

Task Force on Shelter Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 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; **John Bradley**, Freedom from the Streets; **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; **Melea Blanchard**, Catholic Charities; **Nancy Bokelmann**, City of Mankato; **Reed Olson**, Nameless Coalition-Bemidji; **Rinal Ray**, People Serving People-Minneapolis; **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)

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

**Agenda Review**

**Questions/Comments**

- Some shelters are closing– do we need to establish a standard for this?
- Kristina will email members about potentially moving forward with adding this as a standard and asking for subgroup volunteers

**2. Small orders of business**

- Approval of minutes by consensus
- New Members:
  - **John Bradley**, Freedom from the Streets
- Legislative request for extension update
  - This does have bipartisan support; however, nothing final decided at this point
- Task Force on Shelter new website: <https://mich.mn.gov/task-force-shelter>
- Kristina will be on vacation in June and July; will miss the June meeting
  - Stacy and Mongkol will oversee during Kristina's time away

**3. Stakeholder engagement plan**

- **Method 1 - Virtual facilitated sessions targeting shelters:** What are the three best times in a day for front-line staff to have the ability to participate in this kind of virtual session?

**Questions/Comments**

- Jason will reach out to front-line staff in his area and report back to Stacy
- Not on Mondays
- Make sure there is an opportunity for every shift
- Metro area – not during a meal or shift change
- Fridays might work better
- During weekly provider meeting

- Virtual facilitated sessions targeting general public – particularly those with lived experience:** What are the best times of day for general public sessions targeting those with lived experience?

**Questions/Comments**

- Tuesday evening seems reasonable
- Evening weekday and then also a Saturday morning
- Can these coincide with other on-going public community sessions that we know are already happening; connect where are they are naturally already meeting
- Those with lived experience would have challenges in the evening as they are generally settling into shelters

- **Method 2 - Conversation in a Box:** Is it important to hear specifically from people sheltered through motel/hotel vouchers? Is so, how can we reach those people?

**Questions/Comments**

- Yes
- Go to motels/hotels
- Engage former residents of motels/hotels
- Some have chronic homelessness and would have valuable feedback for us
- Connect with those who are issuing the vouchers

- **Method 3 – Online comment form and other methods**

**Questions/Comments**

- None

Email Stacy if further comments need to be submitted for any of the methods.

#### 4. Reviewing draft standards

- **Length of stay**
  - This works if shelters have the programs to help people; if they don't have access to services this will not work

- Draft language specifically includes language about “resolution”; however, perhaps draft language needs to be further modified
- Case managers should have access to services. After two weeks of an individual being in a shelter, services should be provided
- Connect individuals with case workers much earlier in the process
- Poll: all responses “it’s perfect” and “it’s pretty close”
- **Accessibility**
  - How can we put anything in the oversight structure if we do not know what that oversight structure is?
  - Draft language is meant to be suggestions as shelters structures are so varied
  - Shelters generally know what they need
  - Intent is to provide information and have this be less than a technical mandate
  - Articulate better the baseline of accessibility
  - Poll: most responses “it’s perfect” and “it’s pretty close”

**5. Oversight in other states and options for Minnesota**

**Questions/Comments – other states**

- Within the states listed, how are complaints filed?
- What is being done for non-compliance?
- How do they determine jurisdiction?
- Unannounced visits – who oversees?

**Questions/Comments – options for Minnesota**

- What does Minnesota currently do regarding non-compliance?
- Make sure we are not creating new regulatory unit if this work is already being done
- What is the enforcement lever if complaint-based for facilities are not receiving public funds?
- Ombudsman approach
- Where do rotating church shelters fit in?

**6. 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:** June 13, 2022; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:30