

Shelter Providers Meeting Minutes

8/4/21 9:00am – 10:30am

- Attendees:
 - Preston Patterson, Kim Sutter, Torrie Kopp Mueller, Melissa Sorensen, John Adams, Fares Fares, Sara Hayes, Bridget Rogers, Julia Marin, Lucia Ledesma, Jalateefa Joe-Meyers, Kimberly Tesch, Mac Byer, Peter Twiss
- Review of June's Meeting
 - Discussion with Public Health
 - Men's Permanent Shelter
 - Hotels to Housing
 - Review Community Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness
- Admitting of 17-year old individuals into shelters – Kim Sutter
 - Act 22 passed by the State which allows 17 year olds to access shelter without parental permission
 - Briarpatch needs parental permission or permission from a judge to have minors access shelter, this act allows them to access shelter without permission
 - Conversations about whether shelters serving adults had to take 17 year olds into shelter
 - Adult serving shelters are NOT required to bring 17 year olds into shelter
 - Adult shelters often struggle with serving 18-24 year olds well
 - In the past when youth have come to Porchlight, staff contact Briarpatch
 - Looking for input/feedback from others on serving 17 year olds in adult shelter, is there a gap that Briarpatch isn't filling
 - The Salvation Army – have served a handful of 17 year olds in shelter, will reach out to Briarpatch as that is a better fit, most of the time people do go to Briarpatch
 - Porchlight has had very few people under the age of 18 attempt to enter shelter
 - Seeing a lot of youth aged 17-19 on the streets downtown, Is there a way that shelters can isolate young people or find ways to make them feel more comfortable? Create an environment where people want to seek services
 - Concern about people on the sex offender registry who also access shelter
 - Do need additional shelter for young people, but need to make sure it is a good situation for them
 - Briarpatch typically has space available, may have a 28 night limit so take that into consideration
- Funder Community's participant survey – Torrie Kopp Mueller
 - Paper surveys are often the best for men's shelter, typically have a staff person pass them out and then collect, staff could help people if needed, 1/3 typically respond
 - Needs to be short and easy to do, more than 2 double-sided pages
 - Porchlight would be happy to host focus group
 - Some people have literacy issues which make the survey a barrier
 - Would be great to have screen with questions and then use clickers to respond, they can see questions and have them read out loud and then people can respond, "i-clicker", maybe UW Madison could help with this

- Study for looking at gaps with homelessness and mental health crisis continuum – Carrie Simon
 - Carrie wasn't able to attend, possibly in relation to the Behavioral Resource Center
 - Jael will send a flyer about a group meeting to talk about this
- Update on MRC/Public Health deal with COVID-19/Delta Variant issues – Kim Sutter gave some updates
 - Medical Respite Center (MRC) – Public Health is no longer overseeing the MRC, have had discussions with larger shelters about what to do if there was not an isolation and quarantine facility available,
 - Recommendation is to not quarantine and isolate at individual shelters
 - MRC is currently open through August with Focus Counseling overseeing the facility, they have been providing services at the MRC the whole time
 - The Public Health Line is no longer available to check status or ask questions
 - Will hear more from the County on August 16th as they were waiting to see how Delta variant is progressing in Dane County
- Update on permanent shelter – Kim Sutter/Preston Patterson
 - City is working to locate a permanent shelter site, have not publicly announced any sites, Pennsylvania Ave site had been discussed publicly
 - There has been progress in narrowing down the site
 - City will put out a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for a shelter operator
- Miscellaneous –
 - What works best for letting staff know who the outreach partners are? Staff don't always know who the outreach workers are so if we get someone on the phone who doesn't know us it is more challenging to make a connection. For men's shelter - Preston or Fares will be available
 - Catalyst could send pictures and introduction to shelter staff
 - The Salvation Army, it's best to just call ahead, there are new staff, will send an email out to staff to remind them to work with outreach
 - When folks are referred to shelter from The Beacon have they had any assessments or have they been entered into HMIS? When we do intake, then we enter them into HMIS. We do not do the VI-SPDAT, but Coordinated Entry can do that with them.
 - Outreach workers complete VI-SPDAT with them.
 - Any agencies requiring vaccine? Of the agencies present, no one is currently requiring. Masks seem to be required across the agencies.
- Next meeting is October 6th – who would like to co-host with Preston?