



Social Sustainability
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 28, 2021

TO: Mayor Arndt and Councilmembers

THRU: Darin Atteberry, City Manager ^{DS}
 Kyle Stannert, Deputy City Manager ^{DS}
 Jackie Kozak Thiel, Chief Sustainability Officer ^{DS} ^{BS}
 Beth Sowder, Social Sustainability Department Director ^{DS}

FROM: Brittany Depew, Homelessness Lead Specialist ^{DS}

RE: July Homelessness Updates

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is informational to provide Council with monthly homelessness updates.

Library Park Open House Summary

- Neighborhood Services and Police Services hosted an open house in Library Park on June 23.
- Staff from Social Sustainability, Neighborhood Services, Parks, Traffic, Police, City Attorney's Office, Library Services, and Outreach Fort Collins were present. Councilmember Gutowsky was also in attendance.
- Activities included the block party trailer, lemonade stand, children's activities with library staff, emergency response SWAT vehicle, K-9 officer, and the drone team.
- General sense that residents were appreciative of this opportunity to connect and engage with staff all in one place. Staff also appreciated the chance to answer questions directly, meet neighbors, share contact information, etc.

Seasonal Overflow Shelter Plan Update

- The Seasonal Overflow Shelter (SOS) season, which runs November 1 through April 30, requires additional cross-sector collaboration to increase shelter capacity during the coldest months.
- SOS plans are currently being discussed by a planning team and will be solidified by mid-August.
- The planning team consists of representatives from Catholic Charities, Fort Collins Rescue Mission, Homeward Alliance, and the City's Social Sustainability Department.

Fort Collins Rescue Mission Updates

- Due to financial and regulatory hurdles, the Rescue Mission will not be able to add a semi-permanent structure on their property. Instead, they are researching the feasibility of adding a temporary structure on their site for the six months of seasonal overflow shelter season.
- Currently able to serve 80 men overnight and 60 during the day for 24/7 shelter.
- An average of 79 men served per night since their return to Linden St. location on May 1.
 - Note: If fewer than 80 men are served in a night, this typically indicates that beds were assigned but not all guests showed up to claim their space.
- An average of 3 men turned away per night due to space limitations.
- An average of 8 meals served per day at the Murphy Center to guests who do not receive a bed space overnight (either due to personal choice or space limitations).
- The Rescue Mission has been allocated an additional \$30k in CARES funds to continue 24/7 shelter through August 2021.



Catholic Charities Updates

- Catholic Charities will implement a 24/7 shelter model for overflow women and families on August 1.

Homeward Alliance Updates

- Family Services hosted a resource fair on June 12, where 13 agencies provided information, products, and meals, and connected with guests.
- The Camino a Casa Collective (Homeward Alliance, Fuerza Latina, La Familia, and the Family Housing Network) began meeting again with a renewed focus on tenant rights and education.
- 193 people housed so far in 2021 – at this time last year, 152 had been housed.
- 202 people engaged in housing programs in June.
- Murphy Center:
 - Has served approximately 1,500 unduplicated people so far in 2021, with 627 served in June.
 - Averaging an estimated 120 clients per day.
 - Offered free haircuts to guests every Monday in June.

24/7 Shelter Update

- Findings and next steps were shared with Council for discussion at the July 27 work session.
- Staff has developed a public engagement plan to begin in Q3 2021.

Outreach Fort Collins

- Currently hiring for a new Director who will oversee all aspects of operations and serve as the public face of the organization. Application closes July 31.
- Q2 2021 data:
 - Total of 1,363 client contacts and 321 merchant contacts, both of which increased slightly from Q1.
 - OFC also saw increases in calls for safety concerns (45) and calls for disruptive behaviors (14) in comparison to Q1.
 - OFC saw a decrease in service coordination in Q2.

Success Story

- William, a client of Homeward Alliance's Re-Entry program, first completed his intake at 60 years old in January 2020 after 18 years in prison. Though he was skeptical and described himself as having "learned helplessness syndrome," he is now a successful Re-Entry graduate. Throughout his time in the program, Re-Entry has assisted William with transportation, food, vocational pursuits, technological skills, social skills, job search skills, and more. In just 18 months, William has been able to find a primary care provider he trusts, been discharged from parole, maintained two jobs, secured stable housing, reconnected with family, obtained two Recovery Coach certificates, and obtained his CDL-B license. He says he has learned to persist, even when things are difficult.

Next Steps

- With the goal of having Seasonal Overflow Shelter season plans solidified by August 18, staff will share all available information about these plans in the August homelessness updates memo to Council.
- Staff will continue to update Council about the 24/7 shelter planning and engagement process.