

## Continuum of Care Shelter Committee

May 13, 2021

8-9 am

**Present:** Cathy Jennings, Renee Pratt, Jon Rizzo, Ryan LaSuer, Carrie Siqueiros, Meredith McLeod Jaulin, Ryan Lampa

Staff: Judith Tackett

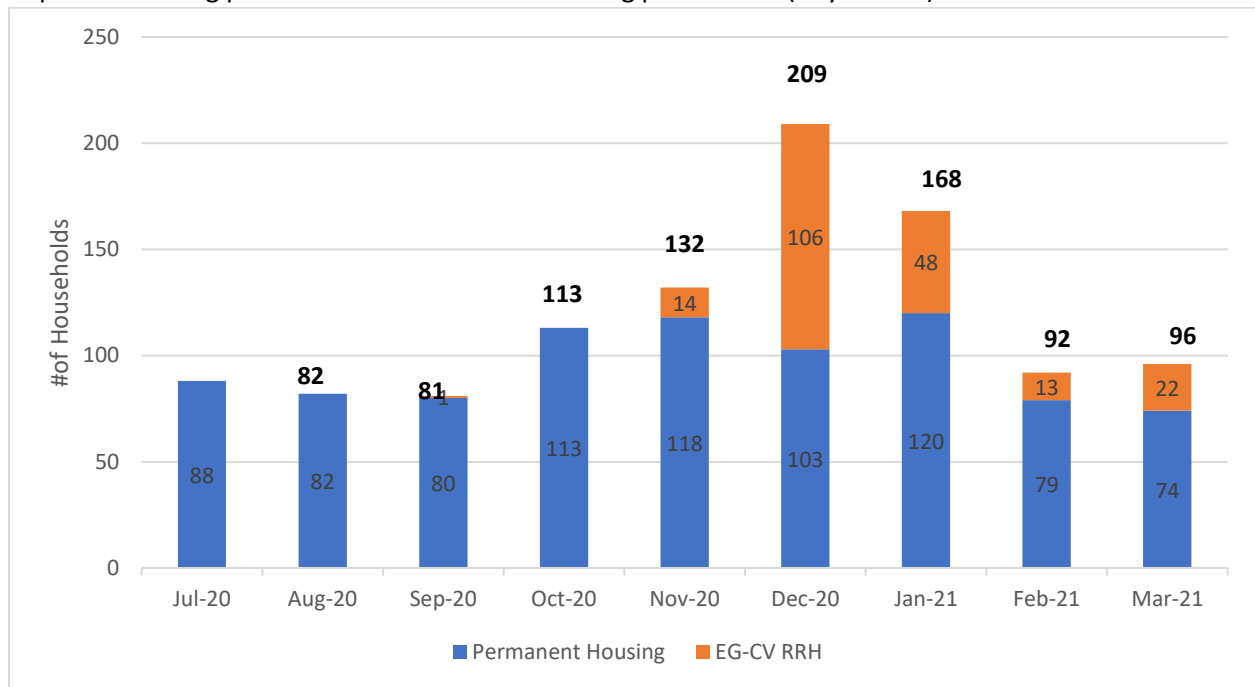
Visitor: Steve Reiter

### Minutes

Welcome and Introductions.

Heather Dillashaw was not able to join the Shelter Committee. Judith Tackett provided an update instead.

Rapid Re-Housing placements versus overall housing placements (July-March):



Overall, as of this week, 349 people moved into housing through the Rapid Rehousing-Covid programs (CARES Act funding). The goal is 400+ people by the end of the year, which we will reach.

In addition, the Tennessee Housing and Development Agency (THDA) has made another \$2.4 million of the same funds that the federal government allocated to the state available to Davidson County.

Provider agencies are working with Heather Dillashaw and MDHA on distributing those funds (attaching them to the existing contracts and filling gaps).

### Cold weather shelter numbers:

Judy provided a comparison of the prior season to this past season:

#### Season FY19/20:

- At or below 28°F: 18 nights

- Average Systems occupancy rate during cold weather nights: 74%
- Lowest actual bed occupancy\*: 802 on Dec. 24 (we have eliminated the first two nights of the season because those are outliers)
- Highest actual bed occupancy: 1,223 people on Jan. 20
- Highest available bed numbers: 1,494 beds on Jan. 20
- Lowest available bed numbers: 1,140 on Nov. 10

**Season FY20/22:**

- At or below 28°F: 26 nights
- Average Systems occupancy rate during cold weather nights: 62.60%
- Lowest actual bed occupancy: 549 on Nov. 1
- Highest actual bed occupancy: 903 on Feb. 17
- Highest available bed numbers: 1,242 beds on Jan. 11
- Lowest available bed numbers: 937 on Jan. 18

In addition, Judy calculated that the overall shelter occupancy rate from Nov. 1-March 31 (all days): 65.4%

**Mobile Housing Navigation Center:**

Ryan LaSuer and Judy Tackett informed the committee about the plans to potentially open a first pilot in Madison. The concept is to create a replicable model that offers shelter beds to 15-20 people at a time while they are working with a housing navigator. The referrals would come through coordinated entry. We are working on how to integrate regional options throughout the city. This would be a pilot utilizing church spaces.

Cathy Jennings asked whether the Mobile Housing Navigation Centers can be used for cold weather sheltering. Judith Tackett responded that the concepts are different. Since the Mobile Housing Navigation Centers take referrals through CE. However, maybe churches that participate in the navigation centers can find a gym/space that could serve as a cold weather overflow option down the road?

**Landlord engagement:** MHID has created a public-private partnership with United Way. The Frist Foundation has provided a donation and MHID is utilizing ESG dollars in addition to that. The mitigation fund will provide up to \$1,000 in damage cost above the security deposits (other cities have told us that they do not see much usage since participating landlords realize that the damages are usually not more than what they see with any renter, but having this option will serve as an incentive), what will likely see more usage is a “rent bridge” portion within the Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund. The rent bridge will pay up to two months (no more than \$2,000 total) to hold a unit when someone vacates it. In addition, MHID is working and has made an ask to the Mayor for \$500,000 to pay up front payments to landlords to use 500 vouchers that are available for people experiencing homelessness.

**CDBG – HOME funds:** MDHA has an RFP out for rehab and acquisition to create units (\$4.7 million in Community Development Block Grant-Covid funding). In addition, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) is allocating \$9.3 million to Nashville in HOMEs funding that can also be used for acquisition and rehab to create new units.

Jesse Call has started a group to talk about sex offenders and housing and Carrie Sequeiros is interested in participating in that. Nashville Rescue Mission is moving its women and children to the Men's campus while the complete rebuilding of the women's campus is taking place.

**Written standards of Care:**

Cathy Jennings provided the committee with an overview of some examples from other cities that Judy will be sending out. She said that this committee is not going to write the standards, that's the task for the Standards of Care Committee. However, they have asked the Shelter Committee for input on what should be addressed/included.

The goal is to have a discussion at the next meeting what the elements of such standards should include.

John Rizzo said that shelters in town still have a negative stigma. He would like to see standards include recommendations around education about shelters.

**Emergency Shelter**

Jesse Call brought up issues about emergency shelter and suggested that this committee should be looking at some other scenarios where we need emergency overflow shelters besides cold weather. Flooding, severe thunderstorms, etc., so that there are options for people to get out of the elements. Judith Tackett reminded the group to take a look at all options and not simply focus on creating a to do list for Metro. The CoC includes that all organizations focus on the how to fill a need.

**Next meeting agenda:**

- Standard of care elements discussion
- Emergency weather situations – overall shelter, what, who, how much, when

**Next meeting at The Salvation Army: June 10, 8 am**