

December 8, 2015

MNA Chair Report Q&A Regarding the Temporary Sears Shelter

Answers to Questions are from Stacy Borke, MSW, Housing Services Director, Transition Projects

- 1) How's it going, in general?
 - The shelter operations are excellent. We're happy with the space, the programming, and our partnerships. We've had neighbors in the space with us volunteering, and many of them can attest to the good work that is happening there!
- 2) When did the shelter open?
 - We opened on Thanksgiving
- 3) What hours are it opened?
 - The shelter is open from 7pm through 7am. Staff are onsite from 6:30pm through 7:30am
- 4) What does an average day look like for the people being sheltered? Where are they picked up and dropped off? Where are they eating? Where do they get services? What types of services?
 - Guests are picked up at two city-center locations – Blanchett House (a daily meal site) and St. Francis (a dinner site), and they are dropped off at Blanchett House in the morning (serves breakfast)
 - Guests access services across the community – many access the day center at the Bud Clark Commons, operated by Transition Projects, the House at JOIN, Sister of the Road, Rose Haven, Housing Transition Program, the Rescue Mission
 - Services include: hygiene services, mail, case management, computer lab, food, access to treatment, etc.
- 5) How many people are being sheltered?
 - Our capacity is about 150, we opened to about 20 women on Thanksgiving
- 6) Who are the people being sheltered so far (women only?) Is there turnover? In general, how many are returning to their beds? How do they like it?
 - We're primarily serving women but have a few couples that are beginning to access the shelter
 - There is some turnover but most of the women who came on the first night continue to access the shelter
 - We're getting very positive feedback from guests
- 7) Are you planning to change the sheltered "demographic"? Will there be more people sheltered? Couples? Families? How many people are still being turned away from shelters?
 - More than 1,800 people sleep on the streets, in parks, doorways, and cars every night.
- 8) How many and what types of buses are in use each day?
 - We're currently using one bus in the morning and one in the evening, it makes 1-2 loops each trip.
 - It's a large, 40+ passenger shuttle bus
- 9) So far, are all of the people who are getting off the buses in the evening getting back on in the morning? Would you send me the daily tally?
 - To my knowledge, everyone who has arrived with us in the evening has departed with us in the morning
- 10) Are you interested in working with the MNA to enter into a Good Neighborhood Agreement? I know that time frame is tight, but I think it is advisable on principle. Some neighbors have started to draft one. If they present it at the meeting, I'll forward it to you. I haven't seen it.
 - As I noted above, we're happy to work with the neighborhood and address any issues as they arise
- 11) Do you have a hotline set up?
 - We have two numbers for neighbors to call.
 - Celeste Duvall is the shelter manager – she can be reached at 503-489-9716

- The shelter staff can be reached at 503-384-2382 between 6:30pm and 7am

12) Do you need volunteers?

- We've had a ton of positive response the neighborhood and our Sears neighbors. We're certainly looking for more volunteers and in-kind, and I have attached our info sheet.

14) Do you need clothing, toiletries, etc? Could you send me a list? Are cash donations tax deductible? How do people make donations?

15) What planning is underway for sheltering people after 6-month, when the shelter closes?

- It's my understanding that the City is actively working on this

16) Is there anything that you would like me to ask the group?

- We're moved by the outpouring of support from the Multnomah Neighborhood Association - thank you all.