

Shelter Providers Meeting

April 3, 2019

Attendees: Carly Soby, Amy Noble, Torrie Kopp Mueller, Dave Hunt, Carolann Nelson, Liz Duffy, Brehan Gevelinger, Joel Girard, Casey Becker, Terry Johnson, Tia Rice, Julie Bennett, Cheryl Elkington

Updates

1. Elizabeth House: working on their accreditation and are doing a needs assessment, looking to know about needs of pregnant or newly parenting women (children up to age one year) and not in stable housing, what are the unmet needs, are looking beyond what Elizabeth House already provides
 - currently can house up to 8, but not taking new residents at this time
 - women typically stay 9-12 months, provide case management services during and after stay
2. The Beacon: shuttle is back up and running, have hired 2 part-time relief staff, one for family (Courtney) and one for singles (Jasper), numbers continue to be high and seeing new people from other states, families are moving into housing quickly, some new folks are coming back to work during the spring and summer, working on making changes to intake to connect with people quickly
3. The Salvation Army: 2 new case managers, Courtney is in Women's Shelter, Dawn is a new case manager for DAWNS, turn away of families fluctuates, 10 turned away last night, 3-4 turned away over the weekend, case managers are working with families to help them find places to stay when they are denied from shelter, families with infants under 3 months are prioritized, then look at families who were denied the night before, stabilize after the winter months, had 68 women in single women's shelter this winter, last night had 44 women come to shelter, very low staffed right now, looking to hire, please spread the word
4. Safe Haven: Liz is new Coordinator, Majorie will do more case management/crisis stabilization, 14 units of permanent housing, drop in shelter for people experiencing homelessness with mental health diagnosis, provide meals, shelters, can provide bus tickets, quieter location with higher staff to client ratio than the Beacon,
5. Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS): have had some internal structural changes and some changes to services coming up, prioritizing staff retention through development: have incorporated security staff into shelter staff, have added another lead advocate to offer more support during the overnights, will hire relief staff before actually needing them, applying for VOCA funds and looking at ways to expand case management to people using case management services, hope to help people find housing before they need shelter
6. Vegan Haven: looking to get property for a shelter, interested in the Truman Olson Site, want it to be a legal place for people to sleep outside, look to eventually build a shelter and bike racks, working on an appeal for a funding process that she didn't receive funding for, this is for a shelter on Jenifer Street for couples, looking to partner with other agencies, would have a 3 tier entrance assessment,
7. Healing House: looking to open mid-month in May, currently interviewing to hire 6-8 people, finalizing forms, getting furniture, The Road Home will do case management, hoping to do a dedication ceremony on May 4th, Operation Fresh Start is working on painting, the flooring will go in next week, already getting referrals, 8-10 beds,

8. Community Action Coalition: Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Rapid Resolution: essentially a shelter diversion program, looking to integrate into existing systems, need to develop a plan for Rapid Resolution, have some funding to provide training,

9. MMSD – TEP: Summer school enrollment is happening now, so make sure families complete the process

10. Dane County: J McCullum will come in August to talk about winter preparedness



**Shelter Providers Committee Minutes
Wednesday, August 7, 2019
9-10:30 AM
The Beacon**

Attendees: Tami Fleming, J McClellan, Brehan Gevelinger, Liz Duffy, Jael Curry, Casey Becker, Joel Girard, Ed Ruckreigel, Preston Patterson, Conner Dacey

1. Introductions

2. New Chair/Co-Chair

Joel Girard and Liz Duffie will co-chair the Committee going forward

3. Debrief on July's Power Outage and Planning for Winter Weather

Guests: J McClellan and Ed Ruckreigel

Debrief on Power Outage: Activated Emergency Operation Center around 8 AM, began planning for a 24 hour power outage, thinking about people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations (day cares, nursing homes, senior living, etc.), regular conference calls to ensure people are being taken care of, decided to set up a community shelter and provide free transportation, people were not evacuated because the hazard was contained to the property, there are sheltering plans/transportation plans/volunteer management plan, working on an Inclusionary Community Response Plan to consider the needs of people and especially vulnerable populations, work with the County on the EOC, plans are at the 5000 foot level not step by step plan, **need to consider how to get people back after the shelter closes**

The Beacon: **couldn't use their shuttle** to get their guests out because the road was blocked off, it was a few hours before they were able to use their shuttle, some guests couldn't walk, couldn't shelter in place due to building being completely dark inside (**Next time: call Emergency Operation Center or 911 in this situation, or grab a police officer or fire fighter**),

YWCA: getting some elderly folks to the library was hard, **needed transportation**, conference call and recap e-mails were really helpful

Friends of the State Street Family: would have been helpful to have **the information in writing** about Alliant Energy Center and how to get there

Dane County Emergency Management **Duty Officer:** (608)219-9797, can contact them when there is a situation

If transportation is ever a need during an emergency, please contact Madison Metro to see if they are able to help.

Excessive Weather: there is a plan for excessive heat and excessive cold, Plan focuses on building a communication network, J keeps a roster of people to communicate with when there is excessive weather events, will send e-mails and set up conference calls, hot and cold weather is fairly predictable so easier to start planning ahead

Items to consider: continuity of operations plans during weather/emergencies, need to have emergency plans in place, could be helpful to have after hour contacts for agencies

Will plan for an event to bring agencies together to talk about emergency plans and what should be included in plans.



Shelter Providers Committee

October 2, 2019

9-10:30 AM

The Beacon

Attendees: Torrie Kopp Mueller, Joel Girard, Sarah Lim, Madeleine Martino Fox, Katie Jaeger, Lynette Roscoe, Casey Yanta Keyera Garrett, Terri Johnson, Susan Schmitz, Jonathan Grieser, Liz Duffie, Alane Conn, Jael Currie, Stacy Williams, Rosa Rhoden

1. 2019 Shelter Study Group Summary Meeting Notes: Sarah Lim, see document

- Sarah reviewed the work of the Shelter Study Group
- Clarifying questions were asked and discussion of the content

2. The Salvation Army new building process

- new shelter and permanent housing component
- there has been great neighborhood opposition
- hoping to get federal tax credit to fund housing development costs
- has applied for funding through the City: staff made a recommendation for TSA to go through Urban Design Commission and Planning Commission before they will make a funding recommendation

3. Porchlight Men's Shelter

- came to Grace in the 80s on a temporary, one-year basis
- facility is inadequate so having conversations about a purpose built shelter
- Susan Schmitz is helping to gauge community interest in support
- will move to next stage of putting steering committee together to find out need and capacity of the community, will consist of people from private and public sector
- this report is key to our work as we move forward
- there are people in the private sector who are interested in this project
- members of steering committee will include elected officials representing the downtown area, will have someone from the City, Deputy Mayor Linda Vakunta, County Shawn Tessmann, private sector folks including downtown property owners, Casey Becker, representatives from Porchlight and Catholic Charities, committee should get together this month, will ask if anyone is missing from the table, include people with experience using the shelter

4. Thoughts on future meeting topics

- How to serve LGBTQ+ people in shelter? Staff and agency may be friendly, but other residents may have different views.
- opportunity to validate and normalize challenges of shelter
- Learn more about other shelters: Shelter from the Storm, Healing Housing, any new shelters that are starting
- Housing First vs. Housing Ready
- how can providers support each other through the difficult community processes
- rural homelessness in Dane County, are we helping other communities establish their own shelters

Next Meeting: December 4, 2019, 9 AM The Beacon

- Talk about rotating meeting locations to see other facilities
- info from Point in Time on why people weren't using shelter



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 5th 9am-10:30am at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 W Washington Ave, Madison WI 53703 (enter from courtyard on W. Washington)