



Coalition of Service Providers for the Homeless
--A Continuum of Care and Homeless Task Force
Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 10:00am-11:00am

Meeting Summary

Severe Weather Shelter Update, [Melissa Baker](#), Council for the Homeless

As of Nov 1, we officially entered into WHO season, which means our community offers expanded shelter capacity along with Covid Procedures in place.**

Year Round Shelter Bed Capacity:

Shelter Bed Capacity and Populations Served Apr 1 – end of Oct is typically 145 beds. However, since Covid began there some distancing restrictions exist that have reduced the number of available beds, putting that number approx. at 108.

- St. Paul's (now a year round shelter) = 25 men
- Share House (30 men)
- Family: Orchards and Homestead (35 beds for family members or single women)
- WHAT = 18 (high vulnerability single women)

Winter Shelter Bed Capacity: Additional Capacity is approx. 75-100 beds

- WHO: St. Andrew = (35 beds for couples, families, single women)
- Share House Overflow = (additional beds for men)
- SOS: Faith Partners, Immanuel Lutheran and Beautiful Savior Lutheran = (additional beds for families; on a rotational schedule beginning in December)
- Washougal Community Center: They have their own weather system so they respond in their own way and keep in communication.
- Living Hope / Live Love Center: = (serves all demographics; walk in)

Refer people to the Housing Hotline for access to shelter beds: 360-695-9677*.

(*Except for access to Living Hope Church who has various bed capacity and doesn't go through the Hotline.)

**Melissa will be providing a one-pager of specified process for folks regarding assessing for Covid-19 thru the hotline.

Forensic Harps: [Misty Pelagalli](#), Program Manager, Columbia River Mental Health

- Both HARPS programs (standard and forensic) were a result of a legislative outcome settlement in the Trueblood case. (The main issue of the case was people in jail who may not have been competent to stand trial were waiting for their trials for far too long – in some cases beyond what their sentence might have been.) The state was, thereby, held in contempt of court and mandated to correct the issue.
- Forensic Harps rolled out in Clark County in March 2020 out a year after standard Harps. F Harps program provides a voucher for folks and has up to 6 months and \$7200 per individual to get them into a place and build a clear plan.
- The program focuses on delivering housing services through Peer Support with this program. Success is reached when folks come out of jail and do not return to the streets but instead move directly from a crisis bed or jail right into a hotel or shelter or safe housing where the intake and assessment process can begin and a plan can be put in place.
- F Harps has done very well, establishing relationships through landlord contacts, coordinating with Clean Streets and Oxford Housing and Lifeline, and building the list of housing opportunities. The program has served 68 individuals and placed 26 of those folks in long-term housing.
- Assistance also includes helping people get on the SOAR program or on SS and providing case management for employment services – so they are able to obtain jobs in addition to housing. They also provide some retention services, connecting participants with resources for support to stay in place.

The difference between Forensic Harps and Standard Harps is that Forensic HARPS cannot take referrals from other agencies. Clients must come from the Trueblood list kept by the State. F HARPS cannot access the list.

Clark County Covid Update. [David Hudson](#) Healthy Communities Program Manager at Clark County (David is the homeless community and faith based organization liaison for Clark County's COVID response).

- We are seeing a surge of cases. Total 6500 cases and more than 2000 in the last four weeks.
- We are going to make some big changes.
- Former:
 - We have been contacting people who are positive and asking them to isolate and calling them daily. A
 - Talking to them about who they have had close contact with. And reaching out to those people as well.
- Now,
 - We are still reaching out to those who are positive.
 - And then implement a text message system, reminding them to isolate for the 10 days.
 - And not reaching out to people who have an exposure. Instead asking them to do the outreach themselves. They will receive a flyer to explain how to do that. Quarantine period is 14 days.

They are still communicating exposures that exist from events and facilities.

Good news right now:

- PPE supplies are good.
- Hospitals are not overwhelmed.
- Testing is good.

Small Group Breakout Discussions Regarding COVID and Report Backs: [Laura Ellsworth](#), Council for the Homeless

Experiences of people on the streets:

- Due to Covid significant changes, including reduced capacity for beds. Not as easy to self-resolve if families are not taking folks in during Covid.
- People don't have buildings to go into to get warm or to use the restrooms. And they need Wifi. Transportation has changed for which the need is for bus passes and Uber rides.
- Increase in mental health need.
- Access to resources because we cannot give rides.
- Need for places to go for hygiene – hand washing stations,
- More shelter spaces because of decreased openings – no movement within the system.

Specific needs you see:

- Increase in financial system.
- Speculation on reduced capacity to increase housing.
- Need for more financial assistance. Fortunate to get grants for PPE – and supplies for each household so they don't need to share.

What information we can take back to Elected Officials?

- More financial assistance and housing options.
- These people have nowhere to go. What about school gyms?
- Organizations need more flexibility as to how they can spend their money.
- Land lord support – for their willingness to work with residents.

Upcoming: **Project Homeless Connect/PIT Count – normal time is end of January. Planning is happening around HUD recommendations**

[CFTH Resource Guide & Spanish Resource Guide](#)
[CFTH COVID-19 Web Page](#)

Next Coalition Meeting: January 13, 2021, from 10:00am-11:30am

The Coalition meets on the 2nd Wed, bi-monthly for planning to prevent and end homelessness in Clark County.

General Contact or Accessibility Needs: Council for the Homeless (360) 993-9561 or bschallberger@councilforthehomeless.org

For more information on the Coalition, visit www.councilforthehomeless.org and click on Agency Resources.