

1. What did you learn that *shifted* your initial thinking about homelessness, emergency shelter, or anything related to the topics we have covered?

- That many resources available in our community and how they are connected and flexible to try to best meet the needs of the populations they are serving, in the places they are needed.
- We are not up to date on the true number of homeless and needs.
- Low barrier shelters is critical to a robust and operational homeless services system. It's not just about housing and creating housing.
- A better understanding of services in Boise for homeless.
- I've learned how barriers to shelter really impact people's immediate access.
- Large gap in temporary shelter for families while some small excess in capacity for adults.
- Shelters and the system needs better exit strategy solutions and without those, shelters as a tool will not be successful.
- Those living in cars, on couches, etc... are not statistically counted as homeless (I personally would count them) so the true number may be lower than what I consider.
- That Our Path Home and BPD are ready to adapt/pivot wherever the shelter is located.
- The value of low/no barrier shelter and that our shelters are not 24/7.
- Low barriers to entry are one of the most critical elements of a successful shelter and successful response to homelessness.
- Decision-making like this needs to incorporate the voices of everyone on all sides and it's super important to set the stage so that we all come to the table in problem-solving made for everyone.
- I've learned that we need to, as a community, address the needs of and permanent solutions to homelessness and that we are in a unique position to do better than most communities in housing people and using shelter as a bridge to housing rather than a permanent solution.
- That the neighborhood is a crucial piece of building support for programming and without that it could be detrimental to guests and staff to choose that location.
- We need more and better data; excited to know this new tracking tool will be part of the system in the future.
- Length of stay is not a good indicator of the quality of a shelter.
- I find it super interesting that most of the homeless beds in Boise are part of an organization that does not come close to following best practices.
- Unsheltered population will stay near Corpus Christi and the whole shelter system needs to be redesigned to house more families.
- That these issues have been around for years and years and the same discussions and oppositions are still being shared.

2. What have you learned that you want to implement?

- The desperate need for a focus on long-term solutions and affordable housing in Boise/Ada County.
- I've learned a lot about how to help parties with differing perspectives make important decisions together.
- The reasons for police calls are far more innocuous than I thought they would be.

- The greatest gap in current shelter needs are for families experiencing homelessness.
- There are many suitable locations to site one or more shelters.
- I've learned that this task force is somewhat in a bubble and we will need to build broader community support and understanding if we are going to get to a housing first model.
- We need to implement more processes to reduce the barriers to shelter.
- Already have ideas to share and discuss about possible shelter options. Address the landlord/tenant laws and rental regulations to help prevent homelessness.
- The value of an integrated system that ultimately focuses on good and permanent housing solutions; and the commitment to and value of the housing first approach across this.