

Task Force on Shelter Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2022; 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Meeting held via Zoom

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; **Judy Moe**, Richfield Disability Advocacy Partnership; **Jules Duvall**, member of the public, **Julie Jeppson**, Blaine City Council/Anoka Stepping Stones; **July Vang**, public member; **Kate Erickson**, Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC); **Laura Birnbaum**, St. Louis County; **Mary Manning**, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH); **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: Mongkol Teng and Stacy Sjogren (MMB); Eric Grumdahl, Elizabeth Dressel and Sue Hite-Kirk, Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH); Senator Lindsey Port

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

Agenda Review – no questions or comments

Small Orders of Business

- Senator Port joined the meeting and extended her thanks to Task Force members for their commitment to this work. The Senator also confirmed that the request for an extension was included in the Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill. The Task Force on Shelter now has until December 15 to meet and submit its final report.
- Minutes of the May 2022 meeting, as circulated and stand approved.
- Membership update:
 - Amy Midthus, a public member with lived experience, removed herself from the Task Force.
 - Jules Duvall, a public member with lived experience, has filled this position.
- Given the third Monday of December is the 19th, **after** the extension date. David moved that the December meeting be held the second Monday, which is December 12. The motion was seconded by Nancy. Ayes=19; Nays=0; Abstain=0

- Judy Moe was provided the opportunity to share the following general observations:
 - Both Kim Paarlberg, a staff architect in technical services at the International Code Council, and Rex Pace, a senior advisor for accessible design for the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have indicated that the Fair Housing Act (FHA) applies to shelters. This was brought up in the past because the FHA has more extensive requirements for accessibility than just the ADA. Contact Judy if you would like more information about this.
 - Regarding earlier Task Force discussions about whether we should put together standards we think the legislature would pass or what we think best reflect actual needs, her subsequent conversations led her to recommend the later. Reed offered his support of that recommendation.

Stakeholder engagement update

Stakeholder feedback will happen throughout July by three different methods:

- An online feedback form
- Ten virtual, facilitated feedback sessions
 - General public (July 19 and 23)
 - MN Tribal Collaborative (July 20)
 - State agency administrators (July 21)
 - Front line shelter workers (July 12, 13, 20)
 - Shelter administrators (July 11, 12, 13)
- Self-guided community conversations

Questions/Comments

Some may recall that task force members were encouraged to participate in the virtual facilitated conversations with stakeholder in January. The purpose of stakeholder feedback opportunities in *July* is to collect as much specific feedback as possible on the 10 draft standards and oversight suggestions rather than engage in dialogue between the members and stakeholders. With this in mind, Task Force members are welcome to attend facilitated virtual sessions to observe only. Please let Stacy know what session you would like to attend. Members also have the opportunity to engage with the community by offering to facilitate as many community conversations as they desire.

Reviewing draft standards

Kate and Laura suggested a preamble or introduction be included for each standard that needs some explanation or context-setting in our final report. The members informally agreed but not vote was taken at this time.

Standards ready for public comment include:

- Accessibility
- Length of stay
- Interpersonal treatment

- Physical environment
 - Grievance
 - Displacement

Standards for final review at the meeting:

- **Gender Identity Equity**
 - Discussion of reference to *consequences* and who it addresses
 - Need to address when harassment is done by staff
 - Poll: mostly perfect/pretty close; a few wanting changes/uncomfortable
Consensus to use this draft at stakeholder engagement sessions
- **Financial policies for residents**
 - This essentially disqualifies Housing Support as a potential source of funding, in its existing traditional form
 - Savings should not be counted as financial support
 - Discussion re lack of other financial support; further review of how this policy will work when using Housing Supports
 - Poll: mostly perfect/pretty close; a few wanting changes/uncomfortable
Consensus to use this draft at stakeholder engagement sessions
- **Records Privacy**
 - Clarify file retention that mentions that unless state or federal laws for requires other standards for file retention
 - Release of Information is needed for many reasons which can be a hinderance
 - Poll: mostly perfect/pretty close; a few wanting changes/uncomfortable
Consensus to use this draft at stakeholder engagement sessions
- **Resident privacy: Personal Privacy**
 - Poll: mostly perfect/pretty close; a few wanting changes/uncomfortable
Consensus to use revised version of this draft at stakeholder engagement sessions

Oversight Discussion

Responses to the following questions were captured using Padlet

- Most importantly, what do you need to know from stakeholders about oversight that will move the Task Force closer to a final recommendation?
- What are your group's values about what should happen if a shelter isn't meeting those standards?
- Post one-two sentences that state your group's definition of "oversight". Think dream state – not current reality.

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. Mongkol will email out the homework and deadlines to all members.

Next Meeting: July 18, 2022, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.