

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

## Hennepin CES Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes

### Important Updates

- In three months, they have authorized 52 families into shelters. They successfully bid on 75 families and moved 25 families into permanent housing from the shelter. Move-outs are at 46 in the second quarter of this year.
- There has been a collaboration between Ramsey, Dakota, and Hennepin Counties to create a metro county group to discuss the different issues surrounding shelters in each county and what each group is doing to resolve said issues.
- They are currently addressing the verification issue; some examples include verifying if the child is someone's child by obtaining information on whether that person has submitted a Birth Certificate or ID information in the CSD stating that said child is their son/daughter.
- Two main reasons for denials are "out of county" and "has a place to stay."
- On July 28<sup>th</sup>, Hennepin County was sheltering 128 families compared to last year, 38, and there were no 128 rooms available to shelter all the families. Currently, the Drake Hotel is overflowed, and St. Ann's is renovating their building, so they are presently located at La Quinta Inn at Minnetonka on the third floor.
- There are currently around 50 families staying at hotels; around 9 are new families, meaning that the shelters are currently full and there is no space; as soon as a room opens, these families will be placed in a shelter. The total family, Hennepin County, has placed over at overflowed hotels is 50 as of May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Currently, they have ten rooms reserved at Best Western, and by Sunday night, they were down to 3, so they are considering booking more rooms, and once a place opens at St. Ann's or PSP, they will move the families from hotels to shelters.
- Dakota County has 46 families on the waitlist, and Ramsey has 26. While they are waiting, the families get put in a diversion program to see if they can find housing using other methods.
- The county advises families to inform their children's school if they are moving temporarily or are in a shelter.
- The county also ensures the families have all the necessary credentials to find a home, such as ID, Birth Certificates, Social Security, etc.
- It was discussed that there would be communication between parties to discuss and set up future transportation for families that will be coming to the hotels/shelters in the next few months, so the teams will be more proactive in getting that set up.
- From Casey and the Family Service Network, they have created a Coordinated Community Plan to prevent and end family homelessness effectively. This CCP consists of a mission and vision that ensures that all stakeholders are part of the conversation. Furthermore, they looked at quantitative data from different areas last month. She is currently working on a document detailing her recommendations for the next steps for the FSN.

- There will be some funding coming into Hennepin County. It will be called Local Government prevention aid. This will be an annual aid of 5,000,000.00 million dollars starting in 2023 and culminating in 2028, and there will be an FTE team to oversee these funds. Casey mentioned that the county had carved out some dollars from federal areas in the last year to create a "system-wide shelter diversion." They released a request for proposal in the spring of this year in hopes of bringing a provider that will take on a shelter diversion for families, singles, and youth, the provider, should be entering the system late this fall.
- In terms of the Foster Youth Independence program, or FYI, the County was able to secure 100 vouchers this year. These vouchers are for young people that have had foster care experience after the age of 14; whether it was single youth or youth with kids 18 to 24, they are eligible for these vouchers if they are homeless or are at risk.
- Starting October first, the county will serve at least 50 youth with a voucher.
- The CES assessment eligibility related to income was discussed (see slides)

## Single Adult Meeting Updates

- The Coordinated Entry team spoke about prioritization and how it occurs in the COC within Hennepin County. They stated that the system currently prioritizes people aged 18 to 24, but they need to change that and be more inclusive, especially toward chronically homeless people.
- The speakers presented current data on the priority list as of July 19, 2022. There are currently 767 individuals on the list, and out of those 612 reported having a disability which makes up about 80%; 530 (69%) said being chronically homeless and 558 (73%) reported having a mental health condition. (See slides for more information)
- On the family side, there were 181 families on the priority list and there are currently 24 families in shelters. (See slides for more information)
- Coc's current entry system prioritizes households with the most extended history of experiencing chronic homelessness, and they use a questionnaire to determine the highest acuity level. (See the presentation for said questions)
- They spoke about the two parts needed to make a referral: the priority list and the homeless dedicated housing staff.
- The CE team stated that the number of vacancies reported and referrals have increased by a third. In 2020 there were around 1665 referrals; between 2021 and 2022, it grew to 2300 in contrast with family referrals which decreased to about 20 to 25. (See slides for more details)
- Concerning medical fragility, it currently is an ongoing talk between different entities of the government; it now does not have a set definition, but they put up an example of it, which mainly entails chronic health conditions, and it also refers to the need for housing and how these people can improve their health if they have the adequate means of living. Within this context, the Coordinating entry team wants to implement medical rigidity into the current entry system. They are conversing with several experts on the subject to open this venue into the entry system. (More to come on that, see the presentation for more details or contact Susanna or Tracy)
- The provided more information, in 2021, there was a success rate of 44%, but during the first half of 2022, the referral rate is down to 42% note that much of the decrease

happened within the family system and the singles system increased by 1%. (See slide for more information)

- The total current numbers for the entry system are 69% singles, 13 % families, 15% single youth, and 3% young families, with the majority being Black/African American.

## Single and Youth Important Updates

- There is a new clinic at the endeavor building in collaboration with Catholic Charities, and it includes 30 new beds in respite programs. There is a third-tier opening to community referrals, but they are currently working on hospital admissions.
- Youthlink has a new housing director named Kevin Knight.
- From Beacon interfaith, several renovations are being done to their buildings, and they will be adding between 20 to 40 units depending on the property.
- From Agates got a new Executive Director, which started Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- From Harbor Light, besides hiring, they are renovating the second and third floors of their facilities.
- Claire Housing is opening a new building.
- From Adult Shelter connect, they are ending their diversion program on August 31<sup>st</sup>, opening a new building at 160 Glenwood Ave, and starting a new shelter program soon.
- Rainbow Health they have received some funding from DHS, and they will hire a consultant for their coalition program, which is open to anyone.
- From Hennepin County, they are wrapping up the 24/7 shelter RFP. Furthermore, they are currently working on a system-wide diversion, which is now underwork. On Streets to Housing, Erin Wixsten is moving forward with her work in the street outreach and case management, and they will be up and running soon, they currently have 3 team members, but by mid-august, there will be five doing outreach work. On another note, a youth navigator team will start soon, funded by the youth homeless demonstration project. It will consist of four navigators and one supervisor, focusing on youth between 18 to 25 years old.
- The membership matrix was discussed, including the need for a domestic violence representative, housing case manager, lived experience expert, and experts on the BIPOC community. (see slides/presentation)

**Note: Sussana, Tracy to send PowerPoints on the presentation.**