

Task Force on Shelter Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2022; 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Meeting held via Zoom

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chair Julie Jeppson welcomed everyone and took roll call for the meeting.

Members Present: **Andrea Simonett**, Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS); **Ariana Daniel**, Servants of Shelter-International Falls; **David Hewitt**, Hennepin County; **Judy Moe**, Richfield Disability Advocacy Partnership; **Julie Jeppson**, Blaine City Council/Anoka Stepping Stones; **July Vang**, public member; **Kate Erickson**, Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC); **Laura Birnbaum**, St. Louis County; **Lauren Ryan**, Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS); **Mary Manning**, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH); **Mary Riegert**, Minnesota Tribal Collaborative; **Nancy Bokelmann**, City of Mankato; **Paul Williams**, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA); **Reed Olson**, Nameless Coalition-Bemidji; **Rinal Ray**, People Serving People-Minneapolis; **Ron Elwood**, Legal Services Advocacy Project; **Sam Juneau**, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT); **Sherry Shannon**, public member; **Tamara Stark**, Tubman; **Tyra Thomas**, Street Voices of Change

Guests Present: Kristina Krull and Stacy Sjogren (MMB); Cathy ten Broeke, Eric Grumdahl, Elizabeth Dressel and Sue Hite-Kirk, Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH); Rep. Heather Keeler **other guests?**

Note: Guests attending via YouTube livestream or on the phone were not identified.

Agenda review

2. Small orders of business

- **Welcome new member:**
 - **Nancy Bokelmann**, City of Mankato
- **Member resignations:**
 - **Sam Smith's** position representing an organization that advocates for people with disabilities has been vacated and has been posted with the Secretary of State's Office through March 9, 2022. Sam was on the logistics subgroup – Sam J. volunteered to take his place.
 - **Jonda Crum's** public member position has been vacated. Alternates from the recent submission of applicants for this public member position are being reviewed.
- **Approval of minutes:** Approved – no changes were made.
- **February legislative report:** This has been submitted to the legislature.
- **Extension of Task Force of Shelter completion date:** The legislators who sponsored the task force have received the request to extend the timeline and have drafted legislation that amends the completion date of the task force to December 15, 2022. Ron remains in contact with the legislators and will continue to provide updates.

3. Stakeholder engagement subgroup update

Recent efforts to engage stakeholders included: four listening sessions, two external groups' meetings, and input through online surveys. All feedback notes were shared with members, who were asked to review the notes and update their draft standards as appropriate.

Gift cards can now be given to people with lived experience to thank them for participating and providing feedback at stakeholder engagement events. Going forward we will advertise the provision of gift cards following Department of Administration and Minnesota Housing policies, as well as a process approved by the task force stakeholder engagement subgroup.

Questions/Comments

- Misunderstanding of gift card amount being \$20 vs \$40.
- People with lived experience shared that there has not been ADA compliance in many cases; this would need to be addressed in the standards for people with disabilities.

4. Reviewing draft standards

Small groups will continue to bring back draft standards to the large group. After all initial categories are reviewed, a holistic look will be done to see if anything is missing. When the task force is ready, standards will be shared with stakeholders. Additional engagement will be scheduled with the anticipation of more revisions, and then final task force approval.

Questions/Concerns:

- What do we mean by "standards" and how to ultimately support them?
- Kristina is working on oversight research; if anyone wants to help with this work, contact Kristina.
- How do we set standards and what would be the level of enforcing?
- Are we creating standards that then create state laws? Are we developing requirements or recommendations?
- It is difficult to understand the ultimate goal of the legislature with any recommendations that are made by the task force.

Following the format from the January meeting, each small group presented their standards with a poll to see if there were lingering comments. Members were encouraged to take notes to incorporate the feedback into their standards.

Standard: Placement requirements

- Discussion and consensus to merge these standards with Entering Shelter, but to develop subcategories
- This feels appropriate for technical information, where the entering shelter category is more about the experience

Standard: Entering shelter

- Poll: Most members chose *It's pretty close to what I want, but I'd like to see a few tweaks.*
- See above re: merging
- Feels supportive of cultures

Standard: Interpersonal treatment of residents

- Poll: Most members chose *It's pretty close to what I want, but I'd like to see a few tweaks.*
- *Trauma-informed and de-escalation: ...staff should have lived experience with homelessness...can be a very difficult standard to live up to given current (COVID) environment.*

Standard: Physical environment

- Poll: Most members chose *It's pretty close to what I want, but I'd like to see a few tweaks.*
- *Shelters must have information posted... Change "guests" to "potential guests;" watch for this in the entry category as well.*
- *Shelters must provide clean and healthy facilities.* Add language that guests should also have their own cleaning supplies.
- Important to put something more around bathrooms and showers that honors transgender and gender nonconforming guests.
- Add language to include changing tables for guests who have babies.

Standard: Displacement

- Poll: Most members chose *It's pretty close to what I want, but I'd like to see a few tweaks AND it's on the right path, but I'd like a fair amount of changes.*
- Clarification of standards will be noted for shelters serving youth.

5. Work time for developing standards

Members were assigned to breakout rooms and small groups continued to work on their standards.

6. Close out and next steps:

The meeting minutes will be posted on the website in a couple weeks. Kristina will email out the homework and deadlines to all members.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 21, 2022; 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.