

Synopsis of TPCCEH meeting with Linda Stewart & NCS Staff
10.24.2019

Colleagues,

Theresa Power-Drutis, New Connections, Greg Walker, Cardo Community, and I met with Linda Stewart, Director of Neighborhood and Community Services, and her Homelessness and Housing Stability Program staff members, Erica Azcueta, Matthew Jorgensen, and Tiegan Tidball this morning. We worked from a set of questions I had developed - some now have answers and other answers will follow. And of course, more questions.

Probably more importantly, we talked through how the TPC Coalition to End Homelessness and Neighborhood & Community Services might develop a more collaborative partnership characterized by genuine inquiry and respect. We talked about ways that we could engage NCS staff and enhance the visibility of their work within the Coalition. We said the Coalition would develop a series of questions and topics that we believed staff could address and Linda asked that because of their workloads, we give them a couple of weeks advance notice. I said I would check with Erica and/or Linda Thursday mornings by noon for updates to bring to the Friday Coalition meetings.

We agreed that the our common goal is to see that everyone has safe, warm, dry shelter.

We recognized the short-term need to identify and provide additional shelter before the Dec. 1 implementation of the shelter code change.

NCS has 50 beds for families, couples, and single women identified. 40 in Bethlehem Baptist Church/Tacoma Rescue Mission which is still in permitting and 10 in an unidentified faith community venue. NCS is working to identify additional shelter for single men and expanded day shelter.

Linda did invite Sharon Lee, LIHI, to submit a tiny house proposal.

With respect to the pending contract with MDC, Assoc. Min., and the Ministerial Alliance, Linda expects the contract to go to Council Oct. 29 for implementation Nov. 1. This will be a six month contract which will include 1) a series of meetings with all interested parties and 2) asset mapping of potential locations and community potential for temporary shelters.

Linda explained some of the city processes involved in decision making and we talked about our need for accurate information recognizing that we do not need to know everything but that the more accurate information we have, the better we can shut down rumors and use our energy in productive manners. And the more we can contribute the knowledge and experience we hold to the city's deliberations and decisions.

Linda will have her staff set up our next meeting. We do not envision expanding the group for the next meeting.