

Task Force on Shelter Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2021
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 Resources (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); **Kristin Frye**, Freedom from the Streets; 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; **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 Smith**, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); **Tamara Stark**, Tubman; **Tyra Thomas**, Street Voices of Change.

Guests Present: Kristina Krull (MAD); Eric Grumdahl, Elizabeth Dressel and Sue Hite-Kirk, Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH)

Note: Guests attending via YouTube livestream were not identified

Agenda Review

1. Small orders of business

New member introduction: Mary Manning, Minnesota Department of Health representative

Two positions, a public member who has experienced homelessness and resided in a shelter, and a city representative from Greater MN, are currently posted on the Secretary of State site – open through 12/27. Please encourage eligible people to apply.

Corrections to the minute: Judy Moe - organization name is Richfield Disability Advocacy Partnership.

Update on the February report was provided by Kristina Krull. Members were asked to provide feedback by end of day on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Members will have an opportunity to review final draft in January.

Questions/comments:

Who is responsible to request a legislative extension of this task force beyond August 2022? Sam Smith volunteered to help figure out who that would be.

2. Stakeholder engagement subgroup update

The subgroup met in December and discussed listening sessions in the short-term for people with lived experience and providers, plus attending other groups' meetings. Kristina is coming up with a more detailed plan. The sub-group will meet again next month to further develop the next steps. The plan is do some engagement now and some later on.

If you know of groups or stakeholders we should invite or who could help pass on the invite, please send that to Kristina by email or respond to her homework assignment which will be sent out after the meeting.

3. Existing standards for shelters in Minnesota

There's a lot of information in the Google doc about current standards. Tamara presented on the standards for shelters serving minors and DV shelters, and what that experience has been for shelters. A summary document was shared with members.

Questions/Comments:

- We could engage the DOC licensing unit - Kate thinks what they hear is similar to what's in this document. How do we move that dial and get to a better place?
- Concern expressed about intensive assessments as we look at these standards.
- Concern of finger printing being a burden once reinstated.
- Concern of appeal process.
- What's good for youth is good for everyone – there is opportunity to be collaboratively supportive in an intentional way.
- Current positives of licensing challenging to see as it is hard to determine what is really needed. Lack of equity lens contributes to disparity.
- Originally the licensing was developed for young children.
- Emerging needs – variances are built in.
- Mindfulness needed for unintended consequences along with clear focus of the Task Force's goals.
- Who is exempt and why?
- Explore the difference between licensing and standards.
- Shelter Bill of Rights.

4. Developing standards for the provision of shelter

This group has been charged with “developing standards for the provision of shelter. A brief conversation was had about who we are developing standards for. There are already standards and a license for shelters serving minors. There are some rules for DV shelters receiving OJP funds.

Question/Comments:

Can the group agree that in the short-term, we'll develop standards for broad non-DV shelters serving single adults?

- Include families
- Youth age defined as under 25 years
- Can standards be kept broad to include all demographic?

Poll via chat: Start by developing standards without narrowing down based on demographics.

What do you understand “standards” to mean?

Determined what is meant by standards to narrow down where to start. In between meetings, smaller groups will start developing language. Kristina shared examples of 11 standard categories. Members used a poll to prioritize categories as a starting point in developing standards.

Poll: The highest-prioritized categories for standards, starting with the most prioritized category, were:

- Interpersonal treatment of residents
- Entering shelter
- Separation from shelter
- Physical environment
- Placement requirements

Next step: Members will break into small groups to start working on developing standards between meetings. Kristina will send out small group assignments via email after the meeting to include instructions and deadline. Standards developed will be discussed at the January meeting.

- 5. Close out:** 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.

Next meeting: Our next meeting is January 10, 2022. We will be meeting a week early because of MLK Day on our regular meeting date.

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