



Weather Response Ad Hoc Committee

April 23, 8:30-9:30 am

at Office of Emergency Management, 2060 15th Ave. South, 37212

In attendance: Bob Freeman(chair), Renee Pratt, Wendell Segroves, Tim Leeth, Charles Strobel, Freddie O'Connell

Staff: Judith Tackett, Joseph Parker

Visitors: Steve Reiter

Meeting Notes

Meeting started at 8:35 am.

The group reviewed the notes from the last meeting and adopted them. Tim Leeth made a motion to adopt the minutes, Wendell Segroves seconded the motion. All approved.

The Ad Hoc committee members then reviewed the pilot project goals listed in the minutes and adjusted them to add to Goal 1 that there should be designated locations, so that it is clear to people where to go. This adjustment would help with communications.

However, all agreed that Goal 4 was still needed as a separate goal to address all extreme weather situations and is especially important during heat, tornadoes and other weather events where people should be reached to know where to go (existing Metro buildings that are open and available).

The goals were updated the following way:

Cold Weather Pilot Program Recommendations:

Goal 1:

Open three (3) cold weather shelter locations with a focus in Madison, West Nashville, and Antioch/South Nashville at 28 degrees Fahrenheit. Capacity at each shelter not to exceed 50 people. Each shelter should be at a designated location for consistency, so people always know where to go.

Goal 2:

Develop a plan to reach people who avoid the current shelter system or do not have access to the current shelter system: people with pets, couples, individuals, families with minors who have no options for immediate access to shelter.

Goal 3:

Discuss plans for other extreme weather situations.

Goal 4:

Evaluate existing communications opportunities and improve those approaches.

Goal 5:

Outline Metro responsibilities, so everyone understands what Metro's role is.

Budget Discussion:

Bob Freeman informed the group that he had conversations with Mayor Briley and Councilman Shulman about the potential funding opportunity. It was clear that Metro does not have the funds to implement a grant program this year.

The group discussed the situation we're in and determined the next steps moving forward. All agreed that it was important to move forward with the pilot plan and present it to the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission at the May-4 meeting. The ask for the Commission was to agree to present it before Metro Council. The question was raised whether it also would have to go before Metro Social Services Board of Commissioners. Renee Pratt said yes and that the next MSS Board meeting was on May 9.

In addition to moving forward with the pilot project plan, Renee Pratt suggested that it would be important to bring together all Metro stakeholders and discuss the potential to continue this year's plan but open a Metro overflow/alternative shelter at 28 degrees this coming winter until a grant program was funded. The group determined that it would be beneficial to go ahead with the draft of an RFP (Request for Proposal).

Discussions also focused on how to identify people who are usually not going to other shelters to avoid over-stressing the overflow system. One idea was to look at reservation options, which could include setting aside beds for outreach workers/canvassers. Another idea was having transportation in place from shelters once they're at capacity to other locations with available beds.

Discussions also touched on the wish for people to stay close to their encampments and their belongings and touched on the topic of sanctioned camps. Bob Freeman stated that was a topic he did not feel should be addressed by this ad hoc committee.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 8:30 am. Location: TBA

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 am