

Week 2 Summary: Homelessness 101

Summary: The focus for week 2 was on *understanding where shelter fits into the larger homelessness support system*. We heard from presenters who covered how those experiencing homelessness might enter the homelessness support system, how they might be diverted, how they may exit the system, and what kinds of supports they may receive while in the system.

Opening Business:

Warm-up. One task force member noted they would like a clear sense of where the task force is headed—it is just to understand homelessness in Boise? Or to engage in siting decisions? We will clarify this for the task force next week when we reiterate the charge and provide an overview of the weekly objectives.

Partner Statement of Commitment: The task force reviewed the updated “Partner Statement of Commitment,” which was revised to incorporate feedback from Week 1. Nearly all Task Force members gave the “thumbs-up” to the revision. One task force member would like a clearer statement of the objective of the task force included; we will instead focus on reiterating the committee charge in Week 3. Additional feedback should be sent to the facilitator via email.

Shelter Feasibility Criteria. The shelter feasibility criteria were put on the wall again and task force members were invited to pose questions about them on sticky notes. Staff have compiled the questions (attached) and are figuring out a good way to respond to those questions for task force members.

Presentations

Task force members heard from Our Path Home presenters about the various elements of the homelessness support system.

Presentations included the following:

- Casey Mattoon, Our Path Home Manager, City of Boise – an overview of Our Path Home (Boise City/Ada County Continuum of Care) including the overarching goal, the role of the Executive Committee, four central components of our approach, partners, a simplified system map and the sequence of housing instability to literal homelessness
- Sara Busick, Our Path Home Connect Program Director, CATCH – a narrative explanation and examples of our neighbors that fall into homelessness
- Jeannette Curtis, Homeless Outreach Program Director, CATCH – explanation of the Street Outreach Team including what the team does, how they help, who they serve, challenges facing their work and service population, and narrative stories from the field

- Sara Busick, Our Path Home Connect Program Director, CATCH – an overview of the work performed by Our Path Home Connect including an overview of the Housing Crisis Hotline, the client experience from assessment, to navigation to connection with housing and supports
- Kendra Lutes, Associate Director of Behavioral Health, Terry Reilly Health Services – overview of TRHS role as a Community Health Center including their focus on Health Care for people experiencing homelessness, the health impacts associated with the experience of housing instability and homelessness, their overarching role in clinic care and in supportive services – going into detail for both Community Based and Site Based models of delivery
- Maureen Brewer, Senior Manager of Housing and Community Development, City of Boise – a high level overview of the issue with housing affordability in Boise including the unit development needs for Boise/Ada County in the coming decade, the data of unit need by income using AMI (Area Medium Income), a budget forecast of dollars available to put forward by the City of Boise and partners to tackle the affordability issue, listed priorities and strategies from Boise to increase targeted affordable development, and some key takeaways and considerations

Task Force questions were collected on index cards and compiled (attached). Some were covered in a Q&A following presentations; others will be addressed separately and shared with Task Force members.

Closing activity and announcements:

- Task force members were asked to “draw the homelessness support system” on scratch paper based on the presentations from Day 2, and then write about what role they saw shelter playing in that system. These were collected and will be analyzed to determine if we can answer additional questions for task force members.
- Task force members were asked to complete/confirm recommendations for additional constituencies they recommend be interviewed by the City on the topic of shelter better/siting.
- Members were also invited to submit potential shelter sites they would like analyzed by the City as we move toward siting considerations and analysis. These can be emailed to the facilitator.