

Additional Agenda Requests:

- Morgan: item 9 Urgent Issues -- the closing of the overnight overflow shelter at Bethany Church this evening and what, if any, arrangements might be available for shelter guests to stay somewhere else inside be discussed.
- Cameron: Discuss the Schedule for Dec. 4th's meeting

Meeting Begun: 11:35

Agenda approved with amended additions 11:38am

- Members Present: Jodi Kelly, Will Eberle, Dawn Little, Ken Russell, Ericka Reil, Yvonne Byrd, Cameron Niedermayer, Morgan Brown, Glen Hutcheson, Zach Hughes
 - a. Members of the Public: Sunny Leopardi, Stephen Whitaker, Mary Alice Bisbee

Comments from Members of the Public:

Stephen Whitaker:

- Discussed the needs of a specific community member and reiterated the importance of the Martin vs. City of Boise 9th Circuit court decision.
- Good Samaritan opening Wednesday Night
 - Discussed the MOU between Bethany and Good Sam and what level of notice the church can give Good Sam to close the shelter (14 days) but wonders about the notice given to the folks staying there

Sunny:

- There have been more donations of hats and neck warmers/Another Way still has socks for folks- also working on a few different fundraisers (cookie box and wood shop items for sale to benefit Another Way)
 - Dawn: I know there are also 'Blessing bags' and we will be sharing that as well

Mary Alice Bisbee:

Thank you for coming to the interfaith meeting.

Jodi:

- There is a nonprofit veterinarian service coming soon to help folks with disabilities, elderly, and homeless for affordable pet care- will share the information and flyer with the Task Force.

Past Meeting Minutes Amendments:

- Item D4 (Transportation): Morgan- To clarify I want to acknowledge that GMTA are Medicaid specific, but they do have drivers- maybe GMTA could ask if drivers can be made available at certain times to drive folks around who need to get to point a to b- that are homeless. We could see if they make a contact person and have them 'play taxi' and reimburse them for gas? It is just a thought but it is a possibility- doesn't hurt to ask.

Passed minutes with Morgan's revision 11:50am

Debrief from the Council Meeting:

- Ken thought the meeting was well received. Good forward motion
- Zach- The Task Force has also been made a standing committee
- Glen- the City agreed to use the remaining funds from the 10k to keep the Good Sam shelter further into the spring

Donations to HTF

Discuss and reach agreement re purpose, strategy for receiving \$\$, and policy for spending

- Yvonne- we need to come up with policy and procedure for how we take in funds in if we decide to make it a City responsibility
- Ken- we need to look at this as a whole system- and we need to be able to fill those gaps
 - Ken will be attending a Notary meeting in December
 - Will be making an immediate pitch for what our needs are
 - Dawn- could you make a specific pitch?
 - Sleeping bags, transportation, etc.
- Zach- Can we use Will's funding sources and then just create a small pocket for this group? My organization is running into issues with 501c3 donations and people who want that type of donation
- Jodi- my concern is going to be that the money we get is going to get wrapped up in an organization- and that it will get stuck in bureaucracy so we can't get it fast. What if we put up donation boxes around town?
- Morgan- I'm against the donation boxes. I think folks should have the right to panhandle. People shouldn't be discouraged from doing this. We need to be careful at from what space the taskforce takes money.
- Will- I do manage an emergency account for my organization- the way it currently works is that a case worker or outreach folk contacts him, and asks for money. They fill out a simple form for a W9 and an invoice. The money goes directly to the service (like the hotel, or the car repair place or whatever service is needed)
 - DownStreet is his fiscal agent and they are willing to make it happen for them to hold an account for the HTF's use
 - This account exists anyway and is something that he will be doing anyway- so no issues or pressure for the HTF to use this option
 - However- It is a 9-5 situation so there is no afterhours financial support available
- Dawn- I would like to point out that there is a need to protect existing agencies- we need to look at the gaps that the service providers are not reaching and there is a lot of barriers for them to not be able to serve everyone. Some of those agencies may be interested or in the position to fill the gaps we identify if we ask them or get them some other types of support. I don't want to compete but I want to see the gap issues filled
- Dawn- Maybe figuring out the weather criteria for 211- maybe this is further discussion?
- Cameron:
 - Question for Will- could folks (street outreach) get money/reimbursed out of your proposed fund to get after-hours access to the money?
 - Will- There is no guarantee unless- the field director would have to decide if it warranted reimbursement
 - We could set up a petty-cash fund or something for this?
 - This would be in his purview to create
 - The HTF could raise money for the petty cash account
- Yvonne- The City through the Community Justice Center can ALSO run this if we create clear policy
- Morgan- I think the petty cash solution is helpful
- Ericka- I'm wondering- I don't want to reinvent the wheel. What other outreach groups have this kind of funding? I want to see what Burlington and Brattleboro or Bennington have as far as policies. We can borrow their ideas.
 - Glen- I concur

- Zach- I think Will's idea addresses our ideas, and Ericka's as well. The street outreach needs to be able to address things on the spot- we need to be able to address things as they come up.
- Jodi- I'm agreeing with a lot- I like the petty cash idea. I think it needs to be immediately available- but there should be a lot of constraints so that folks are willing to donate to it
- Yvonne- there is a lot of interest in what Will's idea is to use DownStreet as the fiscal agent with some tweaks for petty cash availability- then using Ericka's idea to benchmark policy for the language
- Morgan- the major deal is having a 24/7 afterhours availability of funds
- Yvonne- Will- Can you put it in writing how this would work? So folks can see how it would work?
 - Will- I think I would rather have a petty cash fund- that is not being held up in bureaucracy- especially if we are trying to make it a Montpelier only issue. I think it should be separate from my organization.
- Ken- we have a good concept of a petty cash fund- this is enough to tell Rotary and enough for us to move forward with working out.
 - Yvonne- if they want to write checks- they can write them to the City of Montpelier Community Justice Center- and we can hold on and bookmark that money
 - Yvonne- between now and next time- Ericka will benchmark policies.

Public Member Questions:

Sunny- What is the outreach goals? Is it a long-term plan for how that is run?

- Zach- my organization is small and grass roots- we are not a wholly formal organization. My long term goal is to get folks connected to what they need immediately. The street team itself tries to address needs that the 'mainstream' organizations can't immediately address.

Mary Alice Bisbee - it is the end of the fiscal year- and the time is of the year is now. Churches can put this in the newsletter!

- Yvonne- Cameron and Yvonne will work to write up a blurb about donating to the HTF
- The City can hold the money until the HTF gets the policies

Updates:

VSECU grant application

Service providers meeting & count of people who are homeless

- Grant Application - Glen and Ken will be applying. Cameron has forwarded the verbiage for the grant application to both of them.
- Service Provider meeting:
 - Will gave some updates- we are at the point that we have all data except for the shelter data. There is some issues with creating unique identifiers
 - Current Homelessness Census: Around 70 folks- however, this number probably has a lot of duplicates. Expects to have accurate count by the end of next week.
 - The hope is that we have an accurate count of those in households- and who is being treated in the continuum of care- and we'll need to know what level of support we will need.

Continued Conversations:

- Good Sam opening: It is opening tonight (11.27.2019).
 - o The HTF has noticed gaps: we have to report this overlooked gap in service (not being open Thanksgiving Eve) in our recommendations of our Shelter audit.
 - We should also discuss the Communication issues (folks staying in the shelter need to know what is happening ASAP)
 - o Zach- What did they do in the past? This probably happened last year and we didn't know about it.
 - o Will- I do want to earmark- utilization of overflow shelter year to year. Who is in this shelter year to year? Do we need a full-time shelter in this community?
 - o Dawn- a number of the soup kitchens are closed during the holiday week. This is a big gap issue. The Holidays are a big gap for food etc.
 - o Morgan- the Task Force should be alerted when things like this come up.
 - o Dawn- I think that Christmas is going to be an issue- who will be serving food etc.?
- This group will still meet next week and plans on discussing the budget. Note that staff support will not be able to attend and tasks will need to be taken on by TF members.
 - o Yvonne will put together agenda. Items include:
 - Budget discussion
 - And the Benchmarking of funding policies
 - o Ken will facilitate the meeting
 - o Glen will take minutes
- The HTF will return to the Council and for their Budget request Dec. 18th
- Camping:
 - o Dawn: Can we get a map of city vs private property map?
 - Cameron will work with City Planning to get this.
 - o Discussing the City creating a policy about addressing camping: If the weather is very bad- can we expend the 48 hours (as the weather is extenuating circumstances)?

Public Member Questions:

Stephen Whitaker: I think the task force should look at the MOU with Good Sam. The City should be responsible for the contract, the City should apply for the grant on its own and contract with Good Sam to run the shelter.

- o Glen- I think we can talk about it, but I wouldn't be in favor of it
- o Will- personally- I would want to know what % of the population of the shelter are those each year
 - Looking at more sustainable options- into a larger homing or permanent sheltering
- Dawn- A lot of the population that it is at the largest risk are those NOT using the shelters- and those are the repeat people. There is a large overlap of the chronically homeless who are not able to stay in shelters.

Adjournment: 1:02pm