

Coordinating Committee Minutes

10/25/19

- Welcome and Introductions
- Severe weather shelter discussion
 - Jeffco Severe Weather Shelter network - <https://swshelternetwork.com/>
 - Difficult when folks call from Aurora
 - 9 partner churches
 - 3 Arvada, 3 Lakewood, 3 Littleton
 - Capacity of 35 guests, staffed by volunteers
 - Referral points from The Action center, Jeffco human services, the Rising, Community Table, Giving Heart, Mean Street Ministries.
 - Only screening is a violent offense against another person in the last year
 - Must call in to get their name on the list, due to capacity
 - Once they reach capacity, hope there are motel voucher
 - Hot meal, clean bedroll, guests are asked to lock up their stuff for their night
 - Safety protocol for volunteers as well, locking up knives and alcohol bottles
 - Promised to bus in and bus out
 - Guests need to be out by 7am
 - Nowhere to go in Jefferson County
 - Started allowing people to walk out of the shelter sites due to lack of morning drivers, with a bus ticket
 - Will have to start paying full price for RTD tickets due to new protocols which has been a strain on the budget
 - Several locations do not have people to do overnight hosting
 - Spirit of Hope desperate, desperate for volunteers
 - Food prep, 5 team leads, 10 overnight hosts
 - Fire and safety code concerns
 - Englewood has their own fire marshal who is hesitant to allow sheltering in churches
 - If someone walks up, they will be given a breakdown of the shelter protocol at the warming site
 - Try not to turn anybody away, but space is limited
 - Call number for weekend or evenings (add number from Jeffco slide)
 - Police department can bring someone to SWSN
 - In 2018/19: 139 of 185 motel vouchers went to singles, mostly because of dogs

- Evergreen shelter program at ECHO opens up at 32 or below and accepts dogs, essentially open all winter
- Aurora day resource
 - In 2018/19: 35 nights activated, 3000 people, about 130 average
 - 160 max per night
 - Take pets, take couples, very low barrier
 - Started a text program to communicate if they are activated
 - Staffing
 - 4 care navigators Sun-Wed, Wed overlap, then Wed-Sat
 - Denver police drop people off that are 86'd from Denver
 - Creates a more volatile space
 - No crosscheck with Denver partners about status, but possible
 - Aurora warms the night's main vouchering motel shut down this Monday, trying to find a new partner motel
 - Activation based off of temperature and precipitation
- Boulder
 - Several different programs
 - Unaccompanied Youth – go through Attention home's 25 beds, overflow referred to the adult
 - Families –motel voucher system through EFAA
 - Boulder police administrate the EFAA vouchers
 - Program requirements, Can meet with a CM to receive an extension of 3-5 nights
 - 260 beds for individuals as part of standard coordinated entry for shelter
 - 100 beds reserved for those involved in case management
 - 160 reserved as bridge until they can obtain housing
 - Open 160 nights, probably about 2800 individuals
 - 38 wet, 32 dry
 - Hospitals donated 2000 pairs of boots
 - For emergency cold weather, approx. 70 beds: shelter 18+, will only take registered service animals, no consumption of drugs and alcohol on the premises, but fairly low barrier = no paperwork, no intake, search bags and hold knives over night
 - Mats on the floor, have a few cots that are reserved for those that cannot get up and off the floor
 - Police will engage with only a statement of need to get access to vouchers

- Denver - www.denvergov.org/emergencysHELTER
 - Not a lot of additional beds that get turned on during severe weather
 - Urban Peak and Delores Project each have 10 additional beds that get opened during the winter months
 - Safekeep program with the Denver animal shelter
 - Keeps an animal for a couple of weeks so that owners could pursue lifesaving shelter
 - Crossroads has limited kennels
 - IF someone walks up to the Lawrence shelter, they can receive shelter at Denver Rescue Mission or get bussed out to another shelter
 - Women are generally bussed out to the Smith Road shelter
 - Through the St. Francis center they can access the Women's Homeless initiative to stay at churches
 - Delores project has a call in system to reserve beds
 - Samaritan House Family Shelter, 3rd Floor
 - Opening up early November with 25 renovated rooms!
 - New call in process and prioritizing need – instead of previous lottery
 - Families can access motel vouchers 5-8pm, 7 days a week at Sam House
 - 14 nights a year for a family
 - After these are expended, they can access a courtesy night to give them some stability before being approached and worked with to find more permanent solutions
 - Severe weather activated Anytime the weather is below 40 degrees, will allow day by day extensions past 14 days at that time
 - Arapahoe
 - HAAT Force - Homeless Awareness Activation Taskforce has a small motel voucher program for families, disabled individuals
 - Utilizes the same criteria as the Severe Weather Shelter Network
 - Super small and is always looking for funding
 - Adams
 - Working on creating a response as nothing is in place outside of Cold Weather Care program shelter open only during winter months – additional beds for community in church sheltering
 - Assessing locations that could host
 - Exploring options
 - Talking about expanding Cold Weather Care's programming
 - Wanting to create a lower barrier option for people
- Discussion –

- Need advocacy as a continuum to create year round solutions for people during these cold weather months,
- Have a short workgroup to create something to clearly communicate gaps to give MDHI and others guidance on what those are to support advocacy and messaging around the need
- Will send out meeting scheduler for this
- Agency Updates
 - Jackie – MDHI does have a [Flex Fund](#) to help with one-time financial assistance to remove barriers to entry into a housing solution (deposits, moving costs) or landlord mitigation (damages and arrears). Served over 100 clients this year. Depending on funding there may be changes to programming with the Fund.
 - CCH Vigil for those that have died December 21st
 - November is National Runaway youth month
 - DHOL just finished their 100 days of action, met with all the city council members, only one has meet with their homeless constituents. One piece of feedback was that some areas do not have outreach workers regularly and to help support those efforts.
 - Project homeless connect happened.
 - 1600 guests came through in spite of the cold weather and the shelter activations.
 - Highest numbers ever!
 - 286 job offers made on the spot
 - 750 volunteers who came to help
 - Thanks to all those who came and those that got the word out to their clients as the magnitude of need is overwhelming.
 - City of Thornton will release NOFA to nonprofits for human services, each org generally gets \$3000-\$4000 a piece
- Adam Lyons (City of Thornton), Angie Nelson (City of Denver), Ashley Dunn (Almost Home), Ben Dunning (Denver Homeless Out Loud), Cameron Shropshire (Stride Community Health Centers), Diane Howald (MDHI), Kathy Mulloy (Salvation Army), Kristen Baluyot (Salvation Army), Lara Adamson (Catholic Charities), Lauren Lapinski (Veterans Administration), Linda Barringer, LynnAnn Huizirgh (Severe Weather Shelter Network), Mikah Wagner (MDHI Vista), Randle Loeb, Sam Olson (Adams County), Shelly Hines (Jewish Family Services), Sue Gilman (Bayaud), Susan Vaho (Mile High Behavioral Healthcare), Tom Luehrs (St.Francis Center), Bill Sweeney (Boulder Bridge House)