

Task Force on Shelter Meeting Minutes
September 19, 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; **Jason Urbanczyk**, public member; **Jules Duvall**, public member ; **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 Riegert**, Minnesota Tribal Collaborative; **Melea Blanchard**, Catholic Charities; **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, Elizabeth Dressel, Celina Blanco-Ramirez and Sue Hite-Kirk, Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH); Josh Leopold (MDH)

Note: Guests attending via YouTube livestream were not identified

2. Small orders of business

- **Approval of Minutes:** There were no corrections made to the August meeting minutes.
- **MCH conference:** Jason, Kristina, and Julie will be at the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless conference September 29-30, with a Task Force on Shelter breakout session on Friday at 9:30a.m.
- **Get to know you:** To help you all get to know each other, Jules, Mary R. and Sherry were asked to share: “What’s something that’s brought you joy in the last week?”
- **Lived experience:** A poll was taken to see who had lived experience. Of the 19 members who responded, 11 have lived experience, which represents almost half the task force.
 - This is a really good piece of information to have, so thanks to Tamara for the suggestion. It’s a reminder for all of us that just because someone hasn’t publicly identified that way doesn’t mean they don’t have that experience, too.
- **Stakeholder engagement update**
 - Feedback will be collected through September 23.

- Feedback notes will be provided by the end of the month.
- Members were encouraged to get their small groups together in early October to go through public feedback and bring back revisions to the October meeting.
- **Equity analysis update:** Sam provided an update on the equity lens analysis.
Questions/Comments: None
- **Other:**
 - Reminder for everyone to take care of yourself and surround yourself with the supports you need

3. Tribal nation sovereignty and shelters

Levi Brown, Director of Tribal Affairs for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, presented at the meeting. He's a citizen of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and has worked in state and tribal government. He suggested reaching out to tribal shelters to at least engage them in the conversation; Levi offered to assist with this. Task Force members attended a meeting of the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative, whose members expressed they would want to be exempt from any standards. Levi will provide Sam with language to refer to as recommendations are submitted to the legislature.

Although the state can't impose standards and oversight on the tribes, the state also has a history of forgetting about tribal sovereignty. Mary Riegert requested the task force propose to the legislature that tribal-run shelters be exempt from standards and oversight, even if they receive state funding. This proposal would be an acknowledgment **in writing** to the state's tribal partners of their sovereignty, and a reminder to the legislature. Roll call vote: Ayes=17; Nays=0; Abstain=1 (Absent=5; Vacancy=1).

4. Discussion and recommendations on how to use standards

PART 1 - The Task Force discussed who recommendations will apply to by considering the following:

- Is what you've developed going to be best practices (suggestions) for shelters, or will they be standards that at least some shelters will be required to meet?

Consensus poll: 11% Love it; 26% Sounds good; 16% I'm ok with it; 37% I could be convinced, but I have reservations; 11% I see major issues we need to discuss

Proposed language: The drafted standards will be enforced as standards for at least some of the shelters; they will not just be best practices (suggestions). Standards would be phased in/there would be a future date for them to take effect. There would need to be technical assistance provided to shelters to transition to following standards. The state would **need** to provide financial resources if it's going to impose standards.

Decision was made to hold on vote of language until the October meeting so that more discussion can be had.

PART 2 - This agenda item will be postponed until the October meeting due to time constraints.

The Task Force further discussed the following question:

- If there are some shelters that will have to follow the standards, which shelters are those?

5. **Close Out and Next Steps:** The minutes from today will be posted on the website in a couple weeks. The Zoom chat file will be saved appropriately to the files. Kristina will email out the homework and deadlines to all members.

Next Meeting: October 17, 2022, from 1:30-3:30p.m.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:32p.m.