

Common Council Executive Committee

May 14, 2020

Homeless Services - Short Term Response

- ▶ Removed families from Salvation Army shelter to allow more space for single women
- ▶ Identified and moved higher risk persons (60+, underlying health conditions or pregnant) into safer quarters
- ▶ Set up new overnight shelter space for single men to allow for social distancing
- ▶ Established separate accommodations for homeless persons exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19
- ▶ Issued Executive Order #2 - Supporting safe outdoor space for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness

Number Served as of 05/14/20

7 hotels are under contract with Dane County.

Families Served in Hotels

- 59 families at 2 hotels
- About 200 people

Higher Risk Individuals

- 210 individuals referred to hotels
- 181 currently in hotels
- 50 people on referral list

COVID-19 Medical Respite Center

- 72 people have used facility
- Recent census has been in single digits

Congregate Shelter Settings

- 80 single men on average at Warner Park (overnight only)
- 40 single women at Salvation Army (24-hour shelter)

Summary of Services Provided at Hotels

- ▶ Salvation Army provides case management for families
- ▶ 24/7 staffing on site by Focus Counseling
- ▶ Housing navigation services by Focus Counseling
- ▶ 3 meals daily (Breakfast and Dinner only at Single Men's Shelter)
- ▶ On-site security
- ▶ Nurses on site at Medical Respite Center 12 hours per day
- ▶ Tele-case management by Focus Counseling at Medical Respite Center

Impacts- Budget, Staffing, Community

- ▶ Approximate monthly cost for hotel lodging, support staff, meals (including Warner Park) and security is \$1.5 million - financed primarily by Dane County (CARES Act).
- ▶ City has borne costs to set up Warner Park, manage intake at hotels, provide Metro service to hotels and men's shelter and provide PPE equipment to shelter and outreach staff.
- ▶ Portable toilets and handwashing stations have been installed to support unsheltered homeless in downtown
- ▶ The Salvation Army currently serving 2x its normal family caseload.
- ▶ The Beacon homeless day shelter continues to operate as normal.
- ▶ Warner Park Community Center will be offline until new site identified for men's shelter.

Safe Outdoor Spaces

- ▶ Center for Disease Control (CDC) has advised against disrupting encampments during community spread of COVID-19.
- ▶ Designation of Temporary Permissible Encampment (TPE) may be obtained.
 - ▶ Site is located at least 500 feet from residential property;
 - ▶ Site not in a flood plan or other low lying area susceptible to flooding, or otherwise deemed unsafe;
 - ▶ Is accessible via public property or right of way;
 - ▶ Accessible for delivery and servicing of portable toilets, hand washing stations and trash containers;
 - ▶ Usable area is sufficient to practice recommend social distancing;
 - ▶ Presence will not prevent, disrupt or interfere with the intended public use of space;
 - ▶ Will not prevent normal maintenance or upkeep of site/or its facilities;
 - ▶ Site not located in environmentally sensitive area.

Temporary Services at TPE Sites

- ▶ Portable toilets and hand washing stations at authorized encampments where people lack access to restroom facilities.
- ▶ Trash containers and collection.
- ▶ Regular visits by outreach workers to facilitate referrals to housing or shelter, provisions of wellness checks, dissemination of COVID-19 educational materials and distribution of basic supplies and hygiene kits.

Homeless Services- Intermediate Plans

- ▶ Prepare to meet ongoing needs for safe emergency shelter.
 - ▶ Identify new site(s) to serve single men upon closure of the temporary operations at Warner Park Community Center.
 - ▶ Continue to engage with hotels to secure accommodations for families and those at higher risk.
 - ▶ Extend contracts to ensure COVID-19 Medical Respite Center for homeless individuals is available until vaccine is developed.
- ▶ Expand services to secure permanent housing solutions
 - ▶ Target housing navigation and supportive services to individuals in hotels.
 - ▶ Expand Rapid Rehousing programs.
 - ▶ Cultivate more relationships with landlords willing to partner with supportive housing programs.

Homeless Services- Long Term Plans

- ▶ Pursue goals of building permanent purpose-built shelter facilities
- ▶ Explore new low-cost housing options for singles (i.e. pay-to-stay, transitional housing, Single Room Occupancy)
- ▶ Add more very low-income rental housing units
- ▶ Expand social services