportation is from Beacon to Men’s Shelter on first st.

If folks have ideas/solutions for permanent men’s shelter site, please send to Sarah Lim and Torrie.

7. Individual reports (time permitting)

Sarah Lim: City County Homeless Issues Committee asked the shelter provider committee to present. In the past shelter provider chair presented. CCHIC will potentially come up with questions at their meeting in February:

CCHIC Monday March 1st 5:30pm - questions for shelter providers chair:

- Cold weather policies
- Suspension policies
- Harm reduction
- Needs of shelter providers
- COVID response

What can we do as a community in our work or personal lives to help support the new permanent site for the Men's Shelter?

Next Meeting April 7th from 9-10:30am