



## **Shelter Providers Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

The Beacon – 615 E Washington Ave, Madison WI 53703

**Attendees:** Tara Barica, Casey Becker, Alane Conn, Liz Duffie, Joel Girard, Jonathan Grieser, Sara Hayes, Jani Koester, Mary Maronek, Sarah Lim, Preston Patterson, Lynette Roscoe, Susan Schmitz, Terri Johnson, Matt Julian, Britta Seaberg, Keyera Garrett

### **1. Introductions**

### **2. July PIT results: Answers to the question “Why are you not using the shelter?”**

- This year was the first time that the supplemental question “what is the main reason you are not using the emergency shelter tonight?” was asked during PIT.
- The question was designed to be answered with one single answer, but some respondents gave more than one answer. When this occurred, the responses were weighted (e.g. if three responses were chosen, each was given 1/3 weight compared to a response given as a single response).
- The options given to respondents were chosen based on a study from the University of Washington that looked at unsheltered homelessness and the reasons that individuals do not use shelter.
- The top reason given for all respondents was “I feel unsafe”, followed by “I have used up or am saving my 90 days”, “there are too many rules or the rules are too strict”, and “I have issues with staff”.
- Maybe it would be valuable to ask these questions to sheltered individuals as well.
- Some items that were ranked low, such as the item about storage, might be important to individuals, but not the top item.
- The Shelter Providers Committee may look into what follow-up questions should be answered, and how.

### **3. Unsheltered families: Discussing the problem and identifying potential solutions**

- School social workers get about 10-15 calls daily for shelter support; after receiving assistance from school social work, there may be around 5 families who still do not have a resolution – what happens with those families is unknown

- Schools may connect families to community groups, but does not put families in hotels.
- There may be around 5 families per night sleeping outside
- Getting data from doubled up families is challenging
- The Beacon is not an option for overnight shelter due to zoning
- Schools are not an option for overflow overnight shelter due to liability issues, staffing issues, and custodial issues
- The other Salvation Army location is one potential option for interim shelter site TSA construction is ongoing, but it is not currently zoned or prepared to host individuals overnight
- TSA and Porchlight are both currently seeking other location options for shelter, and have not been successful so far
- Friends of State Street offers vouchers, but it is a limited resource
- It is worth exploring whether YWCA could host overflow families in SROs that are turnover, but it would need to be pay to stay.
- It is worth identifying a potential site where zoning would be a barrier before reaching out about zoning restrictions
- Sarah Lim will try to find out whether there is an exemption process
- TSA does shelter all families on cold weather nights
- It would be good to involve small groups who may have office spaces that could be utilized or help problem-solve

**4. Future meeting locations: Selecting a location for next meeting**

- Next meeting will be at the Porchlight Men's Shelter at Grace Episcopal Church
- Tentatively, the following meeting will be at The Salvation Army

**5. Announcements and updates go-around**

- Susan Schmitz – Requested that we add to the agenda for next meeting to give an update on the Men's Shelter Steering Committee
- Sara Hayes – Meriter night shift social worker Sara is a new position, which hopefully will help with communication and coordination about referrals to shelter from the hospital
- Joel Girard – The Beacon had over 300 folks for Thanksgiving, with lots of great food catered by local restaurants

**6. Overview of services offered at The Beacon, Q&A, tour for those interested**

**7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 9am-10:30am at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 W Washington Ave, Madison WI 53703 (enter from courtyard on W. Washington)**